

# GUIDELINES

## SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### Statement for Parents and Carers



At Scotch College we consider the health, safety and wellbeing of all children and young people to be our highest priority. The School's commitment to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is clearly manifest in our Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and Child Safety Code of Conduct.

The Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy underpins a set of policies and procedures in relation to the protection of children and young people which guide:

- the screening and recruitment of our personnel
- the behaviour of our personnel towards children and young people
- the induction and training of our personnel about safeguarding children and young people
- our open and effective communication with children and young people and their parents
- our responses to the abuse and neglect of children if it occurs and
- our maintenance of a safeguarding culture in the organisation.

Our teaching staff are required to:

- have current registration with the Victorian Institute of Teaching which includes a national criminal history check
- Complete the Safeguarding Children online Course administered by the Australian Childhood Foundation.
- behave professionally and with care towards children and young people including not acting outside the boundaries of their duties or using their position with the organisation to solicit work with or initiate contact with children and young people who are clients/members of our organisation.
- understand the important responsibility they have to protect children and young people from all forms of abuse, bullying and exploitation either by our personnel or that occurs outside the scope of our operations and services; and
- create and maintain a child safe culture.

Our non-teaching staff and volunteers are required to:

- Complete the Safeguarding Children online Course administered by the Australian Childhood Foundation.
- maintain a current Working With Children check

All Scotch College personnel and volunteers are required to maintain the highest standards of professional conduct towards children and young people. The Child Safety Code of Conduct developed in consultation with our staff and with advice from the Australian Childhood Foundation, identifies and seeks to prevent behaviour that may be harmful to the children and young people in our care.

The Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and Child Safety Code of Conduct are publicly available in the safeguarding section of the School's website accessed via the link at the base of the home page.

Scotch College considers any form of child abuse including emotional, physical and sexual abuse, family violence, grooming or neglect as intolerable under any circumstances.

The School has a legal, moral and mission driven responsibility to protect children and young people from harm and to ensure that any incident of suspected child abuse is promptly and appropriately dealt with. Our personnel are required to formally submit an online report regarding any incident of a safeguarding nature. Such reports alert staff with responsibility for responding appropriately to such incidents. Staff are also encouraged to reach out to the Child Protection Officer, senior staff and/or pastoral leaders for advice and further support.

If a Scotch College staff member forms the view that a child's safety is at serious risk a report to child protection authorities or the police will be made. Scotch College will co-operate with the child protection authorities and police and other agencies as required by law.

Scotch College embraces diversity and is committed to meeting the needs of every child in an environment where safety and respect for difference is paramount.