



Swinburne Senior Secondary College

Child Safety Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct Statement

Swinburne Senior Secondary is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. Our school community recognises the importance of, and a responsibility for, ensuring our school is a safe, supportive and enriching environment, which respects and fosters the dignity and self-esteem of children and young people, and enables them to thrive in their learning and development.

Child abuse can include physical abuse, sexual abuse, grooming, emotional or psychological harm, neglect or family violence.

Guidelines

This Code of Conduct aims to:

- Protect children from harm
- Minimise and reduce any opportunities for child abuse or harm
- Increase understanding amongst the school population about how to avoid risky behaviours and situations and manage them if they do occur

This code of conduct is intended to complement child protection legislation, Department of Education and Training policy, school policies and procedures and professional standards and codes of ethics as these apply to staff and other personnel.

The Principal and school leaders of Swinburne Senior Secondary College will support implementation and monitoring of the Code of Conduct, and will plan, implement and monitor arrangements to provide inclusive, safe and orderly schools and other learning environments. The Principal and school leaders of the College will provide information and support to enable the Code of Conduct to operate effectively.

All staff, contractors, volunteers and any other member of the school community involved in child-related work are required to comply with the Code of Conduct by observing expectations for appropriate behaviour below. The Code of Conduct applies in all school situations, including school camps and in the use of digital technology and social media.

Implementation

The implementation of the Code of Conduct is supported by clear statements on what constitutes acceptable and unacceptable behaviours for staff, volunteers, contractors, and any other member of the school community involved in child-related work.

Acceptable behaviours

As staff, volunteers, contractors, and any other member of the school community involved in child-related work individually, we support and promote the safety of children by:

- upholding the school's statement of commitment to child safety at all times and adhering to the school's child safe policy.
- treating students and families in the school community with respect both within the school environment and outside the school environment as part of normal social and community activities.
- listening and responding to the views and concerns of students, 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 students
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of students with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of students that identify as LGBTIQ
- promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of students with a disability
- reporting any allegations of child abuse or other child safety concerns to the school's leadership including the Student Wellbeing Leader
- understanding and complying with all reporting or disclosure obligations (including mandatory reporting) as they relate to protecting children from harm or abuse.
- if child abuse is suspected, ensuring as quickly as possible that the student(s) are safe and protected from harm.
- Failure to comply with these reporting obligations may be a criminal offence.

Unacceptable behaviours

As staff, volunteers, contractors, and any other member of the school community involved in child-related work we will not:

- ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions or disclosures of child abuse
- develop a relationship with any student that could be seen as favouritism or amount to 'grooming' behaviour (for example, offering gifts)
- exhibit behaviours or engage in activities with students which may be interpreted as abusive and not justified by the educational, therapeutic, or service delivery context
- ignore behaviours by other adults towards students when they appear to be overly familiar or inappropriate
- discuss content of an intimate nature or use sexual innuendo with students, except where it occurs relevantly in the context of parental guidance, delivering the education curriculum or a therapeutic setting
- treat a child unfavourably because of their disability, age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality or ethnicity.
- communicate directly with a student through personal or private contact channels (including by social media, email, instant messaging, texting etc) except where that communication is reasonable in all the circumstances, related to school work or extra-curricular activities or where there is a safety concern or other urgent matter

- photograph or video a child in a school environment except in accordance with school policy
- in the school environment or at other school events where students are present, consume alcohol contrary to school policy ¹ or take illicit drugs under any circumstances.

Review Every two years

Links

Certification

This policy was adopted at the School Council meeting held at

Hawthorn on the 5th day of December 2016

Michael O'Brien

Carolyn Blackburn

Principal

School Council President

Endorsed by School Council and effective as of: 6/12/2016

¹ SPAG: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/pages/alcohol.aspx>. The policy says the school must obtain school council approval before alcohol can be consumed on school grounds or at a school activity. The policy says staff members should not consume alcohol during camps and excursions. It is silent on whether they can consume alcohol at other school events where students are present, this is a matter that the school needs to decide upon – draft text is provided in the guidance fact sheet