SAFEGUARDING STUDENTS CODE OF CONDUCT

CHILD SAFE STATEMENT

At Mornington Secondary College we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental expectation of our college. Mornington Secondary College is committed to protecting students from abuse or harm while at school and in our care. Mornington Secondary College’s Child Safety Code of Conduct is consistent with the Education Department’s recommendation.


Our commitment is drawn from our school Vision and Values

S Support students to achieve success
T Teamwork, bringing the school community together
R Respect for all
I Inspire minds
V Value every opportunity
E Endeavour to be the best you can

In order to ensure that all children are safe, the following Code of Conduct outlines acceptable and unacceptable behaviours.

SCOPE
This policy is applicable to members of the Mornington Secondary College community including:

- The College Council
- The College Leadership Team
- The College staff
- All contractors
- Volunteers

This Code of Conduct will be adopted at all College activities including overnight camps, overseas trips, travel (bus, train, plane etc), first aid, counselling, tutoring, co-curricular activities, sporting events, fund raising events and working bees.

PURPOSE
This Code of Conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding of students at Mornington Secondary College against sexual, physical, psychological and emotional abuse or neglect. It is intended to complement other professional and/or occupational codes.

All staff, volunteers, contractors and school council members at Mornington Secondary College are expected to actively contribute to a school culture that respects the dignity of its members and follows the school’s core values. They are required to observe child safe principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of students.
ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOURS
All staff, volunteers, contractors and school council members are responsible for supporting the safety of students by:

- Adhering to the school’s child safe policy and upholding the schools Statement of Commitment to child safety at all times.
- Taking all reasonable steps to protect students from abuse.
- Treating everyone in the school community with respect.
- Listening and responding to the views and concerns of students, particularly if they are telling you that they or another student has been abused or that they are worried about their safety/or the safety of another student.
- Promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and empowerment of students with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds (for example by having a zero tolerance of discrimination.)
- Promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of students with a disability (for example, during personal care activities).
- Reporting any allegations of child abuse and/or child safety concerns to the school’s leadership.
- Understanding and complying with all reporting obligations as they relate to mandatory reporting and reporting under the Crimes Act 1958 if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensuring as quickly as possible that the young person/s are safe.
- Behaving as a positive role model to students.
- Only making contact with students for professional reasons and in accordance with School policy.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOURS
All staff, volunteers, contractors and school council members must not:

- Ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse.
- Develop any ‘special’ relationships with students that could be seen as favouritism (for example, the offering of gifts or special treatment of specific children).
- Exhibit or initiate behaviours with students that may be construed as unnecessary physical contact.
- Put students at risk of abuse (for example, by locking doors).
- Engage in open discussion of a mature or adult nature in the presence of students (for example, personal, social activities).
- Engage in inappropriate conversations or use inappropriate language in the presence of students.
- Express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of students.
- Discriminate against any student, because of age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality, ethnicity or disability.
- Share any personal information with a student or give out personal contact details such as phone number, social networking sites or personal email addresses to students.
- Use any personal communication channels/devices such as a personal email account with students.
- Photograph or video a child without the consent of the parent or guardian.
- Work with children whilst under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
- Consume alcohol or drugs at school or school events in the presence of children.
- Request, or respond to, any personal information from a student, other than that which may be appropriate as part of their professional role.
- Form friendships with students via social media or any other medium without the full knowledge of parents/guardians.
FURTHER INFORMATION
Further information concerning any aspect of this Code of Conduct may be directed to the Principal and/or her delegate.

NAME: ______________________________________________________________________

I confirm that I have been provided with a copy of and agree to abide by the above Code of Conduct.

Signature: ____________________________________________________________________

Date: ________________________________________________________________________