



Camperdown College

Child Safety Code of Conduct

Purpose

Camperdown College is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. This Code of Conduct aims to protect children and reduce any opportunities for child abuse or harm to occur. It is intended to complement child protection legislation, Department policy, school policies and procedures and professional standards as these apply to staff and other personnel.

Our Child Safety Code of Conduct sets out the expected behaviour of adults with children and young people in our school.

All staff, volunteers, contractors, service providers, school council members and any other adult involved in child-connected work must follow 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 (for example, a school camp).

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 the school's statement of commitment to child safety at all times; and adhering to our Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy.
- treating students and families in our school community with respect in our school environment and outside our school environment as part of normal social and community activities
- listening and responding to the views and concerns of students, particularly if they disclose that they or another child has been abused or are worried about their safety or the safety of another child or student;
- promoting the 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
- 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.
- reporting any allegations of child abuse or other child safety concerns to the school's leadership;
- understanding and complying with all reporting or disclosure obligations (including mandatory reporting) in line with our child safety responding and reporting policy and procedures and the PROTECT Four Critical Actions.
- using approved Camperdown College protocols for communicating with students and complying with DET recommendations relating to social media (reproduced in Staff Handbook);
- if child abuse is suspected, ensuring as quickly as possible that the student(s) are 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 or harm;
- 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 with students in ways that are not justified by the educational or professional context;
- ignore an adult's overly familiar or inappropriate behaviour towards a student.
- 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;
- 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 schoolwork or extra-curricular activities or where there is a safety concern or other urgent matter;
- photograph or video a child or student in a school environment except in accordance with the 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

Breaches to the Child Safety Code of Conduct

All Camperdown College 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 Reportable Conduct Scheme Policy and may be subject to referral to Victoria Police.

All breaches and suspected breaches of the Child Safety Code of Conduct must be reported to the principal, Vicki Angus on 55931617.

If the breach or suspected breach relates to the principal, contact the Senior Education Improvement Leader (SEIL) at the South Western Victoria Region on 1300 333 232 or SWVR@education.vic.gov.au

Communication

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on school website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in our staff handbook/manual
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Discussed at student forums/through communication tools
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Consultation	May School Council Consultation
Amended	September 2025
Endorsed by	School Council & Principal
Endorsed on	15 th May 2024
Next review date	May 2026