

## Vision

At Tanjil South Primary School, we believe in fostering each child's desire to learn as we develop creative thinkers, strategic problem solvers, collaborative team members and independent, confident learners who are equipped for future success.

## Values

Tanjil South Primary School has three values: Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be a Learner. These values are aligned with our commitment to School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) and promote health, wellbeing and social inclusion for every member of the School community.

## Statement of commitment to child safe standards

Tanjil South Primary School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This commitment will be the primary focus of decision-making processes, and in the care of our students. Tanjil South Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse.

Staff at this school are committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people *are safe, feel safe*, and their voices are heard regarding decisions which affect their lives. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

Every person involved with Tanjil South Primary School has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

## Child Safety Code of Conduct

Tanjil South Primary School 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, professional Standards and/or codes of ethics as these apply to staff and other personnel.

The Principal and staff of Tanjil South Primary School 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 will also provide information and support to enable the Code of Conduct to operate effectively.

All staff members, contractors, volunteers and any other member of the school community involved in child-related work are required to comply with the Code of Conduct by observing expectations for appropriate behaviour as defined below. The Code of Conduct applies in all school situations, including school camps and in the use of digital technology and social media.

## Acceptable behaviours

As staff, volunteers, contractors, and any other member of the school community involved in child-related work individually, we are responsible for supporting and promoting the safety of children by:

- Upholding the school's statement of commitment to child safety at all times and adhering to the school's child safe policy;
- 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;
- Listening and responding to the views and concerns of students, 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 students, and promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of students with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds;
- Promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of vulnerable students.
- Reporting any allegations of child abuse or other child safety concerns to the school's leadership;
- Understanding and complying with all reporting or disclosure obligations (including mandatory reporting) as they relate to protecting children from harm or abuse;
- If child abuse is suspected, ensuring as quickly as possible that the student(s) are safe and protected from harm.

## Unacceptable behaviours

As staff, volunteers, contractors, and any other member of the school community involved in child-related work we must not:

- Ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions or disclosures of child abuse;
- Develop a relationship with any student that could be seen as favouritism or amount to 'grooming' behaviour (for example, offering gifts);
- Exhibit behaviours or engage in activities with students which may be interpreted as abusive and not justified by the educational, therapeutic, or service delivery in context;
- Ignore behaviours by other adults towards students when they appear to be overly familiar or inappropriate;
- 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;
- Treat a child unfavourably because of their disability, age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality or ethnicity;
- Communicate directly with a student through personal or private contact channels (including by social media, email, instant messaging, texting etc) except where that communication is reasonable in all the circumstances, related to school work or extracurricular activities or where there is a safety concern or other urgent matter;
- Photograph or video a child in a school environment except in accordance with school policy or where required for duty of care purposes. *School Policy Advisory Guide:* <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/pages/photoandfilm.aspx>.

The policy says the school should get consent before taking and publishing photos of a student.

- In the school environment or at other school events where students are present, consume alcohol contrary to school policy 2 or take illicit drugs under any circumstances. *School Policy Advisory Guide:*

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/pages/alcohol.aspx>. The policy says the school must obtain school council approval before alcohol can be consumed on school grounds or at a school activity. The policy says staff members should not consume alcohol during camps and excursions. It is silent on whether they can consume alcohol at other school events where students are present, this is a matter that the school needs to decide upon – draft text is provided in the guidance fact sheet.

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