



2021

St. Patrick's Volunteer's Code of Conduct for Child Safety

Vision Statement

With Christ before us
Aspiring to reach our full potential

With Christ beside us
Encouraging a community of respect

With Christ behind us
Celebrating our achievements

Purpose

This Code of Conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at St. Patrick's 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. Patrick's 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. All volunteers at St. Patrick's must sign the Volunteers Code of Conduct. 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:

- adhering to St. Patrick's child safe policy at all times (a copy of which is available on display in the foyer)
- 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 children (for example, by never questioning an Aboriginal 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 left alone with a child
- reporting any allegations of child abuse to St. Patrick's Child Safety Officer / member of the Child Safety Team and ensure any allegation is reported to the police or child protection

- reporting any child safety concerns to St. Patrick's Child Safety Officer / member of the Child Safety Team
- 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 organisational activities where possible, especially on issues that are important to them.

Unacceptable behaviours

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

- 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. Sitting on laps or a brief hug could be appropriate sometimes, for example while comforting a child who is highly distressed).
- 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
- ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse.

By observing these standards you acknowledge your responsibility to immediately report any breach of this code to St. Patrick's Child Safety Officer / member of the Child Safety Team

I agree to adhere to this Code of Conduct:

Name:

Signature: Date:

Working With Children Check:

Card number : _____

Expiry date: _____

St. Patrick's Child Safety Team consists of the Principal, Deputy Principal and Student Wellbeing Leader (Child Safety Officer).

This Code of Conduct will be presented to the School Advisory Team on an annual basis at the first meeting of each year.