



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at Sacred Heart College Geelong 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 school council members at Sacred Heart College Geelong 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 by:

- adhering to Sacred Heart College Child Safe Policy and upholding Sacred Heart College's statement of commitment to child safety at all times
- taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- adhering to the Sacred Heart College Personal Respect and Dignity Statement
- 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
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability
- ensuring as far as practicable that safety measures are in place when adults are left alone with a child
- reporting any allegations of child abuse to the Principal or member of the Leadership Team and ensure any allegation is reported to the police or child protection
- reporting any child safety concerns to the Principal or member of the Leadership Team
- if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensure as quickly as possible that they follow relevant school procedures for reporting allegation, or mandatory reporting requirements
- encouraging children to 'have a say' and participate in all relevant College activities where possible, especially on issues that are important to them.

Staff and volunteers must not:

- develop any 'special' relationships with children that could be seen as favouritism
- exhibit behaviours with children which may be construed as unnecessary
- put children at risk of abuse
- do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves
- use inappropriate language in the presence of children
- discriminate against any child, including because of culture, race, ethnicity or disability
- have any online contact with a child or their family as outlined in the Sacred Heart College Social Media Policy available on the SHC website
- 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 the Principal or member of the Leadership Team. If you believe a child is at immediate risk of abuse phone 000.

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

Name: Signature: Date: