



Safeguarding Children and Young People

Code of Conduct

Corpus Christi Primary School, Glenroy

July 2016

Corpus Christi is a Catholic Parish Primary School community, where Catholic values permeate the environment, relationships and the whole school community.

Our primary function is to live out the mission of our Church through education in faith. We recognise that faith is a gift, which needs nurturing and developing.

We aim to support individuals on their faith journey.

As a school community we aim to:

Foster the development of all staff and students to their full potential: spiritually, intellectually, physically, emotionally and socially.

- Provide a learning environment that challenges and stimulates the children through a range of learning experiences.
- Provide a physical environment that is safe, secure and stimulating.
- Recognise and affirm all individuals within our school community.
- Foster positive relationships between staff, students and parents, through mutual respect in an atmosphere of tolerance, trust and honesty.
- Foster a collaborative relationship with the wider school community.
- Provide staff with the opportunity to develop both professionally and personally.
- Members of staff aim to develop a collaborative working environment, which enhances our professional practices

Purpose

This Code of Conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at CORPUS CHRISTI PRIMARY 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 CORPUS CHRISTI 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. They are required to observe child-safe principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children, as noted in the attached document.

CORPUS CHRISTI PRIMARY SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

Principles for adult's behaviour in undertaking child-connected work

- The adult/child relationship should be professional at all times
- An adult's response to a child's behaviour or circumstance should be commensurate with the child's age and vulnerability and the adult's responsibility for the care, safety and welfare of the child
- An adult should not be alone with a child, where practical and within their responsibilities, unless there is a line of sight to other adults
- An adult should not initiate or seek physical contact or contact with children outside school.

Acceptable Behaviours

All staff, volunteers and board/school council members are responsible for supporting the safety of children by:

- Adhering to the school's child safe policy and upholding the CECV's statement of commitment to child safety at all times
- Taking all reasonable steps to protect children 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/the safety of another child
- Promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Ensuring as far as practicable that adults are not alone with a child, unless this is consistent with their school role and responsibilities
- Reporting any allegations of child abuse to the Student Wellbeing Coordinator, Deputy Principal or Principal
- Understanding and complying with all reporting obligations as they relate to mandatory reporting and reporting under the CRIMES ACT 1958
- Reporting any child safety concerns to the Student Wellbeing Coordinator, Deputy Principal or Principal
- If an allegation of child abuse is made, ensuring as quickly as possible that the children are safe
- Reporting to the Victorian Institute of Teaching any changes, committals for trial or convictions in relation to a sexual offence by a registered teacher, or certain allegations or concerns about a registered teacher.

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 (eg. The offering of special gifts or special treatment for specific children)
- Exhibit behaviours with children 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 and 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
- 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 of school hours without the school's leadership's knowledge and/or consent or approval (eg. After hours tutoring,)
- Have any online contact with a child or their family other than school based correspondence
- Exchange personal contact details such as phone number, address, personal online accounts
- Photograph or video a child without parental consent
- Work with children whilst under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- Consume alcohol or drugs at school or school events in the presence of children.

I, _____, confirm I have been provided with a copy of the attached Code of Conduct.

Signed: _____ Date: _____