
THE PATCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Child Safety Code of Conduct

All staff, volunteers and board members of The Patch 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 The Patch Primary School are responsible for supporting the safety, participation, wellbeing and empowerment of children by: adhering to The Patch Primary School Child Safe policy at all times / upholding The Patch Primary School statement of commitment to child safety at all times. They commit to:

- 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 safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal children (for example, by never questioning an Aboriginal child's self-identification)
- promoting the 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)
- as far as practicable ensuring that adults are not left alone with a child
- reporting any allegations of child abuse to The Patch Primary School Child Safety Officer – which is the Principal or Assistant Principal – and ensure any allegation is reported to the police or child protection
- reporting any child safety concerns to The Patch Primary School Child Safety Officer – which is the Principal or Assistant Principal
- if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensure as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe, follow reporting procedures and seek assistance from The Patch Primary School Safety Officer which is the Principal or Assistant Principal
- 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 (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 thereby creating a culture of secrecy)
- 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, discussing personal social activities)
- use inappropriate language in the presence of children
- express negative personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of children

- discriminate against any child, including on the grounds of culture, race, ethnicity or disability
- have contact with a child or their family outside of The Patch Primary School 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. It is acknowledged that The Patch Primary School operates in a tightly-knit local community, and that some teachers and volunteers are also parents at the school, or may belong to groups outside the school where they see children and families from the school. Socialising with their fellow school parent peers, and their children in these situations is acceptable, provided that the Child Safety Code of Conduct is respected. Teachers and volunteers in this situation should be supported by the Child Safety Officer as required.
- have any online contact with a child or their family (unless necessary, for example providing families with e-newsletters). As above, it is noted that teachers or volunteers at the school may also be parents at the school, who may belong to groups outside the school, or who wish to socialise with fellow school parent peers and their families. This is acceptable, provided that the Child Safety Code of Conduct is respected, and that teachers and volunteers in this situation are supported by the Child Safety Officer as required.
- 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 The Patch Primary School’s Child Safety Officer – The Principal or Assistant Principal;

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: