



Portland Secondary College Child Safety Code of Conduct



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Portland Secondary College on 03 5523 1344 or portland.sc@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.

All Portland Secondary College staff, volunteers, contractors, service providers, school council members and any other adult involved in child-connected work must follow the Child Safety Code of Conduct.

The Child Safety Code of Conduct applies to all physical and online environments used by students. It also applies during or outside of school hours and in other locations provided by the school for student use (for example, a school camp).

ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOURS

As Portland Secondary College staff, volunteers, contractors, and any other member of our school community involved in child-connected 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 as outlined in the Child Safety and Wellbeing 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 students, students with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, students with a disability, international students, students who are unable to live at home and lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, intersex and queer (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 the school's Principal or Child Safety Officer Tania Beard.
- understanding and complying with all reporting or 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 Portland Secondary College staff, volunteers, contractors, and any other member of the school community involved in child-connected work we must not:

We strive to create an environment where high expectations, a wealth of opportunities, and dedicated professional growth enable students to embody our core values.



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- 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, offering gifts)
- display behaviours or engage with students in ways that are not justified by the educational or professional context
- ignore an adult's overly familiar or inappropriate behaviour towards a student
- discuss intimate topics or use sexualised language, except when needed to deliver the school curriculum or professional guidance
- 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 the 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 Portland Secondary College 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's Reportable Conduct Scheme Policy and may be subject to referral to Victoria Police.

All breaches and suspected breaches of the Portland Secondary College Child Safety Code of Conduct must be reported to the principal and the Child Safety Officer, Tannia Beard on 55231344.

If the breach or suspected breach relates to the principal, contact the department by phone on 1800 338 663, via the Enquiries form, or by email at enquiries@education.vic.gov.au.

COMMUNICATION

This Child Safety Code of Conduct will be presented to all Staff and College School Council members on a yearly basis for signing, communicated in depth to new staff through Staff Induction and shared with the School Community via the College newsletter and on the College website.



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APPROVAL AND REVIEW

Policy last reviewed	March 2026
Consultation	Consultation on this policy is mandatory. Consulted with School Council in Feb 2026 and SVAC in March 2026
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	Before Feb 2028

I have read the Code of Conduct and agree to be bound to all terms outlined above:

Name: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____