



CHILD SAFETY CODE OF CONDUCT



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, or require it in an alternative format, please contact our school administration team.

Child Safety Code of Conduct

PURPOSE

Streeton Primary School 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.

This Child Safety Code of Conduct sets out the expected behaviour of adults with children and young people in our school. It aims to protect children and reduce any opportunities for child abuse or harm to occur. It also assists in understanding how to avoid or better manage risky behaviours and situations. It is intended to complement child protection legislation, Department policy, school policies and procedures and professional standards, codes or ethics as these apply to staff and other personnel.

The Principal and school leaders of Streeton Primary School will support implementation and monitoring of the Child Safety 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 Streeton Primary School will also provide information and support to enable the Child Safety Code of Conduct to operate effectively.

All staff, contractors, volunteers, service providers, School Council members and any other adult of the school community involved in child-connected and related work must follow and comply with the Child Safety Code of Conduct.

The Child Safety Code of Conduct applies to all physical and online environments used by students. It also applies during or outside of school hours and in other locations provided by the school for student use such as school camps.

ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOURS

As staff, volunteers, contractors, and any other member of the school community involved in child-related work individually, we are responsible for supporting and promoting the safety of children by:

- upholding Streeton Primary School's statement of commitment to child safety at all times and adhering to our Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy.
- acting in accordance with Streeton Primary School's child safety and wellbeing policies and procedures at all times.
- 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.
- behaving respectfully, courteously and ethically towards children and their families, and towards other staff.
- listening and responding to the views and concerns of students, particularly if they are telling you (verbally or non-verbally) that they or another child has been abused or that they are worried about their safety or the safety of another child or that they feel unwell.
- promoting human rights, cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal students, students with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, students with a disability, international students, students who are unable to live at home and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTIQ+) students.
- considering and respecting the diverse backgrounds and needs of children.
- creating an environment that promotes and enables children's participation and is welcoming, culturally safe and inclusive for all children and their families.
- ensuring, as far as practicable, that adults are not alone with a student – one-to-one interactions between an adult and a student are to be in an open space or in line of sight of another adult.
- demonstrating appropriate personal and professional boundaries.
- reporting any allegations of child abuse or other child safety concerns to the school's Principal, Leadership or Child Safety Champion.
- reporting all suspected or disclosed child harm or abuse as required and by Streeton Primary School's policy and procedure on internal and external reporting.
- identifying and mitigating risks to children's safety and wellbeing as required by Streeton Primary School's risk assessment and management policy or process.
- responding to any concerns or complaints of child harm or abuse promptly and in line with Streeton Primary School's policy and procedure for receiving and responding to complaints.
- understanding and complying with all reporting and disclosure obligations (including mandatory reporting) in line with our child safety responding and reporting policy and procedure and the [PROTECT Four Critical Actions](#).
- if child abuse is suspected, ensuring as quickly as possible that the student(s) are safe and protected from harm.
- involving children in making decisions about activities, policies and processes that concern them wherever possible.

- providing opportunities for students to contribute, where appropriate, to Streeton Primary School policies, discussions, learning and reviews about child safety and wellbeing.
- complying with Streeton Primary School's protocols on communicating with children.
- complying with relevant legislation and Streeton Primary School's policies and procedures on record keeping and information sharing.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOURS

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

- ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions or disclosures of child abuse or harm.
- develop a relationship with any student that could be seen as favouritism or amount to 'grooming' behaviour (for example, offering gifts).
- display behaviours or engage in activities with students which may be interpreted as abusive and not justified by the educational, therapeutic, or service delivery context.
- engage in any unlawful activity with or in relation to a child.
- engage in any activity that is likely to physically, sexually or emotionally harm a child.
- ignore behaviours by other adults towards students when they appear to be overly familiar or inappropriate.
- discuss intimate topics or use sexualised language, except when needed to deliver the school curriculum or professional guidance.
- treat a child unfavourably because of their disability, age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality or ethnicity.
- unlawfully discriminate against any child or their family members.
- 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.
- have contact with any student outside of school hours except when needed to deliver the school curriculum or professional guidance and parental permission has been sought.
- photograph or video a child in a school environment except in accordance with school Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy or where required for duty of care purposes.
- consume alcohol against school policy or take illicit drugs in the school environment or at school events where students are present.
- work with children while under the influence of alcohol or prohibited drugs.
- be alone with a child unnecessarily.
- disclose personal or sensitive information about a child, including images of a child, unless the child and their parent or legal guardian consent or unless required to do so by Streeton Primary School's policy and procedure on reporting.
- use inappropriate language in the presence of children, or show or provide children with access to inappropriate images or material.

- ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child harm or abuse.

BREACHES TO THE CHILD SAFETY CODE OF CONDUCT

If any paid or unpaid staff member believes this Code of Conduct has been breached by another person in Streeton Primary School they should:

- Act to prioritise the best interests of children.
- Take actions promptly to ensure that children are safe.
- Promptly report any concerns to the school Principal or delegate, Streeton Primary School's Child Safety Officer, or another leader in Streeton Primary School.
- Follow Streeton Primary School's policies and procedures for receiving and responding to complaints and concerns.
- Comply with legislative requirements on reporting if relevant, and with Streeton Primary School's policy and procedure on internal and external reporting.

All Streeton Primary School staff, volunteers, contractors and any other member of the school community involved in child-connected work who breach this Child Safety Code of Conduct may be subject to disciplinary procedures in accordance with their employment agreement or relevant industrial instrument, professional code or terms of engagement.

In instances where a reportable allegation has been made, the matter will be managed in accordance with the Department of Education and Training Reportable Conduct Scheme Policy and may be subject to referral to Victoria Police.

All breaches and suspected breaches of the Streeton Primary School Child Safety Code of Conduct must be reported to the Principal and Child Safety Champion on 9435 6070.

If the breach or suspected breach relates to the Principal, contact our local Regional Office, **North Western Victoria on:**

- Phone: 1300 338 691
- Email: nwvr@education.vic.gov.au

APPROVAL AND REVIEW

Created date	15/05/2022
Consultation	Consultation with School Council is mandatory – 24/07/2023 Other Consultation – Staff via staff meeting Families within the community via our newsletter
Endorsed by	Principal
Endorsed on	24 July 2023
Next review date	July 2024