



OUR LADY OF THE PINES CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Safeguarding Children and Young People Visitors and Volunteers Code of Conduct

Our Lady of the Pines School Vision is to encourage Catholic practices and the way of life based on the Gospels. It states that we are called to:

Act justly
Love tenderly
Walk humbly with our God

Purpose

This Code of Conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at Our Lady of the Pines Primary School against sexual, physical, psychological and emotional abuse or neglect. It is intended to complement other professional and/or occupational codes.

All staff, volunteers, contractors, clergy and board/school council members at Our Lady of the Pines are expected to actively contribute to a school culture that respects the dignity of its members and affirms the Gospel values of love, care for others, compassion and justice. They are required to observe child-safe principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards, and in the company of children, as noted below.

Acceptable behaviours

All staff, volunteers, contractors, clergy and board/school council members are responsible for supporting the safety of children by:

- adhering to the school's child safe policy and upholding the school's statement of commitment to child safety at all times
- taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- treating everyone in the school community with respect
- having volunteers and visitors to the school sign in
- volunteers must have a valid 'Working With Children Check' card that can be produced on request
- having volunteers registered with the school, which will include their 'Working With Children Check' card number
- listening and responding to the views and concerns of children, particularly if they are telling you that they, or another child, have been abused, or that they are worried about their safety/the safety of another child
- actively supervising children during classroom activities
- monitoring computers and devices that are connected to the internet and ensuring appropriate content is being accessed
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (for example, by never questioning an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child's self-identification)
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds (for example, by having a zero tolerance of discrimination)

- promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability (for example, during personal care activities)
- ensuring as far as practicable that adults are not alone with a child
- ensuring that students move around the school in pairs
- reporting any allegations of child abuse to the school's leadership.
- reporting any child safety concerns to the school's leadership.
- if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensuring as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe

Unacceptable behaviours

All staff, volunteers, contractors, clergy and board/school council members must not:

- ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse
- develop any 'special' relationships with children that could be seen as favouritism (for example, the offering of gifts or special treatment for specific children)
- exhibit behaviours with children which may be construed as unnecessarily physical
- put children at risk of abuse
- initiate unnecessary physical contact which children or do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes
- engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children (for example, personal social activities)
- use inappropriate language in the presence of children
- express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of children
- discriminate against any child, including because of age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality, ethnicity or disability
- photograph or video a child without the consent of the parent or guardians
- work with children whilst under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs

I, _____, confirm I have read the above Code of Conduct.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Code of Conduct reviewed 2019