

Newington Primary School

CHILD SAFETY CODE of CONDUCT

Newington Primary School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. Our school community recognises the importance of, and a responsibility for, ensuring our school is a safe, supportive and enriching environment which respects and fosters the dignity and self-esteem of children and young people, and enables them to thrive in their learning and development.

This Code of Conduct aims to protect children and reduce any opportunities for child abuse or harm to occur. It also assists 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 standards, codes or ethics as these apply to staff and other personnel.

The Principal and school leaders of Newington PS 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 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.

Acceptable behaviours

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

- adhering to Newington Primary School Child Safety Policy at all times
- 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 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
- reporting any allegations of child abuse to the Assistant Principal and/or Principal
- understanding and complying with all reporting or disclosure 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 suspected or disclosed child abuse
- develop any relationships with children that could be seen as favouritism or amount to 'grooming' (for example, the offering of gifts or special treatment for specific children)
- initiate unnecessary physical contact with children or do things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes
- exhibit behaviours with children which may be construed as unnecessarily physical

- put children at risk of abuse (for example, by locking doors)
- engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children (for example, personal social activities)
- photograph or video a child in a school environment except in accordance with school policy or where required for duty of care purposes.
- 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, including because of culture, race, ethnicity or disability
- exchange personal contact details such as phone number, social networking site or email addresses with children
- have unauthorised contact with children and young people online or by phone

By observing these standards you acknowledge your responsibility to immediately report any breach of this code to Newington Primary School's Child Safety Officer (Assistant Principal).

If you believe a child is at immediate risk of abuse phone 000.

This Code of Conduct was reviewed and endorsed by School Council in September 2020.