



Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct

Blackburn Primary School
August 2016

Our philosophy

At Blackburn Primary School, all children have the right to feel and be safe. We share a common belief that all children can learn to a high standard and all children want to learn. We support the development, learning and achievement of every student in our school. Together, in collaboration with parents and the community, we undertake the actions necessary to support the development, learning and achievement of every child. The school's motto of 'Learning Together - Achieving Success' is reflected in its team approach to teaching and learning.

At our school, we deliver a holistic approach to education underpinned by high expectations taking into account the individual, academic, emotional and social needs of our students. We provide our students with the technological, social and academic requirements to become life-long learners and productive adults in the community.

Our Vision

At Blackburn Primary School we:

Believe
Persevere
Succeed

Our Mission:

Blackburn Primary School's mission is to develop and nurture a community of learners who confidently believe in their ability to be successful citizens in the 21st Century.

Our Values:

- Responsibility
- Co-operation
- Celebrating Diversity
- Manners and Respect
- Fairness and Honesty
- Friendship

Purpose

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

All staff, volunteers, contractors and School Council members at Blackburn Primary 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 for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children, as noted below.

Acceptable behaviours

All staff, volunteers, contractors 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 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 (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
- ensuring as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe, if an allegation of child abuse is made
- 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.
- following the school wide discipline policy when managing student behaviour

Unacceptable behaviours

All staff, volunteers, contractors 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 outside or their family outside the school without the school's leadership knowledge or consent of school council (for example, unauthorised after hours tutoring, private instrumental/other lessons or sport coaching)
- have any online contact with the child (including by social media, email, instant messaging etc) or their family (unless necessary eg 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 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
- 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 above Code of Conduct.

Signed: _____ Date: _____