

## CHILD SAFETY CODE OF CONDUCT

Shepparton ACE Secondary College (SASC) is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. Our school community recognises the importance of, and a responsibility for, ensuring our school is a safe, supportive and enriching environment which respects and fosters the dignity and self-esteem of children and young people, and enables them to thrive in their learning and development.

This Code of Conduct aims to protect children and reduce any opportunities for child abuse or harm to occur. It also assists in understanding how to avoid or better manage risky behaviours and situations. It is intended to complement child protection legislation, Government legislation, school policies and procedures and professional standards, codes, or ethics as these apply to staff and other personnel.

The principal and school leaders of SASC will support the implementation and monitoring of the Code of Conduct, and will plan, implement, and monitor arrangements to provide inclusive, safe and orderly schools and other learning environments. The principal and school leaders of SASC will also provide information and support to enable the Code of Conduct to operate effectively.

All staff, school council members, contractors, volunteers and any other member of the school community involved in child-related work are required to comply with the Code of Conduct by observing expectations for appropriate behaviour below. The Code of Conduct applies in all school situations, including school camps, after school hours and in the use of digital technology and social media.

All staff will support and promote safety of children in accordance with Ministerial Order No 1359 – Implementing Child Safe Standards in Schools and Boarding Schools.

### The Child Safety Code of Conduct:

- promotes professionalism and excellence so that all staff are motivated 'to do the right thing' and feel safe and respected whilst at work.
- provides staff members with guidance and support in ethically ambiguous and challenging situations in the workplace.
- articulates a statement of SASC responsibilities, accountabilities and establishes trust.
- supports our school community.
- fosters and maintains student, staff and public trust and confidence in the integrity and professionalism of SASC and its employees.
- contributes to making SASC an inspiring and rewarding place to work.
- provides a means by which SASC demonstrates its responsibility to child safety and to apply the school values through its everyday operations.

## Acceptable behaviours

As staff, school council members, volunteers, contractors, and any other member of the school community involved in child-related work we are responsible for supporting and promoting the safety of children by:

- Always upholding the school's statement of commitment to child safety and adhering to the school's child safe policy.
- Treating students and families in the school community with respect both within the school environment and outside the school environment as part of normal social and community activities.
- Listening and responding to the views and concerns of students, 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.
- Promoting the cultural safety, participation, and empowerment of students with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- Promoting the safety, participation, and empowerment of students with a disability
- Reporting any allegations of child abuse or other child safety concerns to the school's leadership; the Principal, Assistant Principal and Child Safety Officer.
- Do everything possible to protect student from hazards in the immediate environment.
- Understanding and complying with all reporting or disclosure obligations (including mandatory reporting) as they relate to protecting children from harm or abuse.
- If child abuse is suspected, ensuring as quickly as possible that the student(s) are safe and protected from harm. The principal or Child Safety Officer will notify the Child Protection Crisis Line 131278 if they have reasonable suspicion that a young person has been or is being abused or neglected.

## Prohibited Behaviours

- Developing a relationship with any student, or student family or carers that could be seen as favouritism or amount to 'grooming' behaviour (for example, offering gifts).
- Friending students via personal social media accounts.
- Giving out personal contact details, including personal mobile phone numbers, social media account access or home addresses.
- Communicating via personal social media accounts in order to develop a friendship.
- Meeting students after hours in a personal capacity.

- Exhibit behaviours or engage in activities with students which may be interpreted as abusive and not justified by the educational, therapeutic, or service delivery context.
- Ignore behaviours by other adults towards students when they appear to be overly familiar or inappropriate.
- Discuss content of an intimate nature or use sexual innuendo with students, except where it occurs relevantly in the context of parental guidance, delivering the education curriculum or a therapeutic setting.
- 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 pathways that are outside of official school communication channels and processes.
- Photograph or video a child in a school environment except in accordance with school policy, identification purposes, classwork-based materials or where required for duty of care purposes.
- In the school environment or at other school events where students are present staff will not consume alcohol or take illicit drugs under any circumstances.
- Leave students under 18 years unsupervised.
- Discriminate against any student on the basis of ethnic background, ability, religion, gender identity or sexual orientation.

This Code of Conduct was endorsed/approved by the [Shepparton ACE Secondary College] for review if legislative or other changes require in the interim or no later than March 2025.

Date	Version No.	Change	Author(s)
2016	1.0	Issue	Irene James
June 2019	2.0	Update for VRQA School Review	Joel Hoffman Irene James
May 2021	2.1	Update address	Irene James
March 2022	3.0	Updated	Joel Hoffman
March 2024	3.1	Review and updated for VRQA	Joel Hoffman