



# Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School

Elmore

## Child Safety Code of Conduct Safeguarding Children and Young People

### Volunteers/Members of the School Community

July 2016

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart 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.

All 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:**

All volunteers and any other member of the school community involved in child-related work are responsible for supporting and promoting the safety of children by:

- Adhering to the school's child safe policy and upholding the school's statement of commitment to child safety at all times
- Taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- Treating students and families in the school community with respect both within the school environment and outside the school environment as part of normal and social community activities.
- Listening and responding to the views and concerns of children, 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



# Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School

## Elmore

### Child Safety Code of Conduct Safeguarding Children and Young People

- Promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (for example, never questioning an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child's self-identification)
- Promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds (for example, by having zero tolerance of discrimination)
- Promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability (for example, during personal care activities)
- Reporting any allegations of child abuse to the school's leadership (or child safety officer if the school has appointed someone to this role)
- Understanding and complying with all reporting obligations as they relate to mandatory reporting and reporting under the Crimes Act 1958
- Reporting any child safety concerns to the school's leadership (or child safety officer: Liz Trewick)
- If an allegation of child abuse is made, ensuring as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe and protected from harm.

#### **Unacceptable behaviours**

All volunteers and any other member of the school community involved in child-related work must not:

- Ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions or disclosures of child abuse
- Develop a relationship with any student that could be seen as favouritism or amount to 'grooming' behaviour (for example, 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.



# Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School

Elmore

## Child Safety Code of Conduct Safeguarding Children and Young People

- Discuss content of an intimate nature or use sexual innuendo with student, except where it occurs relevantly in the context of parental guidance, delivering the education curriculum or a therapeutic setting.
- Treat a child unfavourable 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 school work or extra-curricular activities or where there is a safety concern or other urgent matter.
- Photograph or video a child in a school environment except in accordance with school policy or where required for duty of care purposes.
- Work with children whilst under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- Excessive consumption of alcohol at school or at school events in the presence of children.
- Take illicit drugs under any circumstances.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, confirm I have read and agree to abide by the Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct can be found on the OLSH School website:

[www.olshelmore.catholic.edu.au](http://www.olshelmore.catholic.edu.au)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_