

“Empowering Learners for Life”

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Staff Code of Conduct Policy.

Movelle School Values:

Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Compassion.

Our vision at Movelle Primary School is to empower our students to become successful life-long learners. We will prepare our students to contend with the complexities of an ever changing world, in which creativity, adaptability, teamwork and connectedness to our community and the world are key features. Our school community will practise the core values of *responsibility, respect, resilience* and *compassion* for all.

Purpose

This Code of Conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at **Movelle Primary School** against sexual, physical, psychological and emotional abuse or neglect. It is intended to complement other professional and/or occupational codes.

All staff, volunteers, contractors, and school council members at Movelle Primary School are expected to actively contribute to a school culture that respects the dignity of its members and affirms the school values of ***Respect, Responsibility, Resilience and Compassion***. They are required to observe child-safe principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children, as noted below.

Acceptable behaviours

All staff members, volunteers, contractors and school council members are responsible for supporting the safety of children by:

- adhering to the school’s child safe policy and upholding the school’s statement of commitment to child safety at all times
- taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- treating everyone in the school community with respect
- listening and responding to the views and concerns of children, particularly if they are telling you that they or another child has been abused or that they are worried about their safety/the safety of another child
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (for example, by never questioning an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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 alone with a child
- reporting any allegations of child abuse to the school’s leadership

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- understanding and complying with all reporting obligations as they relate to mandatory reporting and reporting under the *Crimes Act 1958*
- reporting any child safety concerns to the school’s leadership
- if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensuring as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe
- reporting to the Victorian Institute of Teaching any charges, committals for trial or convictions in relation to a sexual offence by a registered teacher, or certain allegations or concerns about a registered teacher.

Unacceptable behaviours

All staff, volunteers, contractors and school council members must not:

- ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse
- develop any ‘special’ relationships with children that could be seen as favouritism (for example, the offering of gifts or special treatment for specific children)
- exhibit behaviours with children which may be construed as unnecessarily physical (for example inappropriate sitting on laps)
- put children at risk of abuse (for example, by locking doors)
- initiate unnecessary physical contact with children or do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes
- engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children (for example, personal social activities)
- use inappropriate language in the presence of children
- express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of children
- discriminate against any child, including because of age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality, ethnicity or disability
- have contact with a child or their family outside of school without the school’s leadership knowledge and/or consent or the school governing authority’s approval (for example, unauthorised after hours tutoring, private instrumental/other lessons or sport coaching). Accidental contact, such as seeing people in the street, is appropriate.
- have any online contact with a child (including by social media, email, instant messaging etc) or their family (unless necessary eg by providing families with e-newsletters or assisting students with their school work)
- use any personal communication channels/device such as a personal email account
- exchange personal contact details such as phone number, social networking sites or email addresses
- photograph or video a child without the consent of the parent or guardians
- work with children whilst under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- consume alcohol or drugs at school or at school events in the presence of children.



Gum Road,
P.O. Box 40, St. Albans, 3021
Telephone: 9366 8892, 9367 3065
Facsimile: 9367 5127
Email: Mouvelle.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Website: www.mouvelleps.vic.edu.au

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| Date Implemented: | November 2016 |
| Approved by School Council | |
| School Council President signature & date | |
| Date reviewed | |
| Responsible for Review | Principal Class Officers |
| Review Date | November 2019 |
| References | Victorian Government Schools Policy Advisory Guide |

I, _____, confirm I have been provided with a copy of the above Code of Conduct.

Signed: _____

Date: _____