

Rangeview Primary School

Child Safety Code of Conduct



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact:

rangeview.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Purpose

Our Child Safety Code of Conduct sets out the expected behaviour of adults with children and young people in our school.

Rangeview 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 Rangeview Primary School 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 Rangeview Primary School 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

As Rangeview Primary School staff, volunteers, contractors, and any other member of the school 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 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 disclose that they or another child or student has been abused or that they are worried about their safety or the safety of another child or student.
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of all Aboriginal 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.
- promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of international students.
- promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of students who are unable to live at home.
- promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTIQ+) students.
- ensuring, as far as practicable, that adults are not alone with a student – one-to-one interactions between an adult and a student are to be in an open space or in line of sight of another adult.
- reporting any allegations of child abuse or other child safety concerns to a member and/or members of the school leadership team.
- understanding and complying with all reporting and disclosure obligations (including mandatory reporting) in line with our child safety responding and reporting policy and procedures and the [PROTECT Four Critical Actions](#).
- if child abuse is suspected, ensuring as quickly as possible that the student(s) are safe and protected from harm.

Unacceptable behaviours

As Rangeview Primary School staff, volunteers, contractors and member of our school community involved in child-connected work we must not:

- ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions or disclosures of child abuse or harm
- develop a relationship with any student that could be seen as favouritism or amount to ‘grooming’ behaviour (for example, by 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 intimate topics or use sexualised language or innuendo, except when it occurs relevantly in the context of parental guidance, to deliver the educational curriculum or in a therapeutic setting.
- treat a child or student 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 circumstances, related to schoolwork or extra-curricular activities or where there is a safety concern or other urgent matter
- photograph or video a child or student in a school environment except in accordance with the [Photographing, Filming and Recording Students policy](#) or where required for duty of care purposes
- consume alcohol against school policy or take illicit drugs in the school environment or at school events where students are present
- have contact with any student outside of school hours except when needed to deliver the school curriculum or professional guidance and parental permission has been sought.

Breaches to the Child Safety Code of Conduct

All Rangeview Primary School staff, volunteers, contractors and any other member of the school community involved in child-connected work who breach this Child Safety Code of Conduct may be subject to disciplinary procedures in accordance with their employment agreement or relevant industrial instrument, professional code or terms of engagement.

In instances where a reportable allegation has been made, the matter will be managed in accordance with the Department of Education and Training Reportable Conduct Scheme Policy and may be subject to referral to Victoria Police.

All breaches and suspected breaches of the Rangeview Primary School Child Safety Code of Conduct must be reported to the school leadership team.

If the breach or suspected breach relates to the principal, contact the North Eastern Victoria Regional Offices: nevr@education.vic.gov.au; ph: 1300 333 231.

Approval and review

Created date	13/6/2022
Consultation	School Leadership Team School Council
Endorsed by	Marika Ferguson – Principal School Council
Endorsed on	15/6/2022
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