



Child Safety Code of Conduct

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact
Darren Roskosch - Principal



RATIONALE:

Torquay Coast Primary School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. Our school community recognises the importance of, and a responsibility for, ensuring our school is a safe, supportive and enriching environment which respects and fosters the dignity and self-esteem of children and young people, and enables them to thrive in their learning and development.

This Code of Conduct aims to protect children and reduce any opportunities for child abuse or harm to occur. It also assists in understanding how to avoid or better manage risky behaviours and situations. It is intended to complement child protection legislation, Department policy, school policies and procedures and professional standards, codes or ethics as these apply to staff and other personnel.

Torquay Coast Primary School will, develop, adopt, review and maintain a Child Safety Code of Conduct and have this endorsed by the School Council.

The primary contact for all child safety concerns is the Principal/Assistant Principal.

Purpose

This Code of Conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at Torquay Coast 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 any other member of the school community involved in child-related work at Torquay Coast 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 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) ensuring that adults are not alone with individual children
- 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
- if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensuring as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe
- 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
- follow school wide discipline policy when managing student behaviour

Unacceptable Behaviours

All staff, volunteers, contractors and any other member of the school community involved in child-related work **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)
- put children at risk of abuse (for example, by locking doors)
- 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 outside or their family outside the school 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 (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
- 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
- consume alcohol or drugs at school or school events such as camps and excursions in the presence of children

EVALUATION:

This policy was last ratified by school Council: 2020

PROTECT



CHILD SAFE STANDARD: DEFINITIONS

Child abuse includes—

any act committed against a child involving:

- a sexual offence or
- an offence under section 49B(2) of the **Crimes Act 1958** (grooming)
- the infliction, on a child, of:
- physical violence or
- serious emotional or psychological harm
- serious neglect of a child.

Child-related work means work authorised by the school governing authority and performed by an adult in a school environment while children are present or reasonably expected to be present.

Child safety encompasses matters related to protecting all children from child abuse, managing the risk of child abuse, providing support to a child at risk of child abuse, and responding to incidents or allegations of child abuse.

Proprietor in relation to a government school, means the Secretary of the Department of Education and Training.

School environment means any physical or virtual place made available or authorised by the school governing authority for use by a child during or outside school hours, including:

- a campus of the school
- online school environments (including email and intranet systems)

1SPAG:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/pages/photoandfilm.aspx>

The policy says the school should get consent before taking and publishing photos of a student. This applies every time a photo is taken. The same policy applies for excursions and school activities.

2 SPAG:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/pages/alcohol.aspx>

The policy says the school must obtain school council approval before alcohol can be consumed on school grounds or at a school activity. The policy says staff members should not consume alcohol during camps and excursions. It is silent on whether they can consume alcohol at other school events where students are present, this is a matter that the school needs to decide upon – draft text is provided in the guidance fact sheet

BREACHES TO THE CHILD SAFETY CODE OF CONDUCT

All Torquay Coast Primary School staff, volunteers, contractors, and any other member of the school community involved in child-connected work who breach this Child Safety Code of Conduct may be subject to disciplinary procedures in accordance with their employment agreement or relevant industrial instrument, professional code or terms of engagement.

In instances where a reportable allegation has been made, the matter will be managed in accordance with the Department of Education and Training or Reportable Conduct Scheme Policy and may be subject to referral to Victoria Police. All breaches and suspected breaches of the Torquay Coast Primary school Child Safety Code of Conduct must be reported to the Principal and/or the Assistant Principal. If the breach or suspected breach relates to the principal, contact South Western Victoria Regional Office.

APPROVAL AND REVIEW

Created date		2023
Consultation		School Council
Endorsed by		Mr. Darren Roskosch
Endorsed on		2023
Next review date		2025