



Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct St Brendan's Catholic Primary School

Our School Vision

At St Brendan's Catholic Primary School, we are inspired by Saint Mary MacKillop who responded to the call of Jesus Christ by living out the Gospel. In light of this our community will be one where:

- Our faith is reflected in our life and culture.
- All are welcomed, supported and valued within a safe and secure environment.
- We strive to achieve our potential in a dynamic, collaborative and personalised learning environment.

Commitment to Child Safety - Student Statement

St Brendan's Primary School is a place where everyone cares about each individual's well-being. St Brendan's Primary School values that everyone can receive a quality education. Students should not have to worry about feeling safe. Students at St Brendan's Primary School want to look forward to coming every day, school should be enjoyable for all. Our principal will ensure that staff members, parents and volunteers are up to date with child safety policy and procedures.

St Brendan's is a 'safety first' school.

Purpose

This Code of Conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at St Brendan's Catholic 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 St Brendan's 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, contractors, clergy and board/school advisory committee members are responsible for supporting the safety of children by:

- Adhering to St Brendan's Primary 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
- School values and expectations to be revised regularly and followed by all of the St Brendan's school community
- Reporting any allegations of abuse to the school's leadership
- Treating everyone in the school community with respect, modelling positive and respectful relationships that promote a safe educational 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/the safety of another child
- Ensuring all staff are up to date with relevant training; ie. First Aid, Mandatory Reporting expectations, Occupational Health and Safety Requirements.
- Maintaining zero tolerance towards bullying, discrimination and inappropriate behaviour
- Promoting a culture of safety, participation and empowerment of children with culturally diverse backgrounds including 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 a child
- Understanding and complying with all reporting obligations as they relate to mandatory reporting under the *Crimes Act 1958 (Vic.)*
- If allegation of child abuse is made, ensuring as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe.
- Ensuring all staff have read and acknowledge the child safety policies located on our website.
- Encouraging children to 'have their say' especially on issues that are important to them.

Unacceptable behaviours

All staff, volunteers, contractors, clergy and board/school advisory committee members must not:

- Ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse
- Develop any 'special' relationship 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. Example; hugging
- 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
- 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 social media, email, instant messaging, etc.)
- Exchange personal contact details such as phone number, social networking sites or email addresses with a child
- Use any personal communication channels/device such as a personal email account to contact a child as per our school's Social Media Policy/ICT Agreement.
- Photograph or video a child without the consent of the parent or guardians
- Work with children while under 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: _____

Developed by the St Brendan's Catholic Primary School community November 2017.

Updated by the St Brendan's Catholic Primary School Advisory Committee on Wednesday 9th March, 2021.