St Laurence O’Toole Primary School

Safeguarding Children and Young People
Code of Conduct
St Laurence O’Toole Primary School
20/06/16

St Laurence O’Toole is a Catholic Primary School that focuses on nurturing the development of each child in God’s love.

We endeavour, through the teachings of Jesus, to create an environment where people feel a sense of belonging and where individual differences and achievements are appreciated and celebrated.

We aim to promote resilience, application and persistence, providing creative and current learning opportunities that motivate children to reach their potential - spiritually, academically, socially and emotionally.

Through our school motto, ‘Love in Action’, we seek to develop respect for self and others, in partnership with the parish and the wider community.

Purpose

This Code of Conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at St Laurence O’Toole 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, clergy, specialist consultants, Advisory Board, Parents and Friends members at St Laurence O’Toole Primary School are expected to actively contribute to a school culture that respects the dignity of its members and affirms the Gospel values of love, care for others, compassion and justice. 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, volunteers, contractors, clergy and board/school council members are responsible for supporting the safety of children by:

- Following the school’s child-safe policy and upholding the school’s commitment to child safety at all times
- Taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- Treating everyone in the school community with respect and fairness
- Listening and responding to the views and concerns of children
- Promoting safety, participation and empowerment of all children
- Ensure as far as is practicable that adults are not alone with a child unless in a scheduled task approved by Principal
- Reporting any allegations or disclosures of child abuse to the school’s leadership immediately
- Understand and comply with mandatory reporting obligations
- If an allegation of child abuse is made ensure that the child(ren) are safe
- Maintain confidentiality
- Disclose any external employment or volunteer work which entails working with children (tutoring, private lessons or coaching) to the Principal
Unacceptable behaviours

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

- Ignore any suspected or disclosed child abuse
- Develop any ‘special’ relationships with children such as gift giving or special treatment
- Exhibit behaviours with children which may be seen as unnecessary (such as sitting on laps)
- Put children at risk of abuse
- Initiate any unnecessary physical contact with children or doing things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves
- Engage in discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children
- 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
- Have any online contact with a child – with the exception of (the) a classroom teacher in order to support their learning
- Photograph or video a child without the consent of the parent or guardians
- Share photographs or videos of children or name children in any form of social media
- Work with children under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- Use illegal drugs on school grounds or at any school event
- Consume alcohol at school; or at school events in the presence of children

☐ I am aware that any breach of the Code of Conduct will result in commensurate consequence.

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

Signed: ___________________________ Date: __________

Please list any external employment or volunteer work with children below.

Ratified June 2016