



## Child Safe Standards Code of Conduct

Barwon Valley School is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people and has zero tolerance for child abuse.  
(Child Safe Standards)

### Purpose

This Code of Conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at Barwon Valley School against sexual, physical, psychological and emotional abuse, grooming or neglect. It is intended to complement other professional and/or occupational codes.

All staff, volunteers, contractors, visitors and school council members at Barwon Valley School are expected to actively contribute to a school culture that respects the dignity of its members and follows the school's core values. They are required to observe child safe principles and expectations of appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children, as noted below.

### Acceptable Behaviours

All Staff, Volunteers, Contractors, Visitors and School Council Members are responsible for supporting the safety of children by:

- adhering to the school's child safe policy and upholding the school's statement of commitment to child safety at all times
- taking all reasonable steps to protect students from abuse
- treating everyone in the school 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/or 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/vulnerable (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 and/or child safety concerns to the school's leadership
- understanding and complying with all reporting obligations as they relate to mandatory reporting and reporting under the Crimes Act 1958
- if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensuring as quickly as possible, that the child(ren) are safe
- 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
- follow BVS School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Protocols when managing student behaviour

## **Unacceptable behaviours**

All staff, volunteers, contractors, visitors and school council members 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 of specific children)
- exhibit or initiate behaviours with children that may be construed as unnecessarily physical contact (for example inappropriate sitting on laps)
- put children at risk of abuse (for example, by locking doors)
- engage in open discussion 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
- have contact with a child or their family outside the school without the school's leadership knowledge or consent of school council (for example unauthorised after hours tutoring, providing child care, private lessons ) accidental contact, such as seeing people in the street, is appropriate.
- have any online contact with the child (including by social media, email, instant messaging 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 personal email addresses
- photograph or video a child without the consent of the parent or guardians
- work with children whilst under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs