

Child Safety - Code of Conduct

Avondale Primary School - 2021



Commitment to Child Safety

Avondale Primary School is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision making. Avondale Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse.

Avondale Primary School is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and / or linguistically diverse backgrounds, international students, vulnerable children as well as the safety of children with a disability.

Every person involved in Avondale Primary School has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

PURPOSE

Avondale Primary School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all 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.

The Principal and school leaders of Avondale Primary School will support the implementation and monitoring of the Code of Conduct, and will plan, implement and monitor arrangements to provide an inclusive, safe and orderly school and other learning environments. The principal and school leaders of Avondale Primary School will also provide information and support to enable the Code of Conduct to operate effectively.

All staff, volunteers, contractors and any other members of the school community involved in child related work at Avondale Primary School are required to comply with the Code of Conduct by observing expectations for appropriate behaviour below. The Code of Conduct applies in all school situations, including school camps, excursions and in the use of digital technology and social media.

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Acceptable Behaviours

All staff, parents, volunteers, contractors and school council members are responsible for supporting the safety of children by:

- adhering to the school's child safety 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 Indigenous 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 adults are not alone with a child
- reporting any allegations of child abuse to the school's leadership
- reporting any 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
- ensuring as quickly as possible that the child(ren) is/are safe if an allegation of child abuse is made
- 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.

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Unacceptable Behaviours

All staff, parents, volunteers, contractors and 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
- exhibit or initiate behaviours with children that may be construed as unnecessary physical contact
- put children at risk of abuse – physical, emotional and verbal
- 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 discussion of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children
- 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, because of age, gender, race, culture, religion, vulnerability, sexuality, ethnicity or disability
- have contact with a child or their family outside of school without the school's leadership or child safety officer's knowledge and/or consent
- have any unauthorised online contact with the child (including by social media, email, instant messaging etc) or their family unless necessary eg by providing families online learning programs and assisting students with their school work
- use any personal communication channels/device such as a personal email account with children
- exchange personal contact details such as phone number, social networking sites or personal email addresses with children
- 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 in the presence of children

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy to be approved by School Council on	17 th August 2021
Consultation	School Council School Leadership Team
Approved by	Principal: Jill Benham School Council
Next scheduled review date	August 2022