Child Safety behaviours descriptors

All staff, volunteers and school council members of Stawell Secondary College are required to observe child safe principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children, as noted below.

All personnel of Stawell Secondary College are responsible for supporting the safety, participation, wellbeing and empowerment of children by:

- Adhering to Stawell Secondary College child safe policy at all times / upholding Stawell Secondary College statement of commitment to child safety at all time
- Taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- Treating everyone 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 and/or are worried about their safety or the safety of another
- Promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal children (for example, by never questioning an Aboriginal child's self-identification)
- Promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds (for example, by having a zero tolerance of discrimination)
- Promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability (for example, during personal care activities)
- Ensuring as far as practicable that adults are not left alone with a child in unsupervised situations
- Reporting any allegations of child abuse to Stawell Secondary College Principal or Assistant Principals as the College's Child Safety Officer to ensure any allegation to is appropriately reported
- Reporting any child safety concerns Stawell Secondary College Principal, Assistant Principal Leadership Team member or, where relevant, Child Safety Officer.
- If an allegation of child abuse is made, ensure as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe.
- Encouraging children to 'have a say' and participate in all relevant organisational activities where possible, especially on issues that are important to them.

Staff and volunteers must not:

- Develop any 'special' relationships with children outside of our duty of care as staff members and our wider community responsibilities that could be seen as favouritism.
- Exhibit behaviours with children which may be construed as unnecessarily physical (for example inappropriate sitting on laps. Sitting on laps could be appropriate sometime, for example while reading a storybook to a small child in an open plan area).

- Put children at risk of abuse (for example, by locking doors).
- Do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes.
- Engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children (for example, personal social activities).
- Use inappropriate language in the presence of children.
- Express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of children which contravene the spirit of the Child Safe Standards.
- Discriminate against any child, including because of culture, race, ethnicity or disability.
- Must not contravene the Child Safe Standards when they are living in, working or supporting the broader community outside of school hours.
- Must not have any online contact with a child or other family members which contravene the spirit of the Child Safe Standards.
- Ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse.

It is strongly recommended that if a staff member is in doubt as to any interpretation of the Child Safe Standards then they check with the school's Child Safety Officer, Assistant principal or Principal.

By observing these standards you acknowledge your responsibility to immediately report any breach of this code to Stawell Secondary College Principal, Assistant Principal Leadership Team member or, where relevant, Child Safety Officer.

If you believe a child is at immediate risk of abuse phone 000.
I agree to adhere to this Code of Conduct:

Name: ……………………………..................

Signature: ………………………………………

Date: ………………………………….............