



# Child Safety Code of Conduct

## PROTECT



Education  
and Training



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Maryborough Education Centre-5461 7900.

Maryborough Education Centre (MEC) 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.

This Code of Conduct aims to protect children and reduce any opportunities for child abuse or harm to occur. It also assists in understanding how to avoid or better manage risky behaviours and situations. It is intended to complement child protection legislation, Department policy, school policies and procedures and professional standards, codes, or ethics as these apply to staff and other personnel.

The principal and school leaders of MEC will support implementation and monitoring of the Code of Conduct, and will make arrangements to provide an inclusive, safe, and orderly school. The principal and school leaders of MEC will also provide information and support to enable the Code of Conduct to operate effectively.

All staff, contractors, 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

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

- upholding the school's statement of commitment to child safety at all times adhering to the school's child safe policy
- 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
- 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 worried about their safety or the safety of another child
- promoting the cultural safety, participation, and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students
- promoting the cultural safety, participation, and empowerment of students with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- promoting the safety, participation, and empowerment of students from LGBTIQ+ community
- promoting the safety, participation, and empowerment of students with a disability
- reporting any allegations of child abuse or other child safety concerns to the school's leadership and/or student services
- understanding and complying with all reporting or disclosure obligations (including mandatory reporting) as they relate to protecting children from harm or abuse

- if child abuse is suspected, ensuring as quickly as possible that the student(s) are safe and protected from harm.

### Unacceptable behaviours

Staff, volunteers, contractors, 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
- 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
- treat a child 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 in a school environment except in accordance with school policy or where required for duty of care purposes.
- in the school environment or at other school events where students are present, consume alcohol contrary to school policy or take illicit drugs under any circumstances.

### COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Included in staff induction processes
- Discussed at staff briefings or meetings, as required
- Included as a reference in our school newsletter each term
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request.

### POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	30 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
Consultation	Education Policy in March 2022
Approved by	Anita Ford School Council President
Next scheduled review date	This policy was last updated on 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2022 and is scheduled for review as part of the school's 4-year review cycle.

**Signed:**



**Anita Ford**  
School Council President

**Date:** 4.4.2022