

Policy No.	Wyndham Vale PRIMARY SCHOOL	Reviewed October2018
001	CHILD SAFETY CODE OF CONDUCT	October 2021
VRQA	Care, Safety & wellbeing of students	

1. RATIONALE

1.1. A Child Safety Code of Conduct is intended to promote child safety in the school environment. The code of conduct spells out professional boundaries and acceptable and unacceptable adult/child relationships and behaviour. It is unambiguous, widely disseminated and supported by supervision, professional development and training. This advice does not replace any legislative or regulatory obligations or other professional or occupational codes of conduct. For example, the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) *Victorian Teaching Profession Codes of Conduct & Ethics* provides clarity regarding professional behaviour expected of teachers at all times. The code specifies behaviour unacceptable for a professional relationship between a teacher and a student.

“Teachers are always in a professional relationship with the students, whether at school or not. (VIT, Code of Conduct & Ethics).

2. AIMS

- 2.1. All staff, volunteers, contractors and any other members of the school community involved in child related work including School Council Members of Wyndham Vale Primary School (WVPS) are required to observe child safe principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children, as noted below.
- 2.2. The code of conduct applies in all school situations, including school camps and in the use of digital technology and social media.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1. All staff of Wyndham Vale Primary School are responsible for supporting and promoting the safety, participation, wellbeing and empowerment of children by:
 - 3.1.1. adhering to Wyndham Vale Primary School Child Safe policy at all times whilst upholding a commitment to child safety at all time
 - 3.1.2. taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
 - 3.1.3. treating all staff students and volunteers with respect

- 3.1.4. 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
 - 3.1.5. understanding and complying with all reporting or disclosure obligations (see Mandatory Reporting Policy)
 - 3.1.6. promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students (for example, by never questioning an Aboriginal child's self-identification)
 - 3.1.7. 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)
 - 3.1.8. promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability (for example, during personal care activities)
 - 3.1.9. ensuring as far as practicable that adults are not left alone with a child
 - 3.1.10. treat a child unfavourably because of their disability, age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality or ethnicity.
 - 3.1.11. reporting any allegations of child abuse to Principal/ leadership, and to ensure any allegation is reported to the police or child protection
 - 3.1.12. reporting any child safety concerns to WVPS Principal, / leadership
- 3.2. If an allegation of child abuse is made, ensure as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe

3.3. Staff and volunteers must not:

- 3.3.1. develop any unprofessional relationships with children that could be seen as favouritism (for example, the offering of gifts or special treatment for specific children)
- 3.3.2. exhibit behaviours with children which may be construed as unnecessarily physical (for example, inappropriate sitting on laps)
- 3.3.3. put children at risk of abuse (for example, by locking doors)
- 3.3.4. do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes
- 3.3.5. engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children (for example, personal social activities)
- 3.3.6. use inappropriate language in the presence of children
- 3.3.7. express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of children
- 3.3.8. discriminate against any child, because of culture, race, ethnicity or disability
- 3.3.9. have contact with a child or their family outside of our organisation without our child safety officer's knowledge and/or consent (for example, no babysitting).
Accidental contact, such as seeing people in the street, is appropriate.

3.3.10. have any online contact with a child or their family (unless necessary, for example providing families with e-newsletters)

3.3.11. ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse.

3.4. By observing these standards, you acknowledge your responsibility to immediately report any breach of this code to WVPS, Principal, Sue Seneveratne / leadership.

3.5. I agree to adhere to this Code of Conduct:

3.6.

3.7. Name:

3.8.

3.9. Signature:

3.10.

3.11. Date:

3.12.

4. DEFINITIONS

4.1. Staff means:

in a government school, an individual working in a school environment who is:

employed under Part 2.4 of the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (ETR Act)* in the government teaching service or

employed under a contract of service by the council of the school under 2.3 of the ETR Act or a volunteer or a contracted service provider (whether or not a body corporate or any other person is an intermediary)

5. REFERENCES & APPENDICES

5.1. WVPS Child Safety Code of Conduct Staff and Volunteers Agreement to be signed

WYNDHAM VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILD SAFETY CODE OF CONDUCT

All staff of Wyndham Vale primary School are responsible for supporting the safety, participation, wellbeing and empowerment of children by:

- adhering to Wyndham Vale Primary School Child Safe policy at all times whilst upholding a commitment to child safety at all time
- taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- treating all staff students and volunteers 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 Sue Seneveratne, Principal/ leadership, and to ensure any allegation is reported to the police or child protection
- reporting any child safety concerns to WVPS Principal, Sue Seneveratne / leadership

If an allegation of child abuse is made, ensure as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe

Staff and volunteers must not:

- develop any unprofessional 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 (for example, personal social activities)
- 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, because of culture, race, ethnicity or disability
- have contact with a child or their family outside of our organisation without our child safety officer's knowledge and/or consent (for example, no babysitting). Accidental contact, such as seeing people in the street, is appropriate.
- have any online contact with a child or their family (unless necessary, for example providing families with e-newsletters)
- 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 WVPS, Principal, Sue Seneveratne / leadership.

I agree to adhere to this Code of Conduct:

Name:

Signature:

Date:

6. RATIFIED

This code was ratified by the Wyndham Vale Primary School Council on 18th October 2018