

# Child Safety Code of Conduct

## Safeguarding Children and Young People

Our mission is to work collaboratively with our school community to provide ALL our students the opportunity to succeed and to be filled with hope for the future.

Formed by our belief in the dignity and sanctity of each person, we commit to working actively as a community to provide a safe and nurturing environment for all students to feel safe and be safe as part of their educational experience at St Augustine's College.

St Augustine's College endeavours to educate graduates to be empowered with the knowledge and skills to enact their right to feel safe and be safe.

All staff and volunteers of St Augustine's College 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 and school board 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
- listening and responding to the views and concerns of children, particularly if they are telling you that they or another child has been abused or that they are worried about their safety/the safety of another child
- 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
- reporting any allegations of child abuse to the school's leadership (or child safety officer if the school has appointed someone to this role)
- understanding and complying with all reporting obligations as they relate to mandatory reporting and reporting under the Crimes Act 1958
- reporting any child safety concerns to the school's leadership (or child safety officer if the school has appointed someone to this role)
- if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensuring as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe.

### Unacceptable behaviours

Staff and volunteers 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 (for example inappropriate sitting on laps)
- put children at risk of abuse (for example, by locking doors)
- initiate unnecessary physical contact with 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) with the exception of direct curriculum related material
- 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
- have contact with a child or their family outside of school without the school's leadership or child safety officer's knowledge and/or consent or the school governing authority's approval (for example, unauthorised after hours tutoring, private instrumental/other lessons or sport coaching). Accidental contact, such as seeing people in the street, is appropriate
- have any online contact with a child (including by social media, email, instant messaging etc) or their family unless necessary e.g. by providing families with e-newsletters or assisting students with their school work
- use any personal communication channels/device such as a personal email account for school related interactions with students or families
- exchange personal contact details such as phone number, social networking sites or personal email addresses with a student
- photograph or video a child without the consent of the parent or guardians or store photograph or video images of children on personal devices (phone/iPad/laptop)
- work with children whilst under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- consume alcohol or drugs at school or at school events in the presence of children.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, confirm I have been provided with a copy of the above Code of Conduct.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_