



# Child Safety Code of Conduct

***As a Catholic primary school, Christ the Priest is unequivocal in its commitment to foster the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children by providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching school environment, in which they are able to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.***

## **Purpose**

This Code of Conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at Christ the Priest Catholic Primary School against sexual, physical, psychological and emotional abuse or neglect.

It is intended to complement child protection legislation, school policies/procedures and professional standards, codes or ethics as these apply to staff and personnel.

All staff, volunteers, parents, contractors, clergy, casual relief staff and any future board/school council members at Christ the Priest Catholic 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, parents, contractors, clergy, casual relief staff and any future 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 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, modelling positive and respectful relationships and acting in a manner that sustains a safe, educational and pastoral environment
- listening and responding to the views and concerns of children, particularly if they are telling you that they or another child have 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, including 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 e.g. by having a zero tolerance policy towards discrimination
- promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability e.g. during personal care activities
- ensuring as far as practicable that adults are not alone with a child
- immediately reporting any allegations of child abuse to the Principal and Child Safety Officers
- immediately reporting any child safety concerns to the Principal and Child Safety Officers
- understanding and complying with all reporting obligations as they relate to mandatory reporting and reporting under the Crimes Act 1958 (Vic.)
- If an allegation of child abuse is made, ensuring as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are made safe

## **Unacceptable Behaviours**

No staff, volunteers, parents, contractors, clergy, casual relief staff and any future board/school council members must:

- ignore or disregard any child safety complaints, suspected abuse, disclosures or breaches of the Child Safety Code of Conduct
- develop any 'special' relationships with students or young people that could be seen as favouritism, such as the offering of gifts or special treatment for specific students.
- exhibit behaviours with students or young people, which may be construed as unnecessarily physical, such as inappropriate sitting on laps.



**Unacceptable Behaviours cont.**

No staff, volunteers, parents, contractors, clergy, casual relief staff and any future board/school council members must:

- 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
- put children at risk of abuse e.g. by locking doors
- engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children e.g. personal social activities
- exchange personal contact details such as phone number, social networking sites or email addresses with children
- have unauthorised contact with children 'on-line' via email, social networking sites, text, instant messaging or other means
- use any personal communication channels/networks or devices, such as, a common associate or a personal email account to make contact with a student
- display any behaviour, in person or 'on-line', which could be construed as inappropriate or disrespectful to those who may view it, in particular students, young people and those from Aboriginal and diverse cultural backgrounds
- maintain relationships with a child and/or their family outside of school without the knowledge and/or consent of the school's Principal and Child Safety Officers e.g. unauthorised after-hours tutoring, private instrumental/other lessons or sport coaching (NB: accidental contact, such as seeing people in the street, is appropriate)
- use inappropriate language in the presence of students
- use prejudice, oppressive behaviour or language in the presence of or with children
- express personal views on cultures, race, ethnicity, sexuality or disabilities in the presence of students
- discriminate against any child because of age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality, ethnicity or disability
- attend work under the influence or effects of illegal drugs or alcohol
- 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
- photograph or video a child without the consent of the parent or guardians

<b>Acknowledgment</b>
<i>I confirm that I have been provided with, read and understand the above Child Safety Code of Conduct at <b>Christ the Priest Catholic Primary School</b> and accept that the school can cease volunteering arrangements at any time.</i>
<p><b>Print Name:</b> .....</p> <p><b>Signature:</b> .....</p> <p><b>Date:</b> .....</p>