

CHILD SAFE CODE OF CONDUCT

Torrens Valley Christian School (TVCS/school) strives to be a God-honouring community, committed to developing young people to believe, belong and become all that God has created them to be.

In providing a Christ-centred learning environment for the students in their care, staff have a responsibility to support the Christian ethos of the school, undertaking their responsibilities in line with the Vision and Mission of the School and working within clearly defined employment protocols and professional boundaries.

Torrens Valley Christian School is committed to the safety of children and young people in line with the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 (SA)*, *Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016 (SA)* and the *National Principles for Child Safe Organisations*.

The school implements measures to ensure that children and young people are valued, respected and encouraged to participate and that the safety and protection of children and young people is always the first priority.

CHILD SAFE CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT

All TVCS employees and volunteers are responsible for promoting and protecting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people and are required to abide with the following *Child Safe Code of Conduct* as part of their involvement in the school community.

All TVCS employees and volunteers must:

- Adhere to the *TVCS Child Safe Policy* at all times and take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety and protection of children and young people at all times.
- Treat staff, volunteers, students, children, young people and parents equally and with respect and honesty, embracing diversity regardless of their abilities, sex, gender, or social, economic or cultural background.
- Be a positive role model to children and young people in their conduct with them.
- Set clear boundaries in their relationships with children and young people, ensuring their safety and wellbeing is valued and respected.
- Listen and respond appropriately to the views and concerns of children and young people.
- Be alert to bullying behaviours and respond promptly and appropriately.
- Ensure another adult is always present or in sight when conducting one to one coaching, instruction or other activity.
- Be alert to children and young people who are, or may be at risk of harm, and reporting this quickly to the Child Abuse Report Line (13 14 78).
- Respond quickly, fairly and transparently to any serious complaints made by a child, young person or their parent/guardian.
- Encourage children and young people to 'have a say' on issues that are important to them.

Employees and volunteers must not:

- Engage in rough physical games.
- Develop any 'special' relationships with children and young people that could be seen as favouritism such as the offering of gifts or special treatment.
- Do things of a personal nature that a child or young person can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes.
- Discriminate against any child or young person because of age, gender, cultural background, religion, vulnerability or sexuality.

Breaches of The Child Safe Code of Conduct

Since school staff and volunteers hold special positions of trust, especially regarding children and young people, they must be accountable for their actions at all times.

Potential breaches of this Code will be addressed in line with established grievance procedures and in line with the *TVCS Complaint Handling Policy*.

Any disciplinary action shall be taken in accordance with the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness and in a manner that promotes the Godly values and principles of the school.

Violation of this Code of Conduct by a staff member is grounds for disciplinary action including possible termination of employment.

I agree to abide by this Child Safe Code of Conduct

Name: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

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