



Child Safe Code of Conduct



Child Safe Code of Conduct Investigator College

The Child Safe Code of Conduct sets boundaries and expectations for appropriate behaviours between adults and students, associated with the College, including in physical and online environments. It is a fundamental element of our Child Safe Program.

The Child Safe Policy and Code of Conduct is published on our College public website and made available to all Staff, Direct Contact Volunteers and Direct Contact Contractors.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

Investigator College is committed to providing education and care to children and young people to assist them to develop into high achieving, supported students, positively connected to each other and to the communities in which they live and in which they will serve.

All children and young people who come to Investigator College have a right to feel and be safe. We are committed to providing a child safe and child friendly environment, where children and young people can actively participate in decisions that affect their lives.

We have zero tolerance for harm to children and young people and are committed to acting in students' best interests and keeping them safe from harm.

The College regards its child safe responsibilities with the utmost importance and is committed to providing the necessary resources to maintain a child safe culture and ensure compliance with all relevant child safe organisations and child protection laws and regulations.

Each member of the College community has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role that they play individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all students is at the forefront of all that they do and every decision that they make.

PURPOSE

This Policy and its Procedures outline:

- expected standards of behaviour, relevant to child safety, towards students for all adults in all College environments; and
- the College's expectations for compliance.

It helps to protect students from harm, reduce opportunities for harm to occur, and promote child safety in the College environment.

It also provides guidance on how to best support students and how to prevent or better manage difficult situations.

We also have a Staff and Student Professional Boundaries Policy and Procedures which provides detailed guidance for Staff, Volunteers and Contractors, no matter their age, on how to maintain professional boundaries with students and is available internally via our Policies and Procedures database.

SCOPE

The Child Safe Code of Conduct applies to all adults in the College community. This means that if you are aged 18 or over and are:

- the Principal
- a Senior Leadership Team member
- a staff member (including non-teaching Staff and temporary or casual Staff)
- a Volunteer
- a Contractor (including an External Education Provider)
- a teaching student on placement at the College
- a Visitor

this Policy and its Procedures apply to you.

We refer to everyone in this list together as the "College Community".

The Child Safe Code of Conduct applies in all College environments, including physical and online environments, and on-site and off-site College grounds (e.g. camps and excursions, and interstate and overseas travel).

The Child Safe Code of Conduct does not apply to students who are volunteering with, coaching or tutoring younger students at the College. If you are a student, you must instead comply with the Student Code of Conduct and other relevant College policies.

Roles and Responsibilities

Child safety is everyone's responsibility. All adults in the College community have a shared responsibility for contributing to the safety and protection of students and in following the Child Safe Code of Conduct.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Child Safe Code of Conduct

1. As an adult member of the College Community, you must comply with the following Child Safe Code of Conduct:

DO:

- Comply with the College's child safe policies and procedures.

- In relationships with students, maintain professional boundaries that apply to your roles and responsibilities at the College at all times (for example, if you are a staff member, Volunteer or Contractor, you must follow the Staff and Student Professional Boundaries Policy and Procedures).
- Comply with any additional guidelines published by the College with respect to child safe behaviours.
- Take all reasonable steps to protect students from harm.
- Provide supervision for students that is appropriate for their age and developmental stage.
- Treat all students with respect, regardless of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, language, religion, political views, culture, disability, or other status.
- Actively encourage the participation and empowerment of all students, including students with a disability, culturally or linguistically diverse background, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage, or any other vulnerabilities (such as students who are unable to live at home or students who identify as LGBTQIASB+), by listening to their ideas, values and contributions.
- Intervene when students are engaging in inappropriate, humiliating, vilifying or bullying behaviour towards others.
- Interact with students in an open and transparent way.
- Build trust with students by taking any child safety incidents, concerns and reports made by them seriously.
- Respect the privacy of students and their families and only disclose sensitive information to people who have a need to know.
- Where an allegation of harm is made, ensure as quickly as possible that the student involved is safe.
- Call the Police on 000 if you have immediate concerns for a student's safety.
- Report any child safety incidents or concerns to the appropriate external authority (such as CARL or the Police) as your first priority, and then also report the matter internally to the Principal or a Child Protection Officer.
- Report any breaches of this Child Safe Code of Conduct to an appropriate external authority (such as CARL or the Police) where required, as your first priority, and then report the breach to the Principal or a Child Protection Officer.

DO NOT:

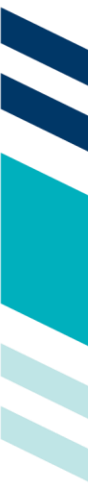
- Engage in, or ignore others engaging in, any form of inappropriate behaviour towards students or expose students to behaviour that has the potential to cause harm (including physical, psychological or emotional harm).
- Engage prejudicial or oppressive behaviour, or use inappropriate language with students.



- Discriminate against any student on the basis of characteristics that are protected in anti-discrimination legislation or express personal views that support or promote such discrimination.
- Engage in discussions with, or in the presence of students that could be construed as inappropriate (for example, asking questions of a personal nature or discussing illicit matters such as sex, drugs or alcohol other than in an educational context).
- Engage in any form of sexual conduct with a student including any form of grooming behaviour, making sexually suggestive comments and sharing sexually suggestive material.
- Engage in inappropriate or unnecessary physical conduct or behaviours, including doing things of a personal nature that a student can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes.
- Engage in any form of physical violence towards a student including inappropriately rough physical play.
- Use mechanical or physical force to punish or discipline a student (other than Restraint of Students Policy).
- Engage in inappropriate supervision in changerooms, bathrooms and accommodation (for example, on camps). In particular, male adults must not enter female changerooms, bathrooms or accommodation and female adults must not enter male changerooms, bathrooms or accommodation, except in an emergency.
- Initiate or develop a relationship with any student that has, or can be misinterpreted as having, any basis other than a professional basis (for more information, refer to the Staff and Student Professional Boundaries Policy and Procedures).
- Initiate or develop a 'special' relationship with a student that could be seen as favouritism (for example, the offering of gifts or special treatment for specific students).
- Engage in private meetings or activities with a student (other than a student who is your own child):
 - without the College's and/or the students' parents/carers' knowledge and approval; or
 - when there is no other adult present

(for more information, refer to the Staff and Student Professional Boundaries Policy and Procedures).

- Engage in personal communications with a student using electronic or digital media through any medium (for more information, refer to the Staff and Student Professional Boundaries Policy and Procedures).
- Take or publish (including online) photos, video and/or audio recordings of a student without College and/or parent/carer consent.
- Post identifying information about a student online unless it is necessary for the College's activities and with consent from the student and/or their parents/carers. Identifying



information includes things such as the student's full name, age, email address, telephone number, residence, school, or details of a club or group they may attend.

2. Certain members of the College Community (for example, staff members working as psychologists at the College) may have other professional or occupational codes of conduct that regulate their profession or occupation. If this applies to you, you must also comply with these codes of conduct. If you consider that there is a conflict between your professional or occupational code of conduct and the Child Safe Code of Conduct in a particular matter, you must follow the Procedures below.

Agreement to the Child Safe Code of Conduct

1. If you are a staff member or a Direct Contact or Regular Volunteer, you must acknowledge in writing or electronically/online that you have read, understood and agree to adhere to the Child Safe Code of Conduct prior to commencing work at College.
2. The Child Safe Code of Conduct forms part of the contract between the College and any Direct Contact and Regular Contractors. Therefore, if you are a Direct Contact or Regular Contractor, you are deemed to have agreed to adhere to the Child Safe Code of Conduct on signing the contract or on commencing work at the College.

Breaches of the Child Safe Code of Conduct

1. The College considers any breach of the Child Safe Code of Conduct to be a child safety incident. As a result, if you are a staff member or a Direct Contact or Regular Volunteer/Contractor, you must:
 - report any breach that causes you to suspect harm or risk of harm to a child or young person directly to the Child Abuse Report Line (CARL), following the Responding and Reporting Obligations (Child Safe) Policy and Procedures
 - report any breach that causes you to suspect the sexual abuse of a child or young person directly to the Police, following the Responding and Reporting Obligations (Child Safe) Policy and Procedures
 - after you have made any required external reports, report all breaches of the Child Safe Code of Conduct internally to the College, following the Procedures set out below.
2. If, in good faith, you make an internal report alleging a breach of the Child Safe Code of Conduct, the College will protect you from victimisation or other adverse consequences.
3. The College will apply appropriate consequences to College Community members who breach the Child Safe Code of Conduct, as set out in below.

PROCEDURES

Other Professional or Occupational Codes of Conduct

If you must comply with a professional or occupational code of conduct and you consider that there is a conflict between that code of conduct and the Child Safe Code of Conduct in a particular matter, you must:

- seek advice from your professional or occupational regulatory body and/or a Child Protection Officer; and
- advise the Principal of your proposed course of action.

Report Any Concerns

If you are concerned that a child, young person or student aged 18 or over is in immediate danger, call the Police on 000.

Any person, including all Staff, Volunteers, Contractors, parents/carers and students, can at any time contact CARL if they suspect that a child or young person (aged under 18) is being or has been harmed or is at risk of harm.

You can contact CARL on 13 14 78 or online (if you are registered for online reporting). CARL is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

If you need support when making a report, or have questions regarding child safety, contact a Child Protection Officer.

Staff, Volunteers and Contractors

If you are a staff member, Volunteer or Contractor and you witness or suspect a breach of the Child Safe Code of Conduct, after first making any required reports to CARL and/or to Police, report the breach internally and as soon as possible to:

- a Child Protection Officer
- the Principal; or
- if the breach involves the Principal, to the Board Chair (boardcomms@investigator.sa.edu.au) by email at: boardcomms@investigator.sa.edu.au

A breach of the Child Safe Code of Conduct could amount to harm to a child, young person or student aged 18 or over. For information about how to identify key indicators of harm, refer to Definitions and Key Indicators of Harm.

Reporting internally does not replace other legal and policy obligations that you may have. In addition to the above, you must also follow all responding and reporting obligations that apply to you. Depending on the circumstances, these obligations may include:

- reporting to CARL
- reporting to the Police
- taking steps to protect students from future risks of harm, where those steps are within your power or responsibilities to take (to meet your duty to protect obligations)
- reporting teacher misconduct to the Teachers Registration Board
- providing information to other external agencies.

Students

Students who are the victim of or who witness or suspect a breach of the Child Safe Code of Conduct can contact CARL and/or:

- disclose this to a College Child Protection Officer
- disclose this to any other staff member, Volunteer or Contractor. This might be done:
 - verbally

- in writing
 - through electronic means (such as email)
 - indirectly (such as in written assignments, in artworks or in any other way)
 - anonymously, using the College's anonymous Anonymous Feedback Box (locked mailbox), which is located outside Student Services (central administration building)
- contact various local supports (such as Headspace).

For more information, students can refer to the child-friendly version of the Child Safe Policy, available by requesting a copy from the administration team, which explains these different pathways.

Parents/carers, family members or other College Community members

Parents/carers, family members and other community members who witness or suspect a breach of the Child Safe Code of Conduct can contact CARL and/or:

- the Principal, who is the College's Senior Child Protection Officer, by phoning 08 8551 0900 or emailing cpo@investigator.sa.edu.au
- if the concern relates to the Principal, the Board Chair (boardcomms@investigator.sa.edu.au) by email at: boardcomms@investigator.sa.edu.au.

Communications will be treated confidentially on a 'need to know' basis.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Child Safe Code of Conduct is published on our public website.

The Child Safe Code of Conduct is made available to employed staff members through the College's Intranet. The College provides a copy of the Child Safe Code of Conduct to all Staff, relevant Volunteers and relevant Contractors at their induction, or otherwise prior to them commencing work at the College.

Training about the Child Safe Code of Conduct is included in induction and annual refresher training for employed staff members, as well as relevant Volunteers and Contractors.

Employed staff members, relevant Volunteers and relevant Contractors sign an agreement to adhere to the Child Safe Code of Conduct as set out in this Policy and its Procedures.

The College has developed, in consultation with its students a child-friendly version of the Child Safe Code of Conduct that the College provides to all students.

BREACH

If you are a staff member, Volunteer or Contractor and you breach this Policy and its Procedures, the College can investigate your conduct. You could face disciplinary action, such as (depending on the severity of the breach):

- attending remedial education
- attending counselling
- increased supervision

- the restriction of duties
- appointment to an alternate role
- suspension
- in the case of serious breaches, termination of employment, contract or engagement.

You could also face civil or criminal penalties.

If you are another member of the College Community and you breach the Child Safe Code of Conduct, the College will take appropriate action. This could include:

- making a report to Department for Child Protection's or the Police if your conduct meets the required threshold for reporting
- if you are aged 16 or over and are not a student at the College, issuing a Barring Notice against you in appropriate cases.

DEFINITIONS

Definitions of particular terms used in this Policy and its Procedures can be found in Child Safe Program Definitions and Definitions and Key Indicators of Harm.

SOURCE OF OBLIGATION

- Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 (SA), section 114
- National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, Principle 1

Related Policies

- Child Safe Policy
- Staff and Student Professional Boundaries Policy and Procedures
- Student Child Safe Code of Conduct Policy and Procedures
- Responding and Reporting Obligations (Child Safe) Policy and Procedures
- Sharing Information About Students' Safety, Welfare or Wellbeing Policies and Procedures
- Working with Children Checks Policy and Procedures
- WWCC Procedures for Staff
- Risk Management (Child Safe) Policy and Procedures
- Compliance, Review and Improvement (Child Safe) Policies and Procedures
- Complaints Management (Child Safe) Policy and Procedures



Related Documents

- Procedures for Managing Child Safety Incidents or Concerns Involving the College or its Staff Members (Summary)
- Mandatory Reporting Form
- Child-friendly version of/information about the Child Safe Policy

References

- Department for Education, Protective Practices for Staff in their interactions with children and young people: Guidelines for staff working or volunteering in education and care settings 2017 (revised 2019)

