

JAMES COOK PRIMARY SCHOOL COUNCIL **CHILD SAFETY CODE OF CONDUCT – ACCEPTABLE AND** **UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR POLICY**



Rationale:

Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people is our highest priority. A code of conduct establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children. The following outlines James Cook Primary School's commitment to this end.

Aim:

To promote child safety within the school environment and to ensure that our students are protected from abuse and neglect.

Guidelines:

- The implementation of this policy does not replace any legislative or regulatory obligations or other professional or occupational codes of conduct that regulate staff at the school. The Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) *Victorian Teaching Profession Codes of Conduct and Ethics* provides clarity regarding professional behaviour expected of teachers at all times. The code specifies behaviour unacceptable for a professional relationship between a teacher and a student. The VIT code provides a useful guide to appropriate behaviour for all school staff.
- James Cook Primary School recognises the importance of the partnership between the school and parents in supporting student learning, engagement and wellbeing. The Child Safety Code of Conduct is in line with the school's Statement of Values which sets out the behavioural expectations for all members the school community, including the principal, all school staff, parents, students and visitors.

Implementation:

The following principles will guide all adults' behaviour when undertaking child-connected work at James Cook PS. These include:

- 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 unless there is line of sight to other adults;
- no adult should initiate or seek physical contact or contact with children outside school.

Acceptable Behaviours

All staff, parents and volunteers are responsible for supporting the safety of children by:

- adhering to the school's Child Safe Code of Conduct and upholding the school'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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (for example, by never questioning an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child's self-identification);
- 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 any child;
- reporting any allegations of child abuse to the school's leadership (Principal, Assistant 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 school's leadership (Principal, Assistant Principal);
- if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensuring that the child(ren) are safe as quickly as possible;
- 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.

Unacceptable Behaviours

Staff, parents 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 (for example, the offering of 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 which children or do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes.

EVALUATION

The Child Safety Code of Conduct policy will be reviewed by all staff in consultation with the Education Policy committee, every three years or sooner if required.