



CHILD SAFETY CODE OF CONDUCT

AT COBRAM SECONDARY COLLEGE

The school of choice for the Cobram Community



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact Cobram Secondary College, 5871 1700.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Cobram Secondary College believes every student deserves a safe and positive learning experience where they are engaged and supported to reach their full potential.

The College adheres to the principles of Australian democracy and takes into account the diversity of all children and makes reasonable efforts to accommodate them. This includes (but is not limited to) the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with disabilities, children who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning (LGBTIQ) individuals, and children who are vulnerable.

The College is committed to creating a child safe environment protecting children from all forms of abuse and neglect.

PURPOSE

Our Child Safety Code of Conduct sets out the expected behaviour of adults with children and young people in our school.

All Cobram Secondary College staff, volunteers, contractors, service providers, school council members and any other adult involved in child-connected work must follow the Child Safety Code of Conduct.

The Child Safety Code of Conduct applies to all physical and online environments used by students. It also applies during or outside of school hours and in other locations provided by the school for student use (for example, a school camp).

Acceptable behaviours

As Cobram Secondary College staff, volunteers, contractors, and any other member of our school community involved in child-connected work, we are responsible for supporting and promoting the safety of children by:

- upholding our Cobram Secondary College commitment to child safety at all times and adhering to our Child Safety Policy
- treating students and families in our school community with respect in our school environment and outside our school environment as part of normal social and community activities
- listening and responding to the views and concerns of students, particularly if they disclose that they or another child or student has been abused or are worried about their safety or the safety of another child or student
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal students, students with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, students with a disability, international students, students who are unable to live at home and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTIQ+) students
- ensuring, as far as practicable, that adults are not alone with a student – one-to-one interactions between an adult and a student are to be in an open space or in line of sight of another adult.
- reporting any allegations of child abuse or other child safety concerns to Wellbeing, Year Level Leader, Assistant Principal or Principal.
- understanding and complying with all reporting and disclosure obligations (including mandatory reporting) in line with our child safety responding and reporting policy and procedures and the [PROTECT Four Critical Actions](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/health/protect/FourCriticalActions_ChildAbuse.pdf).
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- if child abuse is suspected, ensuring as quickly as possible that the student(s) are safe and protected from harm.

Unacceptable behaviours

As Cobram Secondary College, staff, volunteers, contractors and member of our school community involved in child-connected work we must not:

- ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions or disclosures of child abuse or harm
- develop a relationship with any student that could be seen as favouritism or amount to ‘grooming’ behaviour (for example, by offering gifts)
- display behaviours or engage with students in ways that are not justified by the educational or professional context
- ignore an adult’s overly familiar or inappropriate behaviour towards a student
- discuss intimate topics or use sexualised language, except when needed to deliver the school curriculum or professional guidance
- treat a child or student unfavourably 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 schoolwork or extra-curricular activities or where there is a safety concern or other urgent matter
- photograph or video a child or student in a school environment except in accordance with the [Photographing, Filming and Recording Students policy](#)

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/photographing-students/policy> or where required for duty of care purposes

- consume alcohol against school policy or take illicit drugs in the school environment or at school events where students are present
- have contact with any student outside of school hours except when needed to deliver the school curriculum or professional guidance and parental permission has been sought.

Breaches to the Child Safety Code of Conduct

All Cobram Secondary College staff, volunteers, contractors and any other member of the school community involved in child-connected work who breaches this Child Safety Code of Conduct may be subject to disciplinary procedures. The procedures followed will be per their employment agreement or relevant industrial instrument, professional code or terms of engagement.

In instances where a reportable allegation has been made, the matter will be managed per the Department of Education and Training Reportable Conduct Scheme Policy. It may be subject to referral to Victoria Police.

All breaches and suspected breaches of the Cobram Secondary College Child Safety Code of Conduct must be reported to the principal.

If the breach or suspected breach relates to the principal, contact the Assistant Principal.

Approval and review

Created date	2022
Consultation	Consultation on this policy with school council on 26 th July 2022
Endorsed by	Kimberley Tempest, Principal
Endorsed on	26 th July 2022
Next review date	2024