



## Child Safety Code of Conduct

### Purpose

- Our Child Safety Code of Conduct sets out the expected behaviour of adults with children and young people in our school.
- All Northern School for Autism 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).
- Northern School for Autism 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 Child Safety 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 and professional standards, codes or ethics as these apply to staff and other personnel.
- The Principal and school leaders of Northern School for Autism will support implementation and monitoring of the Child Safety Code of Conduct, and will plan, implement and monitor arrangements to provide inclusive, safe and orderly schools and other learning environments. The Principal and school leaders of Northern School for Autism will also provide information and support to enable the Child Safety Code of Conduct to operate effectively.

### Acceptable Behaviours

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

- Upholding the Northern School for Autism statement of commitment to child safety at all times as included in the Child Safety 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 (LGBTIQA+) 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.

**Reservoir Campus**  
16-18 Gertz Avenue  
RESERVOIR VIC 3073  
Phone: (03) 9462 5990  
Fax: (03) 9460 8058

**Lalor Campus**  
2-4 Lyndon Street  
LALOR VIC 3075  
Phone: (03) 9464 3480  
Fax: (03) 9464 4713

[northern.sch.autism@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:northern.sch.autism@education.vic.gov.au)  
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## Northern School for Autism

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- 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 <https://www.northernautism.vic.edu.au/policies-protocols> 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 Northern School for Autism, 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 Northern School for Autism 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 Northern School for Autism Child Safety Code of Conduct must be reported to the principal and/or assistant principal/s.

If the breach or suspected breach relates to the principal, contact the NWVR Manager David Browne (03) 9056 5187.

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## References:

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/child-safe-standards/policy>

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/childprotection/Pages/default.aspx>

## Review and Approval

<b>Created date</b>	<b>29 Oct 2024</b>
<b>Consultation</b>	1/11/24 Newsletter asking for Parent and Community feedback 31/11/24 sent to School Council for Consultation
<b>Endorsed by</b>	NSA School Council
<b>Endorsed on</b>	
<b>Next review date</b>	29 Oct 2026 <i>This policy will be reviewed every two years as part of the VRQA requirements, if an incident occurs or if guidelines change.</i>

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