

Child Safety Code of Conduct Agreement

Truganina College

Background

A child safety code of conduct is intended to promote child safety in the school environment. The code of conduct spells out professional boundaries and acceptable and unacceptable adult/child relationships and behaviour. It is unambiguous, widely disseminated and supported by supervision, professional development and training. This advice does not replace any legislative or regulatory obligations or other professional or occupational codes of conduct. For example, the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) *Victorian Teaching Profession Codes of Conduct & Ethics* provides clarity regarding professional behaviour expected of teachers at all times. The code specifies behaviour unacceptable for a professional relationship between a teacher and a student.

"Teachers are always in a professional relationship with the students, whether at school or not."

(VIT, Code of Conduct & Ethics).

Aim

All staff, volunteers and School Council Members of Truganina P-9 College are required to observe child safe principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children, as noted below.

Implementation

All staff of Truganina P-9 College are responsible for supporting the safety, participation, wellbeing and empowerment of children by:

- adhering to Truganina P-9 College child safe policy at all times whilst upholding a commitment to child safety at all time
- taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- treating everyone 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 and/or are worried about their safety or the safety of another
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal children (for example, by never questioning an Aboriginal 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 left alone with a child
- reporting any allegations of child abuse to Sadia Toqueer, leadership/Child Safety Officers; Jonathon Skipworth (F-3), Joshua Kamener (4-7) or Daniel Piacquadio (8-9), and to ensure any allegation is reported to the police or child protection
- reporting any child safety concerns to Sadia Toqueer, leadership/Child Safety Officers; Jonathon Skipworth (F-3), Joshua Kamener (4-7) or Daniel Piacquadio (8-9)
- if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensure as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe
- encouraging children to 'have a say' and participate in all relevant organisational activities where possible, especially on issues that are important to them.

School Name: Truganina P-9 College	Policy name: Child Safe Code of Conduct agreement	Policy Ref. Number:
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Staff and volunteers must not:

- 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)
- 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 culture, race, ethnicity or disability
- have contact with a child or their family outside of our organisation without our child safety officer's knowledge and/or consent (for example, no babysitting). Accidental contact, such as seeing people in the street, is appropriate)
- have any online contact with a child or their family (unless necessary, for example providing families with e-newsletters)
- ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse.

By observing these standards, you acknowledge your responsibility to immediately report any breach of this code to Truganina P-9 College, Child Safety Officers, your Assistant Principal or Principal.

I agree to adhere to this Code of Conduct:

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Definitions

Staff means:

- in a government school, an individual working in a school environment who is:
 - employed under Part 2.4 of the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (ETR Act)* in the government teaching service or
 - employed under a contract of service by the council of the school under 2.3 of the ETR Act or
 - a volunteer or a contracted service provider (whether or not a body corporate or any other person is an intermediary)

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