SFA CODE of CONDUCT

Vision
St Francis of Assisi school: A vibrant Catholic learning community of peace, justice, respect and excellence.

Purpose
This Code of Conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at St Francis of Assisi PS 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 and Parents in Partnership members at St Francis of Assisi PS 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 and respect of 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 Parents in Partnerships 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 and harm
- treating everyone in the school community with respect and dignity, modelling positive and respectful relationships and acting in a manner that sustains a safe, educational and pastoral environment
- listening and responding to the views and concerns of children, particularly if they are telling you that they or another child have been abused or that they are worried about their safety/the safety of another child
- promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of all students including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, students from diverse cultural backgrounds and those with a disability
- the appropriate use of ICT
- ensuring as far as practicable that adults are not alone with a child
- reporting any concerns or allegations of child abuse to the school’s leadership, complying with all reporting obligations as they relate to mandatory reporting and ensuring as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe.

Unacceptable behaviours
Staff and volunteers must not:

- ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse
- develop any ‘special’ relationships with children that could be seen as favouritism
- put children at risk of abuse

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Review 2019
initiate unnecessary physical contact with children or do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves

engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature, use inappropriate language and express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of children

discriminate against any child, based on age, gender, race, culture, religion, vulnerability, sexuality, ethnicity or disability

use put downs, threatening language or inappropriate body language when interacting with children

have contact with a child or their family outside of school without the Principal or Student Wellbeing Leader’s knowledge and/or consent (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 specifically necessary e.g. by providing families with newsletters or assisting students with their school work)

exchange personal contact details such as phone number, social networking sites or private email addresses

photograph or video a child without the consent of the parent, guardians or school leadership

work or socialise while under the influence of or while consuming alcohol or drugs at school/school events in the presence of children.
CODE OF CONDUCT – SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

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

Signed: _______________________________ Date: __________________

Return a signed and dated Code of Conduct to the School.