

# Child Safety Code of Conduct

*Safeguarding Children and Young People*  
Code of Conduct

## St Mary of the Angels Secondary College



*Central to the mission of St Mary of the Angel Secondary College is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children and young people and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.*

### Key Definitions:

- Child:** A child enrolled as a student at the school.
- Child-connected work:** Work authorised by the College governing authority and performed by an adult in a school environment while children are present or reasonably expected to be present.
- Child abuse:** Includes;
- any act committed against a child involving—
    - a sexual offence; or
    - an offence under section 49B(2) of the Crimes Act 1958 (grooming); and
  - the infliction, on a child, of—
    - physical violence; or
    - serious emotional or psychological harm; and
  - serious neglect of a child.
- Child safety:** Encompasses matters related to protecting all children from child abuse, managing the risk of child abuse, providing support to a child at risk of child abuse, and responding to incidents or allegations of child abuse.
- School environment:** Any physical or virtual place made available or authorised by the College governing authority for use by a child during or outside College hours, including:
- a campus of the school;
  - online school environments (including email and intranet systems); and
  - other locations provided by the school for a child's use (including, without limitation, locations used for school camps, sporting events, excursions, competitions, and other events).



All staff and volunteers of St Mary of the Angels Secondary College 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 and board/College council members are responsible for supporting the safety of children by:

- adhering to the College's child safe policy and upholding the College's statement of commitment to child safety at all times
- taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- treating everyone in the College 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/the safety of another child
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (for example, by never questioning an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child's self-identification)
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds (for example, by having a zero tolerance of discrimination)
- promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability (for example, during personal care activities)
- ensuring as far as practicable that adults are not alone with a child
- reporting any allegations of child abuse to the College Executive Team
- 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 College Executive Team
- if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensuring as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe
- When at a College function, in the presence of children and alcohol is being consumed, staff will adhere to the Liquor Licenses Act, 1997 'General Code of Practice Guidelines'. In particular:
  - Minimise the harmful and hazardous use of liquor and promote responsible attitudes in relation to the promotion, sale, supply and consumption of liquor;
  - Minimise offence, annoyance, disturbance or inconvenience to people who reside, work or worship in the vicinity of licensed premises;
  - Prevent intoxication and/or disorderly or offensive behaviour on licensed premises;
  - Protect the safety, health and welfare of minors on licensed premises; and ensure public order and safety on licensed premises.
- Inform the College Executive, via completing the required template, of any interactions with children via community-based roles and responsibilities (eg sporting coach, scouts, community groups).



## Unacceptable behaviours

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
- put children at risk of abuse
- initiate unnecessary physical contact which 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 (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 age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality, ethnicity or disability
- seek to develop friendships and social networks with children outside of College that could be misconstrued under our child safe policies and provisions
- place yourself in situations that could be misconstrued under our child safe policies and provisions
- have any personal online contact with a child (including by social media, email, instant messaging etc) or their family (unless necessary as a result of community based roles and responsibilities or assisting students with their school work)
- use any personal communication channels/device such as a personal email account
- exchange personal contact details such as phone number, unless it is necessary for reasons of safety during a College based 'off site' activity
- photograph or video a child without the consent of the parent or guardians, as per the annual enrolment declaration
- work with children whilst under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_