



GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL

CHILD SAFE CODE OF CONDUCT

Good Shepherd School is committed to providing a safe environment for all students and will take active steps to protect them.

All staff members (teaching and non-teaching), clergy, casual relief staff, volunteers, contractors and board/school council members are expected to actively contribute to a school culture that respects the dignity of its members and affirms the Gospel values of love, care for others compassion and justice.

They are required to observe child safe principles and expectations for appropriate behavior towards and in the company of children, as noted below.

Acceptable Behaviours

- adhere to the School's Child Safety Policy and upholding the Good Shepherd School's statement of commitment to child safety at all times
- take all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- treat everyone with respect, including listening to and valuing their ideas and opinions
- listen and respond to the views and concerns of students, particularly if they are telling you that they or another student or young person has been abused and/or are worried about their safety or the safety of another child
- take account of the diversity of all students, including (but not limited to) the needs of Aboriginal students, students from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, students with disabilities and students and young people who are vulnerable
- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of all students, including those from diverse backgrounds.
- ensure as far as practicable that adults are not left alone with a student or young person.
- report all child safety complaints, suspected abuse, disclosures or breaches of the Child Safety Code of Conduct to the Principal and/or the School's Child Safety Officer immediately
- understand and comply with all reporting obligations as they relate to mandatory reporting and reporting under the Crimes Act 1958
- if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensure the safety of the student/s as soon as possible

Unacceptable Behaviours

All staff members (teaching and non-teaching), clergy, casual relief staff, volunteers, parents, contractors and board/school council members must not:

- ignore or disregard any child safety complaints, suspected abuse, disclosures or breaches of the Child Safety Code of Conduct
- develop any 'special' relationships with students or young people that could be seen as favouritism (such as the offering of gifts or special treatment for specific students)
- exhibit behaviours with students or young people, which may be construed as unnecessarily physical (such as inappropriate sitting on laps)

- do things of a personal nature that a student can do for themselves (such as toileting or changing clothes)
- engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of students e.g. personal or social activities
- use inappropriate language in the presence of children or when addressing children
- exchange personal contact details such as phone numbers, social networking sites or email addresses with students
- have unauthorised contact with students 'on line' via email, social networking sites, by text message or other means
- display any behaviour, in person or 'on-line', which could be construed as inappropriate or disrespectful to those who may view it, in particular students and those from Aboriginal and diverse cultural backgrounds
- have any online contact with a child (including by social media, email, instant messaging etc) or their family unless necessary (e.g. newsletters or online learning programs as recommended by the school)
- have contact with a child or their family outside of school without the knowledge or consent of the Principal/Child Safety Officer (e.g. unauthorised after hours' tutoring, private/instrument/other lessons or sport coaching)
- maintain relationships with a student and their families outside of school without the knowledge of the Principal or Child Safety Officer
- use prejudice, oppressive behaviour or language in the presence of/with student or others within the school environment
- express personal views on cultures, race, ethnicity, sexuality or disabilities in the presence of students
- discriminate against any student because of culture, race, ethnicity or disability
- enter the school property under the influence or effects of illegal drugs or alcohol
- consume alcohol without the consent of the Principal at school or at a school event or in the presence of students or young people
- photograph or video a student, community without the consent of their parents or guardian.

Failure to Comply with This Code of Conduct

Where a staff member (teaching and non-teaching), clergy, casual relief staff, volunteers, contractors and board/school council is suspected of breaching any obligation, duty or responsibility within this Policy, Good Shepherd Parish School will take disciplinary action, including, in the case of serious breaches, summary dismissal.

I agree to the expectations outlined in this document.

Signed: _____

Date: _____