



Child Safety Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct

Miners Rest Primary School

12/09/2016

Purpose

This Code of Conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at **Miners Rest 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 and school council members at **Miners Rest Primary School** are expected to actively contribute to a school culture that respects the dignity of its members and follows the school's core values. 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 and 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 students 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/or the safety of another child.
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of all children including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
- 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)
- reporting any allegations of child abuse and/or child safety concerns to the school's leadership
- understanding and complying with all reporting obligations as they relate to mandatory reporting and reporting under the Crimes Act 1958
- ensuring as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe if an allegation of child abuse is made
- reporting to the Victorian Institute of Teaching, any charges, committals for trial or convictions in relation to a sexual offence by a registered teacher, or certain allegations or concerns about a registered teacher and;
- follow school wide discipline policy when managing student behaviour.

Unacceptable behaviours

All staff, volunteers, contractors and 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 of specific children)
- exhibit or initiate behaviours with children that may be construed as unnecessarily physical contact (for example inappropriate sitting on laps)
- engage in open discussion 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
- have contact with a child **without the families knowledge**, outside the school, or without the school’s leadership knowledge, or consent of school council (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 the child without permission from parents/ guardians (including by social media, email, instant messaging etc.)
- use any personal communication channels / device such as a personal email account
- exchange personal contact details such as phone number, social networking sites or personal email addresses
- 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 and;
- consume alcohol or drugs at school or school events in the presence of children

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

Signed: _____ Date: _____