

## 7.3 Child Safety Code of Conduct

All staff, volunteers (including parents) and School Council members of Oakleigh Primary School and Kindergarten are required to observe child safe principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children, as noted below.

All personnel of Oakleigh Primary School and Kindergarten are responsible for supporting the safety, participation, wellbeing and empowerment of children by:

- adhering to Oakleigh Primary School and Kindergarten Child Safe Policy at all times / upholding the Oakleigh Primary School statement of commitment to child safety at all time
- taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- treating everyone 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 and/or are worried about their safety or the safety of another
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal children (for example, by never questioning an Aboriginal 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 left alone with a child
- reporting any allegations of child abuse to the Principal/ Assistant Principal and ensure any allegation is reported to the police or child protection
- registering any incident/concern about Child Safety on the Sentral wellbeing module.
- reporting any child safety concerns to the Principal/ Assistant Principal
- if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensure as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe
- encouraging children to 'have a say' and participate in all relevant organisational activities where possible, especially on issues that are important to them

### **Staff and volunteers must not:**

- 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)
- do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes
- engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children
- use inappropriate language in the presence of children
- express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of children
- discriminate against any child, including because of culture, race, ethnicity or disability
- have any online contact with a child or their family except for necessary school related matters.
- ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse

By observing these standards you acknowledge your responsibility to immediately report any breach of this code to the Principal/ Assistant Principal

All staff at OPSK who live in the Oakleigh Community or whose children attend the school must be cognizant of where their professional boundaries lie in regard to the teacher-student -parent relationships. The professional boundary is breached when a teacher misuses the power imbalance in

the teacher-student relationship such that the student's welfare is compromised. Any concerns regarding these relationships or potential compromises of the child safety standards must immediately be brought to the attention of the Principal/Assistant Principal.

**If you believe a child is at immediate risk of abuse phone 000.**

I agree to adhere to this Code of Conduct:

Name: .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....