

# Child Safety – Code of Conduct

## Standard 3



**All staff, volunteers and school council members of Clarinda Primary School are required to observe child safe principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children, as noted below.**

**All personnel of Clarinda Primary School are responsible for supporting the safety, participation, wellbeing and empowerment of children by:**

- adhering to **Clarinda Primary School's** child safety policy / statement of commitment to child safety at all times
- taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- treating everyone 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 and/or are worried about their safety or the safety of another
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, having a zero tolerance of discrimination
- promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability
- ensuring as far as practicable that adults are not left alone with a child
- reporting any allegations of child abuse to the Principal or delegate and ensure any allegation is reported to the police or child protection
- reporting any child safety concerns to the Principal or delegate
- if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensure, as quickly as possible, that the child(ren) are safe
- encouraging children to 'have a say' and participate in all relevant school activities where possible, especially on issues that are important to them.
- 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.

**Staff and volunteers must not:**

- ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse.
- develop any 'special' relationships 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 (for example inappropriate sitting on laps.)
- put children at risk of abuse (for example, by locking doors)

- 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 (for example, personal social activities)
- 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 culture, race, ethnicity or disability
- have contact with a child or their family outside of our school without the Principal's knowledge and/or consent (for example, no babysitting). Accidental contact, such as seeing people in the street, is appropriate)
- have any online contact with a child or their family (unless necessary, for example providing families with e-newsletters)
- use any personal communication channels/device such as a personal email account
- exchange personal contact details such as phone number, social networking sites or email addresses
- photograph or video a child without the consent of the Principal or parents. All staff need to be aware of the students in their care who do not have media signed consent from parents
- work with children whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- consume alcohol or drugs at school

By observing these standards staff acknowledge their responsibility to immediately report any breach of this code to the Principal or delegate of **Clarinda Primary School**.

If staff believe a child is at immediate risk of abuse they will be expected to phone 000.

***Endorsed by School Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019***