



Truth

St Michael's Primary School
Davis Street
Heyfield

Safeguarding Children and Young People
Code of Conduct
St Michael's Heyfield
2/8/2016

At St Michael's Heyfield we believe the health and safety, physical wellbeing and overall social, emotional and spiritual growth is required in order for all students to reach their full potential.

Purpose

This Code of Conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at St Michael's Heyfield 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 St Michael's Heyfield 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:

- 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 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 safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability.
- Ensuring as far as practicable that adults are not alone with children.
- 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 Leadership Team.
- If an allegation of child abuse is made, ensuring as quickly as possible that the child or children are safe.

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.
- 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).
- Engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children.
- Express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of children.
- Have any unnecessary contact with a child online. (Newsletters or assisting with homework permitted.)
- Exchange personal contact details such as phone numbers, social networking sites or private email addresses.
- Photograph a child or video a child without the consent of parents or guardians.
- Work with children whilst under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
- Consume alcohol or drugs at school or at school events in the presence of children.

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

Signed: _____

Date: _____