



# St. Mary's Primary School

4-12 Duke Street, Maffra. 3860

PO Box 69, Maffra. 3860

Phone: (03) 5147 1334

Fax: (03) 5147 2642

Email: [principal@stmmaffra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@stmmaffra.catholic.edu.au)

## Our Mission:

At St. Mary's School Maffra, we are a Catholic School that strives to be authentic to the teachings of Jesus and the teachings of the Church. We aim to be an inclusive and nurturing community that respects, values and empowers each person to fulfil their dreams and potential. We envisage a School that provides challenging, relevant and child-centred learning experiences. We believe that the social, emotional, moral, spiritual and physical wellbeing of our students is pivotal to student health, safety, learning and success.

## Safeguarding Children and Young People

### Code of Conduct

### St Mary's Primary School Maffra

08<sup>th</sup> August 2016

### Purpose

This Code of Conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at St Mary's Catholic Primary School Maffra against sexual, physical, psychological and emotional abuse or neglect. It is intended to complement other professional and/or occupational codes.

All staff, volunteers, contractors, clergy, consultants, Advisory Board, Parents and Friends members at St Mary's Catholic Primary School Maffra are expected to actively contribute to a school culture that respects the dignity of its members and affirms the Gospel values of love, care for others, compassion and justice. They are required to observe child safe principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children, as noted below.

### Acceptable behaviours

All staff, volunteers, contractors, clergy and board/school council members are responsible for supporting the safety of children by:

- Following the school's child-safe policy and upholding the school's commitment to child safety at all times
- Taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- Treating everyone in the school community with respect and fairness
- Listening and responding to the views and concerns of children
- Promoting safety, participation and empowerment of all children
- Ensure as far as is practicable that adults are not alone with a child unless in a scheduled task approved by Principal
- Reporting any allegations or disclosures of child abuse to the school's leadership immediately
- Understand and comply with mandatory reporting obligations
- If an allegation of child abuse is made ensure that the child(ren) are safe

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- Maintain confidentiality
- Disclose any external employment or volunteer work which entails working with children (tutoring, private lessons or coaching) to the Principal

**Unacceptable behaviours**

All staff, volunteers, contractors, clergy and board/school council members must not:

- Ignore any suspected or disclosed child abuse
- Develop any 'special' relationships with children such as gift giving or special treatment
- Exhibit behaviours with children which may be seen as unnecessary (such as sitting on laps)
- Put children at risk of abuse
- Initiate any unnecessary physical contact with children or doing things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves
- Engage in 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
- Have any online contact with a child – with the exception of a classroom teacher in order to support their learning
- Photograph or video a child without the consent of the parent or guardians
- Share photographs or videos of children or name children in any form of social media
- Work with children under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- Use illegal drugs on school grounds or at any school event
- Consume alcohol at school; or at school events in the presence of children