Ringwood Secondary College
Child Safety Code of Conduct

Help for non-English speakers.

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Ringwood Secondary College on (03) 9870 2002.

Ringwood Secondary College is committed to creating and maintaining a child safe and child-friendly organisation. The Child Safe Standards are compulsory minimum standards for all Victorian schools to ensure they are well prepared to keep children and young people safe and protect them from abuse. Ministerial Order 1359 provides the framework for child safety in schools.

Purpose

Our Child Safety Code of Conduct sets out the expected behaviour of adults with children and young people in our school.

All Ringwood Secondary College staff, volunteers, contractors, service providers, school council members and any other adult involved in child-connected work must follow the Child Safety Code of Conduct.

The Child Safety Code of Conduct applies to all physical and online environments used by students. It also applies during or outside of school hours and in other locations provided by the school for student use (for example, a school camp).

Acceptable Behaviours

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

- upholding our Ringwood Secondary College commitment to child safety at all times and adhering to our Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy,
- treating students and families in our school community with respect in our school environment and outside our school environment as part of normal social and community activities,
- listening and responding to the views and concerns of students, particularly if they disclose that they or another child or student has been abused or are worried about their safety or the safety of another child or student,
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal students, students with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, students with a disability, international students, students who are unable to live at home and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LQBTIQ+) students,
- ensuring, as far as practicable, that adults are not alone with a student – one-to-one interactions between an adult and a student are to be in an open space or in line of sight of another adult,
- reporting any allegations of child abuse or other child safety concerns to the principal,
- understanding and complying with all reporting and disclosure obligations (including mandatory reporting) in line with our child safety responding and reporting policy and procedures and the PROTECT Four Critical Actions,
- if child abuse is suspected, ensuring as quickly as possible that the student(s) are safe and protected from harm.

Unacceptable behaviours

As Ringwood Secondary College staff, volunteers, contractors and member of our school community involved in child-connected work we must not:

- ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions or disclosures of child abuse or harm,
- develop a relationship with any student that could be seen as favouritism or amount to 'grooming' behaviour (for example, by offering gifts),
- display behaviours or engage with students in ways that are not justified by the educational or professional context,
- ignore an adult's overly familiar or inappropriate behaviour towards a student,
- discuss intimate topics or use sexualised language, except when needed to deliver the school curriculum or professional guidance,
- treat a child or student 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 schoolwork or extra-curricular activities or where there is a safety concern or other urgent matter,
- photograph or video a child or student in a school environment except in accordance with the Photographing, Filming and Recording Students policy or where required for duty of care purposes,
- consume alcohol against school policy or take illicit drugs in the school environment or at school events where students are present,
- have contact with any student outside of school hours except when needed to deliver the school curriculum or professional guidance and parental permission has been sought.

Breaches to the Child Safety Code of Conduct

All Ringwood Secondary College staff, volunteers, contractors and any other member of the school community involved in child-connected work who breach this Child Safety Code of Conduct may be subject to disciplinary procedures in accordance with their employment agreement or relevant industrial instrument, professional code or terms of engagement.

In instances where a reportable allegation has been made, the matter will be managed in accordance with the Department of Education and Training Reportable Conduct Scheme Policy and may be subject to referral to Victoria Police.

All breaches and suspected breaches of the Ringwood Secondary College Child Safety Code of Conduct must be reported to the principal.

If the breach or suspected breach relates to the principal, contact the Area Executive Director or Senior Education Improvement Leader at the North-Eastern Victoria Regional Office on 1800 338 663 or nevr@education.vic.gov.au

Policy status and review

Assistant principal is responsible for reviewing and updated the Child Safety Code of Conduct at least every two years. The review will include input from students, parents/carers and the school community.

Approval

Created date	May 2025
Consultation	Policy and Education Committee- 21 May 2025 College Council- 21 May 2025
Endorsed by	Rosina Fotia, Principal School Council
Endorsed on	21 May 2025
Next review date	May 2027