

CODE OF CONDUCT

All staff, volunteers and board members of Melton Specialist 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 Melton Specialist School are responsible for supporting the safety, participation, wellbeing and empowerment of children by:

- adhering to Melton Specialist School child safe policy at all times / upholding Melton Specialist School statement of commitment to child safety at all time;
- 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 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);
- reporting any allegations of child abuse to Melton Specialist School Wellbeing Leader, or a member of the leadership team, and ensure any allegation is reported to the police or child protection;
- reporting any child safety concerns to Melton Specialist School Wellbeing Leader or another member of the leadership team;
- if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensure as quickly as possible that the child (ren) are safe, then follow appropriate safety protocols (e.g. Mandatory reporting flowchart);
- 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 that are not part of the school reward system);
- do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes (refer to students' personal goals);
- 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;
- 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 a member of the Melton Specialist School Leadership Team.

If you believe a child is at immediate risk of abuse phone 000.

Certification

This policy was endorsed by school council at the meeting held on 23rd August 2016

Principal

Evan Savage
EVAN SAVAGE

School Council President

Eleanora Gillard
Eleanora Gillard 23/8/16

