



St. Mary's, Inglewood

Learning Today, Wisdom Tomorrow

Child Safety Code of Conduct

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Volunteers/Members of the School Community

St. Mary's School Inglewood 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.

All volunteers and any other member of the school community involved 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 school situations, including school camps and in the use of digital technology and social media.

Acceptable Behaviours:

All volunteers and any other member of the school community involved in child-related work are responsible for supporting and promoting the safety of children by:

- Providing the school with a copy of an approved WWCC, in accordance with the school's Volunteer Policy.
- Providing the school with the names of two referees, in accordance with the school's Volunteer Policy.
- Adhering to the school's Volunteer Policy and upholding the school's 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 and social community activities.
- Promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (for example, never questioning an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child's self-identification)
- Promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds (for example, by having zero tolerance of discrimination)
- Promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability (for example, during personal care activities)
- Listening and responding to the views and concerns of children, 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
- Reporting any child safety concerns and/or allegations of child abuse to the school's leadership immediately
- Understanding and complying with all reporting obligations as they relate to mandatory reporting and reporting under the Crimes Act 1958

Unacceptable behaviours

All volunteers and any other member of the school community involved in child-related work must not:

- Work with any student without a teacher being present within the immediate learning environment
- 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 student, except where it occurs relevantly in the context of parental guidance, delivering the education curriculum or a therapeutic setting.
- Treat a child unfavourable 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.
- Discuss the academic abilities of students with other community members
- Photograph or video a child in a school environment, using any personal device, except in accordance with school policy or where required for duty of care purposes.
- Work with children whilst under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- Excessive consumption of alcohol at school or at school events in the presence of children.
- Take illicit drugs under any circumstances.
- Ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions or disclosures of child abuse

We, _____, confirm we have been provided with **and read**

- a copy of the Child Safety Code of Conduct for Volunteers/ Members of the School Community
- a copy of the Volunteers Policy for St. Mary's Primary School

Signed: _____(Mother/Carer) Date: _____

Signed: _____(Father/Carer) Date: _____

(Please ensure that you have provided the school with a photocopy of your current WWC if you have one)

I, _____, have provided the school with a copy of my WWC.

Signed: _____ Date: _____