

Chalcot Lodge Primary School

Child Safety Code of Conduct Agreement

INITIAL COPY

16/04/16

RATIFIED

2022

Chalcot Lodge Primary School is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people and has zero tolerance for child abuse. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making. Chalcot Lodge Primary School is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability. Every person involved in Chalcot Lodge PS has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

The following principles will guide all adult's behaviour when undertaking child-connected work at Chalcot Lodge PS. These include:

- the adult/child relationship should be professional at all times;
- an adult's response to a child's behaviour or circumstance should be commensurate with the child's age and vulnerability and the adult's responsibility for the care, safety and welfare of the child;
- ensuring as far as practicable that adults are not alone with a child; and
- an adult should not initiate or seek physical contact or contact with children outside school.

Acceptable Behaviour

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

- upholding the school'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;
- 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/the safety of another child;
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students;
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of students with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds;
- promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of students with a disability;
- reporting any allegations of child abuse or other child safety concerns to the school's leadership;

- understanding and complying with all reporting or disclosure obligations (including mandatory reporting) as they relate to protecting children from harm or abuse; and
- 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 members of the school and broader 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 unfavourably because of their disability, age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality or ethnicity;
- communicate directly with a student through personal or private contact channels (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 when given permission by the school leadership in relation to school activities or where required for duty of care purposes; and
- in the school environment or at other school events where students are present, consume alcohol or take illicit drugs under any circumstances.

Organisation:

Date:

Name:

Signature: