



# STAWELL SECONDARY COLLEGE

## **Child Safety Code of Conduct**

### **Rationale:**

- This policy reflects the commitment to child safety at Stawell Secondary College. This is outlined in the Child Safety Statement:

### **Child Safety Statement**

At ***Stawell Secondary College*** we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our school. This commitment is based on our three core values:

Respect  
Excellence  
Community

It is self-evident truth that a respectful, excellence aspirational community has, at its core, the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people. Stawell Secondary College is committed to strict adherence to the standards of Child Safety. Stawell Secondary College has zero tolerance of child abuse in any form.

Stawell Secondary College adopted a Child Safety Statement that articulates our strict adherence to the Child Safe Standards.

Stawell Secondary College will appoint a Child Safety Officer to ensure that every individual and every policy and every practice demonstrates strict adherence to the Child Safe Standards.

### **Aims:**

- To protect children.
- To reduce any opportunities for child abuse or harm to occur.
- To assist 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 standard, codes or ethics as these apply to staff and other personnel.



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## **Definitions:**

Word	Definition
Child abuse	Child abuse can have a significant effect on a child's physical or emotional health, development and wellbeing. Types of child abuse include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- physical abuse</li><li>- sexual abuse</li><li>- emotional abuse</li><li>- neglect</li><li>- medical neglect</li><li>- family violence</li><li>- human trafficking (including forced marriage)</li><li>- sexual exploitation (including pornography and prostitution).</li></ul>
Young people	16 years or under

## **Responsibilities:**

- The Principal and school leaders of Stawell Secondary College 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.
- The Principal and school leaders of Stawell Secondary College will also provide information and support to enable the Code of Conduct to operate effectively.
- All staff, contractors, 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.
- The code of conduct will be made available to staff, contractor, volunteers and any other member of the school community involved in child-related work by the Principal when they sign in via the kiosk.

## **Implementation:**

### **Acceptable Behaviours**

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

- Upholding Stawell Secondary College's statement of commitment to child safety at all times and adhering to the school's Child Safe Policy.
- Treating students and families in the school community with respect both within the school environment and outside the school environment as part of normal social and community activities.



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- 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 or the safety of another child.
- Reporting any allegations of child abuse or other child safety concerns to the school's leadership or child safety officer.
- Understanding and complying with all reporting or disclosure of 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 school community 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 unfavourable because of their disability, age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality or ethnicity.
- Communicate directly with a student through personal or private contact channel (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.
- Photograph or video a child in a school environment except in accordance with school policy or where required for duty of care purposes.
- In the school environment or at other school events where students are present, consume alcohol contrary to school policy or take illicit drugs under any circumstances.

## **Stawell Secondary College policy addendum:**

### **Photography or video of a child in a school environment:**

The intent of this policy addendum is to ensure compliance with Child Safe standard.

- The Stawell Secondary College enrolment form which is completed on every enrolment will contain a page 'Parent/Guardian recording authorisation form' which is a general authorisation, being agreement and permission for the photographic, video, audio or any other form of



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electronic recording of the student for reasonable purposes, including but not limited to: images in Connections, images in the school magazine, images displayed at the College, images in media new publicity and paid advertising and for use on the College website or Facebook page.

- An updated record of students whose parent/guardian has not provided this authority will be maintained by the attendance officer and provided to house leaders, assistant house leaders, the magazine editor, the editor of Connections, the College Registrar and the principal class officers.
- These staff will ensure that the images of students listed will not be recorded or published by the College.
- Any photographic or video recording of a student will be reasonable in the circumstances and have an identifiable purpose as in providing a public record of an event, an educational purpose or a purpose related to the promotion of the College.
- When their own child is present at an event, a parent, or other person exempt from a Working with Children (WWC) check such as a grandparent, sibling or peer may photograph or record a student. This acknowledges that, from time to time, the images of other children will necessarily be included.
- Under no circumstances is a camera or other recording device to be used in a classroom by a person other than a teacher without the teacher's permission.
- Under no circumstance is a camera or other recording device to be used in the school precinct or at a school event covertly or secretly or without the knowledge and agreement of those being photographed or recorded.
- Upon request any image recorded in the school precinct must be deleted.

## **Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle in September, every year. The review will be led by the Principal and referred to the Policy Sub-Committee and School Council for ratification.

Reviewed last: October 2019

Date of next review: September 2020

## **Update history:**

First issued	
Date of update	Summary of change(s)
October 2019	No changes