

CHILD SAFETY CODE OF CONDUCT

Lowanna College: School Number 01-8821

Rationale:

Lowanna College 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.

Aims:

- To protect children and reduce any opportunities for child abuse or harm to occur.
- To assist in developing a culture of understanding how to avoid or better manage risky behaviours and situations.
- To complement child protection legislation, Department of Education and Training (DET) policy, school policies and procedures and professional standards, codes or ethics as these apply to staff and other personnel.

Implementation:

1. The Principal and school leaders of Lowanna College will support the implementation and monitoring of this Code of Conduct, and will plan, implement and monitor arrangements to provide an inclusive, safe and orderly learning environment. The Principal and school leaders of Lowanna College will also provide information and support to enable this Code of Conduct to operate effectively.
2. All staff, contractors, volunteers and any other member of the school community involved in child-related work are required to comply with this Code of Conduct by observing the expectations for appropriate behaviour listed below. This Code of Conduct applies in all school situations, including school camps and in the use of digital technology and social media.
3. Appropriate behaviours:
 - a. As staff, volunteers, contractors, and any other member of the school community involved in child-related work individually, we are all responsible for supporting and promoting the safety of children by:
 - i. upholding the school's statement of commitment to child safety at all times and adhering to the school's 'Child Safe Policy'.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. 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 concerned about their own safety or the safety of another child.
 - iv. promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and all students with culturally or linguistically diverse backgrounds.
 - v. promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of students with a disability.
 - vi. reporting any allegations of child abuse or other child safety concerns to members of the Principal team, and/or designated Child Safety Officer(s).
 - vii. understanding and complying with all reporting or disclosure obligations (including mandatory reporting) as they relate to protecting children from harm or abuse.
 - viii. ensuring as quickly as possible that the student(s) are safe and protected from harm if child abuse

is suspected.

4. Unacceptable behaviours

- a. As staff, volunteers, contractors, and any other member of the school community involved in child-related work we must not:
 - i. ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions or disclosures of child abuse.
 - ii. develop a relationship with any student that could be seen as favouritism or amount to 'grooming' behaviour.
 - iii. 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.
 - iv. ignore behaviours by other adults towards students when they appear to be overly familiar or inappropriate.
 - v. discuss content of an intimate nature or use sexual innuendo with students, except where it occurs relevantly in the context of parental guidance, delivering the education curriculum or a therapeutic setting.
 - vi. treat a child unfavourably because of their disability, age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality or ethnicity.
 - vii. 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.
 - viii. photograph or video a child in a school environment except in accordance with school policy or where required for duty of care purposes
 - ix. consume alcohol in the school environment or at other school events where students are present that is contrary to school policy, or take illicit drugs under any circumstances.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the College's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by College Council on 21 November 2016.