



Child Safe Policy

Morningson Park Primary School 5040

POLICY DATE: September 2016

STATUS: Ratified by School Council Sept 2016

“Victorian government schools are child safe environments. Our schools actively promote the safety and wellbeing of all students, and all school staff are committed to protecting students from abuse or harm in the school environment in accordance with their legal obligations including the Child Safe Standards. Morningson Park Primary School’s (The school’s) Child Safety Code is available on the school’s website.”

Child Safe Standards

Code of Conduct.

Morningson Park 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 Code of Conduct 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, DET policy, school policies and procedures and professional standards, codes or ethics as these apply to staff and other personnel *including volunteers.*

The Principal and school leaders of Morningson Park PS will support the implementation and monitoring of the Code of Conduct, and will plan, implement and monitor arrangements to provide an inclusive, safe and orderly school and other learning environments. The Principal and school leaders will provide information and support to enable the Code of Conduct to operate effectively.

Our Social Worker, Valerie Coles has the role and responsibility to

- Act as a source of support, advice and expertise to staff on matters of child safety
- Liaise with the principal and school leaders to maintain the visibility of child safety
- Lead the development of the school’s child safety culture, including being a child safety champion and providing coordination in communicating, implementing, monitoring, enhancing and reporting on strategies to embed a culture of child safety

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

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 Morningson Park Primary School’s statement of commitment to child safety 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
- Listening and responding to the views and concerns of students, especially 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 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 with a disability
- Reporting any allegations of child abuse or other child safety concerns to the Principal, Assistant Principal or Social Worker *who will pass on their concerns to DHHS as appropriate*
- 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) is safe and protected from harm

Unacceptable behaviours

As 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
- 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 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 or where required for duty of care purposes
- In the school environment or at other school events where students are present, consume alcohol contrary to school policy or take illicit drugs in any circumstances

This policy will be reviewed in line with DET guidelines