



**SUZANNE CORY**  
High School

## Child Safety Code of Conduct

**All staff, volunteers and board members of Suzanne Cory High School 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 Suzanne Cory High School are responsible for supporting the safety, participation, wellbeing and empowerment of children by:**

- adhering to Suzanne Cory High School child safe policy at all times / upholding Suzanne Cory High School's 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 an enclosed area (note that in special circumstances such as counselling this is appropriate and should be recorded)
- reporting any allegations of child abuse to Suzanne Cory High School leadership, and ensure any allegation to reported to the police or child protection
- reporting any child safety concerns to Suzanne Cory High School leadership
- 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 that could be seen as favouritism (for example, the offering of gifts or special treatment for specific children)
- exhibit behaviours with children which may be construed as unnecessarily physical (physical contact for first aid purposes by trained first aid staff is appropriate and should be recorded)
- put children at risk of abuse (for example, by locking doors)
- share a room with a child on any overnight camp.
- do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves, such as changing clothes or very minor first aid.
- 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
- discriminate against any child, including because of culture, race, ethnicity or disability

- have contact with a child or their family outside of our organisation without our child safety officer's knowledge and/or consent (for example, no babysitting). Accidental contact, such as seeing people in the street, is appropriate)
- have any personal online contact with a child or their family (professional contact such as Compass posts or use of Google classrooms associated with an SCHS email account is appropriate)
- ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse.

By observing these standards you acknowledge your responsibility to immediately report any breach of this code to Suzanne Cory High School leadership. Any charges, committals for trial or convictions in relation to a sexual offense will be reported to the Victorian Institute of Teaching.

**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: .....