



# Child Safety Code of Conduct

## *Mornington Park Primary School 5040*

**POLICY DATE: January 2025**

*“Victorian government schools are child safe environments. Our schools actively promote the safety and wellbeing of all students, and all school staff are committed to protecting students from abuse or harm in the school environment in accordance with their legal obligations including the Child Safe Standards. Mornington Park Primary School’s (The school’s) Child Safety Code is available on the school’s website.”*

### **Child Safe Standards**

#### **Code of Conduct.**

Mornington Park Primary School 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, DET policy, school policies and procedures and professional standards, codes or ethics as these apply to staff and other personnel *including volunteers*.

The Principal and school leaders of Mornington Park PS will support the implementation and monitoring of the Code of Conduct, and will plan, implement and monitor arrangements to provide an inclusive, safe and orderly school and other learning environments. The Principal and school leaders will provide information and support to enable the Code of Conduct to operate effectively.

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

#### **Acceptable behaviours**

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

- Upholding Mornington Park Primary School’s statement of commitment to child safety at all times
- 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, especially 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 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 (LGBTIQ+) 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 Principal, Assistant Principal who *will pass on their concerns to DFFH as appropriate*
- Understanding and complying with all reporting or disclosure obligations (including mandatory reporting) as they relate to protecting children from harm or abuse in line with our child safety responding and reporting policy and procedures and the [PROTECT Four Critical Actions](#).
- If child abuse is suspected, ensuring as quickly as possible that the student(s) is safe and protected from harm

### **Unacceptable behaviours**

As staff, volunteers, contractors, and any other member of the school community involved in child related work **we must not:**

- Ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions or disclosures of child abuse
- Develop a relationship with any student that could be seen as favouritism or amount to 'grooming' behaviour (for example, offering gifts)
- 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 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 channels (including by social media, email, instant messaging, texting etc) except where that communication is reasonable in all the circumstances, related to school work 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
- In the school environment or at other school events where students are present, consume alcohol contrary to school policy or take illicit drugs in any circumstances
- 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 Mornington Park PS 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 Mornington Park PS Child Safety Code of Conduct must be reported to the principal, Kath Lord on 03 5975 4011.

If the breach or suspected breach relates to the principal, contact South Eastern Victoria Region on 1300 338 738 or [sevr@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:sevr@education.vic.gov.au) .

## Approval and review

<b>Created date</b>	Feb 2025
<b>Consultation</b>	Consultation with School Council 19th February 2025
<b>Endorsed by</b>	Kath Lord, Principal, Mornington Park PS
<b>Endorsed on</b>	19th Feb 2025
<b>Next review date</b>	February 2026