

Child Safe Code of Conduct

This Child Safe Code of Conduct outlines appropriate standards of behaviour for all adults towards children and young people at Firbank Grammar School. The Code serves to protect students, reduce any opportunities for abuse or harm to occur, and promote child safety in the School environment.

All adults interacting with students within our School community must comply with this code. This includes all teaching staff, non-teaching staff, the School Board, Volunteers, Third Party Contractors, External Education Providers and parents/carers.

The Child Safe CoC applies in all school and Boarding House environments, to all students. These environments include:

- Physical environments both on and off campus for the delivery of normal classroom activities, for any and all extracurricular activities, incursions, excursions, camps, tours, etc.
- virtual and online places used by a student or Boarding student at any time.
- Both inside and outside usual school hours, including weekends.

The Child Safe Code of Conduct is made available via our public website. The School revises the Code annually. The School's School Board has endorsed this Child Safe Code of Conduct.

Acceptable Behaviours:

As adults involved in maintaining a child safe environment and embedding an organisational culture of child safety, we will:

- Uphold and act in accordance with Firbank's Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy, and all related guidelines and requirements at all times.
- Be vigilant and proactive in promoting the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and child protection issues, including but not limited to providing appropriate training of all students, staff, volunteers and contractors on child safety and wellbeing.
- Provide age appropriate supervision for students.
- Treat all students with respect, listening and responding to the views and concerns of students, particularly if they disclose that they or another child or student has been abused or are worried about their safety or the safety of another child or student.
- Promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal students, students with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, students with a disability, international students, students who are unable to live at home and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTIQ+) students
- Use positive and affirming language towards students. Behave as a positive role model to students.
- Help provide an open, safe and supportive environment for all students to interact, and socialise.
- Intervene when students are engaging in inappropriate bullying behaviour towards others or acting in a humiliating or vilifying way.
- Maintain appropriate procedures to ensure all staff, paid or unpaid, are fit and proper persons to work with children, in and outside of school hours, in both physical and virtual environments.
- Report any breaches or concerns about child safety to one of the School's Child Safety Officers as soon as reasonably possible.

- Where an allegation of child abuse or other harm is made, ensure as quickly as possible that the student involved is safe and protected from further harm.
- Understand and comply with all reporting and disclosure obligations (including mandatory reporting) in line with our child safety and wellbeing policy and procedures and the [PROTECT Four Critical Actions](#).
- Call the Police on 000 if you have immediate concerns for a student's safety.
- Respect the privacy of students and their families and only disclose information to people who have a need to know.

Unacceptable behaviours:

As adults involved in maintaining a child safe environment and embedding an organisational culture of child safety, we will not:

- Engage in any form of inappropriate behaviour towards students or expose students to such behaviour, including but not limited to the use of prejudice, oppressive behaviour or inappropriate language with students.
- Express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of students.
- Treat unfavourably any student based on age, gender, sexuality, vulnerability, culture, race, ethnicity, religion, appearance, or disability.
- Engage in open discussions of an adult nature in the presence of students where the context could reasonably be construed as inappropriate.
- Engage in any form of sexual conduct with a student including making sexually suggestive comments and sharing sexually suggestive material.
- Engage in inappropriate or unnecessary physical conduct or behaviours including doing things of a personal nature that a student can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes.
- Engage in any form of physical violence towards a student including inappropriately rough physical play.
- Use physical means or corporal punishment to discipline or control a student.
- Engage in any form of behaviour that has the potential to cause a student serious emotional or psychological harm.
- Develop 'special' relationships with students that could be seen as favouritism (for example, the offering of gifts or special treatment for specific students).
- Engage in undisclosed private meetings with a student that is not your own child.
- Engage in meetings with a child that is not your own, outside of school hours and without permission from the School and the child's parent.
- Engage in inappropriate personal communications with a student through any medium, including any online contact or interactions with a student.
- Take or publish (including online) photos, movies or recordings of a student without parental/carer consent.
- Post online any information about a student that may identify them such as their: full name; age; e-mail address; telephone number; residence; school; or details of a club or group they may attend.
- Ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions or disclosures of child abuse or harm.

Our Child Protection Program includes a [Staff and Student Professional Boundaries](#) policy that provides detailed guidance for all adults at the School on how to maintain professional boundaries between students and adults at Firbank Grammar.

Agreement to Child Safe Code of Conduct

A copy of the Child Safe Code of Conduct is provided to all Staff, relevant Volunteers and relevant Contractors at induction, or otherwise prior to them commencing work at the School. It is also communicated via refresher training at regular intervals for all Staff, as well as Direct Contact Volunteers and Direct Contact Contractors. All Staff, as well as Direct Contact Volunteers, must agree to adhere to the Child Safe Code of Conduct prior to commencing work at School. All adults are deemed to have agreed to adhere to the Child Safe Code of Conduct upon signing an employment or engagement contract or upon commencing work at the School.

A copy of the Child Safe Code of Conduct is provided to parents/carers, who must sign an agreement to abide by the Child Safe Code of Conduct on enrolment.

Consequences for Breaching the Child Safe Code of Conduct

Staff, including the School Leadership Team and Principal, Volunteers and Contractors who breach the Child Safe Code of Conduct may be subject to disciplinary actions that may result in a range of measures including (depending on the severity of the breach):

- remedial education
- counselling
- increased supervision
- the restriction of duties
- appointment to an alternate role
- suspension or
- in the case of serious breaches, termination of employment, contract or engagement.

Where any other member of the School community breaches any obligation, duty or responsibility within the Child Safe Code of Conduct, Firbank Grammar will take appropriate action.

Firbank will comply with reporting requirements to any external authority for any breach which meets the threshold for external reporting, as outlined in our Child Safety and wellbeing policy.

Report any concerns

Any adult who witnesses, or suspects any breach of this code, or who has concerns that a child or young person associated with the School may be at risk of abuse or harm must report it to the schools nominated Child Safety Officers as soon as reasonably possible. Staff making any such reports in good faith will be protected from victimisation or other adverse consequences. Reports can be made:

- the School's Senior Child Safety Officer, Jenny Williams, by phoning 95915188 or emailing jwilliams@firbank.vic.edu.au or
- if the concern relates to the Principal, the Deputy Principal, Leandra Turner by phoning 95915188.

Whenever there are concerns that a child is in immediate danger, the Police should be contacted on 000.