



FOREVER FAITHFUL

Safeguarding Children and Young People
Code of Conduct
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School
01/08/2016

At Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School every individual is a valued member of our community. We strive to reach our full potential in a safe and supportive learning environment

Purpose

This Code of Conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at Our Lady of Mount Carmel 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 Mount Carmel Primary School 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 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 if they are worried about their safety/the safety of another child
- promoting cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (for example, by never questioning an Aboriginal or 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 cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability
- ensuring as far as possible that adults are not alone with a child
- reporting any allegations of child abuse 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
- 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
- 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.

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 (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)
- 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 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 enewsletters or assisting students with their school work)
- use any personal communication channels/device such as a personal email account
- photograph or video a child without the consent of the parent or guardians
- work with children while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- consume alcohol or drugs at school or at school events in the presence of children during school hours

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

Signed: _____ Date: _____