

Child Safe Standards Policy

Carrum Downs Secondary College (CDSC) is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. CDSC recognises the importance of, and a responsibility for, ensuring our organisation 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, Department policy, school policies and procedures and professional standards, codes or ethics as these apply to staff and other personnel.

CDSC will support 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. CDSC will also provide information and support to enable the Code of Conduct to operate effectively.

All staff, contractors, volunteers and any other member involved with the CDSC and engaged 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 CDSC related situations, including workshops and PD days and in the use of digital technology and social media.

Acceptable behaviours

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

- upholding a commitment to child safety at all times
- treating students and families from CDSC with respect both within the CDSC environment and outside the CDSC 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/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 Department's nominated officer in charge
- 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.

Unacceptable behaviours

As staff, volunteers, contractors, and any other member of the CDSC environment 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 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 CDSC or where there is a safety concern or other urgent matter
- photograph or video a child at CDSC except in accordance with Department policy or where required for duty of care purposes¹

Evaluation: This policy will be reviewed as part of the College's review cycle

Related policies: School Policy Advisory Guide – <http://www.education.vic.gov.au>

This Code of Conduct was prepared in December 2018 and will be reviewed in December 2020.

¹ SPAG: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/pages/photoandfilm.aspx> . The policy says the school should get consent before taking and publishing photos of a student. This applies every time a photo is taken. The same policy applies for excursions and school activities.