

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN – CODE OF CONDUCT



RATIONALE

Tallarook Primary School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and has zero tolerance for child abuse both during and outside school activities.

Tallarook Primary School is committed to providing an environment where children are safe and feel safe, and they have input about decisions that affect them.

Staff have the responsibility for building and maintaining a child safe environment. This responsibility extends to the identification and timely response to concerns regarding the possible sexual, physical, psychological and emotional abuse or neglect of a child.

Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

All members of the Tallarook Primary School community have a responsibility to understand the role he/she plays to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

PURPOSE

The Code of Conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at Tallarook Primary School against sexual, physical, psychological and emotional abuse or neglect.

All staff, visitors, volunteers, contractors and community members are required to observe child safe principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children.

ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOURS

All staff, visitors, volunteers, contractors and community members are responsible for supporting the safety of children by:

- adhering to the Child Safety Policy at all times.
- taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse.
- treating everyone in the school community with respect, modelling positive and respectful relationships and acting in a manner that sustains a safe learning environment at all times.
- 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 policy towards 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 child safety concerns or allegations of child abuse to the Principal or a member of the Executive team.
- understanding and complying with all reporting obligations as they relate to mandatory reporting and reporting under the Crimes Act 1958 (Vic.).
- ensuring immediate safety of the child(ren) if an allegation of child abuse is made.

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 or young people which may be construed as unnecessarily physical (for example, inappropriate sitting on laps).
- 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 (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 because of age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality, ethnicity or disability.
- have contact with a child or their family outside of school without the knowledge of the Principal and/or consent (for example, unauthorised after-hours tutoring, private instrumental/other lessons or sporting coaching, professional discussions in the community); accidental contact, such as seeing people in the street is appropriate.
- have any online contact with a child (including by social media, email, instant messaging, Facebook etc.) or their family (unless necessary e.g. by providing families with e-newsletters 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, social networking sites or email addresses.
- photograph or video a child without the consent of the parent or guardians.
- work with children while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
- consume alcohol or drugs at school or at a school event in the presence of children.