

**LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE CRANBOURNE POLICY 1.3**  
**CHILD SAFE STANDARDS POLICY-CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Implementation: August 2016**

**Review: 2025**

**Child Protection Code of Conduct**

Lighthouse Christian College Cranbourne 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 Lighthouse Christian College Cranbourne will support implementation and monitoring of the Code of Conduct, and will plan, implement and monitor arrangements to provide inclusive, safe and orderly schools and other learning environments.

The Principal and school leaders of Lighthouse Christian College Cranbourne 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 is 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. All personnel of Lighthouse Christian College Cranbourne are responsible for supporting the safety, participation, well-being and empowerment of children by upholding the College's Statement of Commitment to Child Safety at all times and: Adhering to Lighthouse Christian College Cranbourne Child Protection Policy at all times;

- 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
- Taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- Act as positive role models in their conduct with children and young people
- Comply with specific organisational guidelines on physical contact with children;
- Respect the privacy of children, their families and teachers/carers, and only disclose information to people who have a need to know;
- Establish and maintain a child-safe environment in the course of their work
- 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)
- Ensuring as far as practicable that adults are not left alone unnecessarily with a child
- Reporting any allegations of child abuse to a Principal or Deputy Principal, and ensure any allegation is reported to the police or child protection
- Understanding and complying with all reporting or disclosure obligations (including mandatory reporting) as they relate to protecting children from harm or abuse. If an allegation of child abuse is made, ensure as quickly as possible that the child/ren are safe
- Operate within all policies and guidelines of Lighthouse Christian College Cranbourne; and
- Contact the police if a child is at immediate risk of abuse (telephone 000).
- **STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS MUST NOT:** Shame, humiliate, oppress, belittle or degrade children or young people;
- Engage in any activity with a child or young person that is likely to physically or emotionally harm them;
- Develop any 'special' relationships with children that could be seen as favouritism (for example, the offering of gifts or special treatment for specific children)
- Be alone with a child or young person unnecessarily and for more than a very short time (unless as a result of undertaking professional care towards that child e.g. nursing, counselling, psychology etc.)
- Exhibit behaviours with children which may be construed as unnecessarily physical
- Put children at risk of abuse (for example, by locking doors)
- Do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes
- 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.
- Use inappropriate language in the presence of children
- Ignore behaviours by other adults or students towards students when they appear to be overly familiar or inappropriate
- Treat a child unfavourably because of their disability, age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality or ethnicity

- Take any inappropriate photographs or video of a child or young person or use existing photographs or video in an inappropriate manner (such as uploading to inappropriate sites, apps, chatrooms etc.)
- Have inappropriate contact with a child or their family outside of school without the school's leadership knowledge (for example, unauthorised after hours tutoring, private instrumental/other lessons or sport coaching).
- Contact, such as normally occurs in the context of church attendance, small groups and youth activities, is appropriate.
- Have any inappropriate online contact with a child (including by social media, email, instant messaging etc.) or their family
- Exchange personal contact details such as phone number, social networking sites or email addresses, except for the purpose of carrying out normal activities
- 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 any member of Lighthouse Christian College Cranbourne Leadership Team. If you believe a child is at immediate risk of abuse phone 000.
- **WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU BREACH THIS CODE OF CONDUCT?** If you breach this Child Protection Code of Conduct, you will face disciplinary action, including and up to termination of employment or cessation of engagement with Lighthouse Christian College Cranbourne. I agree to adhere to this Code of Conduct:

Name: .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....

Principal/Deputy Principal (Witness):.....