

Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct Declaration

Clergy, employees and volunteers are required to sign the Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct Declaration upon their commencement, and annually, to coincide with the completion of annual child safety training requirements of the Parish.

The completion and submission of the Child Safety Code of Conduct Declaration is a serious pre-requisite of a person's engagement within the Parish of Ascot Vale.

Parish clergy, employees and volunteers are committed to upholding a duty of care to all children and young people and taking all reasonable steps to protect children and young people from all forms of abuse and harm. In the Parish of Ascot Vale, clergy, employees and volunteers commit to safeguard the health and wellbeing of children and young people by:

Keeping children and young people safe from abuse and harm

- Not engage in any form of child abuse or harm including emotional, physical and sexual abuse or neglect.
- Avoid any form of physical punishment or degrading, cruel, frightening or humiliating treatment.
- Ensure that physical contact is appropriate, non-intrusive and not sexual in nature.
- Avoid developing relationships with children and young people that can be construed as favouritism and/or grooming.
- Use respectful language and tone when communicating with children and young people and avoid language that harms, discourages, frightens and humiliates children and young people.
- Avoid language that is sexual, discriminatory or racist in nature including suggestive humour, jokes or innuendo.

Creating a physically and psychologically safe environment

- Ensure that an adult is never alone, as far as reasonably possible, with a child or young person, and that they do not seek to make contact with a child or young person that places them at risk of abuse
- Ensure that children and young people in your care are appropriately supervised at all times.
- Use fair, respectful and developmentally appropriate strategies to guide the behaviour of children and young people in a positive manner.
- Ensure that photographs or video of children and young people are taken with due consent of parents or guardians within the context of the parish, agency or entity activity.
- Use social media and digital communication in a manner that does not exploit or place children and young people at risk.
- Act to remove and/or minimise any physical or environmental risks that could adversely impact children and young people.
- Not consume illicit drugs, be under the influence of alcohol, or be adversely affected by prescription medication, before or while engaging in the care of children and young people.
- Not illegally supply alcohol or illicit drugs to children and young people.
- Immediately notify management if charged or convicted with a criminal offence (if subject to a criminal history record check in relation to your involvement with a CAM parish, agency or entity).

*The Parish of Ascot Vale is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity
of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.*

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Supporting cultural safety and inclusion

- Promote the safety, participation and empowerment of children and young people.
- Support the inclusion of all children and young people in their diversity – in particular those with a disability; those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people; and any children at particular risk of exclusion.

Promoting respectful relationships

- Engage in positive and respectful interactions with children and young people that uphold their rights and dignity.
- To listen and give due respect to the views of children and young people.

Taking action to safeguard children and young people

- Listen to and respond supportively to the concerns of children and young people in relation to their safety.
- Report any child safety concerns, reports or disclosures to relevant statutory child protection authorities (e.g. Child Protection (DHHS), Victoria Police) and the Professional Standards Unit, in accordance with what is set out in the Parish Safeguarding Policy.

I have read, and agree to abide by, the Child Safety Code of Conduct when engaged with children and young people within the Parish of Ascot Vale.

| Declaration | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|------|
| Name (please print) | Signature | Date |
| | | / / |
| Address: | | |
| | | |
| Name of witness (please print) | Signature | Date |
| | | / / |

November 2020
Parish of Ascot Vale
ascotvale@cam.org.au

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