MACARTHUR STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHILD SAFETY CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

Help for non-English speakers
If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Macarthur Street Primary School.

PURPOSE

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

All Macarthur Street Primary School 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).

As a regional primary school, staff, students and families are part of the same local community. It is likely that students will see and interact with school staff outside of school hours and beyond the school environment, including in local businesses, sporting clubs, community events and other public settings.

Staff are expected to always maintain professional boundaries and act in a manner consistent with the school's values and Code of Conduct. While friendly and respectful interactions may occur in community settings, these interactions should remain appropriate, professional and mindful of the staff–student relationship.

Students and families should also recognise that staff members are entitled to privacy in their personal lives. Any interactions outside of school should respect professional boundaries and the wellbeing of all members of the school community.

ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOURS

As Macarthur Street Primary School, staff, volunteers, contractors, and any other member of our school community involved in child-connected work, we are responsible for supporting and promoting the safety of children by:

- always upholding our Macarthur Street Primary School commitment to child safety 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 or student 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 (LQBTIQ+) 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 and disclosure obligations (including mandatory reporting) in line with our child safety responding and reporting policy and procedures Macarthur Street Primary School Policies and the PROTECT Four Critical Actions.
- if child abuse is suspected, ensuring as quickly as possible that the student(s) are safe and protected from harm

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOURS

As Macarthur Street Primary School staff, volunteers, contractors, and member of our school community involved in child-connected 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, by offering gifts)
- display 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 or student 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
- have contact with any student outside of school hours except when needed to deliver the school curriculum or professional guidance and parental permission has been sought.

BREACHES TO THE CHILD SAFETY CODE OF CONDUCT

All Macarthur Street Primary School 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 and Training, Reportable Conduct Scheme Policy and may be subject to referral to Victoria Police.

All breaches and suspected breaches of the Macarthur Street Primary School Child Safety Code of Conduct must be reported to the principal.

If the breach or suspected breach relates to the principal, contact Senior Education Officer – City Network.

APPROVAL AND REVIEW

Created date	June 2026
Consultation	School Council Staff
Endorsed by	School Council
Endorsed on	June 2026
Next review date	June 2028