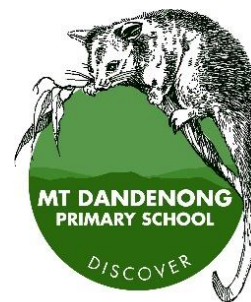


# CHILD SAFE CODE OF CONDUCT

Ratified by School Council: July 2016  
Review: July 2019



**All staff, volunteers and board members of Mount Dandenong Primary 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 Mount Dandenong Primary School are responsible for supporting the safety, participation, wellbeing and empowerment of children by:**

- adhering to **Mount Dandenong Primary School** child safe policy at all times / upholding **Mount Dandenong Primary School** statement of commitment to child safety at all time
- taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- treating everyone with respect
- 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)
- to encourage all children to 'have a say' and participate in all relevant organisational activities where possible, especially on issues that are important to them.
- ensuring as far as practicable that adults are not left alone with a child
- 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
- reporting any child safety concerns to Mount Dandenong Primary School Child Safety Officer Anni Smart, Principal or leadership
- reporting any allegations or reasonable beliefs\* of child abuse to Mount Dandenong Primary School Child Safety Officer Anni Smart, Principal or leadership, and ensure any allegations are reported to the police and/or child protection as soon as practicable
- if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensure as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe

**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 (for example inappropriate sitting on laps. Sitting on laps could be appropriate sometimes, for example while reading a storybook to a small child in an open plan area)
- put children at risk of abuse (for example, by locking doors)
- do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes
- 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 any online contact with a child (unless necessary for educational purposes, for example providing families with e-newsletters or providing homework tasks through systems such as Edmodo)
- 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 Mount Dandenong Primary School Child Safety Officer Anni Smart, Principal or leadership,

**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: .....

\*See Resource: Protect: Identifying and Responding to All Forms of Abuse in Victorian Schools, DET 2016, page 25