



St. Mary's Rutherglen Child Safety Code of Conduct

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Central to the mission of St. Mary's School Rutherglen, is an unequivocal commitment to fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children and young people and providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching environment to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

All staff, School Board members, volunteers, contractors and clergy of St. Mary's School are required to observe child safe principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children, as noted below.

Acceptable behaviours including but not limited to:

All staff, volunteers, contractors, clergy and School Board members are responsible for supporting the safety of children by:

- Adhering to the St. Mary's Child Safe Policy and upholding the school's statement of commitment to child safety at all times
- Taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- Treating everyone in the school community 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 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 children
- Promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability
- Ensuring as far as practicable that adults are not alone with a child
- Reporting any allegations of child abuse 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
- Reporting any child safety concerns to the school's leadership
- If an allegation of child abuse is made, ensuring as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe.

Unacceptable behaviours including but not limited to:

Staff and volunteers must not:

- Ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse
- Develop any 'special' relationships with children that could be seen as favouritism
- Exhibit behaviours with children which may be construed as unnecessarily physical
- Put children at risk of abuse
- Initiate unnecessary physical contact which children or do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves
- Engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children
- 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 age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality, ethnicity or disability
- Have any inappropriate or unnecessary communication with a child

- Use any personal communication channels/device such as a personal email account inappropriately.
- Exchange personal contact details such as phone number, social networking sites or personal email addresses with children.
- Photograph or video a child without the consent of the parent or guardians
- Work with children whilst under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs

I, _____, confirm I have been provided with a copy of the above Code of Conduct.

Signed: _____ Date: _____