



## Student Child Safety and Wellbeing Code of Conduct

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*This code of conduct should be read in conjunction with the full suite of policies and procedures that collectively form the School's Child Safety and Wellbeing Program.*

If you are a non-English speaker who needs help to understand this policy, please contact the Administration Office on 03 8779 7500.

### Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and Wellbeing

*All children and young people who come to Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar School ("Strathcona") have a right to feel and be safe. We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. We are committed to providing a child safe and child friendly environment, where children and young people are safe and feel safe and are able to actively participate in decisions that affect their lives.*

*We have a zero tolerance for child abuse and other harm (including discrimination and racism) and are committed to acting in students' best interests and keeping them safe from harm.*

*The School regards its child safety and wellbeing responsibilities with the utmost importance and is committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure compliance with all relevant child protection laws and regulations and maintaining a child safe culture.*

*Each member of the School community has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role that they play individually, and collectively, to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all students is at the forefront of all that they do, and every decision that they make.*

### Purpose

At Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar School ("Strathcona") we recognise that effective learning can only occur in a secure environment where the dignity, rights and responsibilities of others are known and respected and where standards and rules are fairly and consistently applied.

The [Student Child Safety and Wellbeing Code of Conduct](#) has been developed to clearly set out standards of behaviour related to child safety and wellbeing that students are expected to abide by.

### Scope

If you are enrolled as a student at the School, you must follow the [Student Child Safety and Wellbeing Code of Conduct](#).

It does not matter:

- how old you are
- whether you attend the School full-time, part-time or otherwise.



You must follow it whenever you are:

- in a school environment (school environments include physical, virtual and online environments, as well as any place where school-related activities are occurring); or
- wearing your school uniform or can otherwise be identified as a school student.

## Roles and Responsibilities

Roles and responsibilities relevant to the [Student Child Safety and Wellbeing Code of Conduct](#) are set out in the [Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy](#), available on our public [website](#).

In addition, the Deputy Principal – Learning and Teaching together with the Dean of Students, are responsible for:

- developing and consulting with students about the [Student Child Safety and Wellbeing Code of Conduct](#)
- helping students to understand and comply with the [Student Child Safety and Wellbeing Code of Conduct](#).

## Strathcona's Values

You **must** uphold the School's values.

Strathcona aspires to be a nurturing learning community that develops intellectually curious, optimistic, life-ready young women who are empowered to shape their future in a rapidly changing world. Each student is valued as an individual. The School's motto is Fortiter, Fideliter, Feliciter ('Bravely, Faithfully, Happily'). The core values of Strathcona are respect, integrity, compassion, courage and empowerment.

## Students' Rights

You have the right to:

- attend Strathcona, learn and attain knowledge;
- use school facilities and resources for learning and educational purposes;
- feel safe, protected and valued at all times in all physical, virtual and online School environments during or outside of school hours;
- be involved and freely contribute to decisions that affect your lives;
- express your views freely so long as it does not affect the rights of others;
- have your views and opinions taken seriously;
- be treated with kindness, free from bullying, discrimination and harassment;
- be taught as individuals and respected for your diversity (irrespective of your age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, cultural background, political beliefs, sexual orientation, disability and socioeconomic status);
- participate freely and be included in all educational activities, programs and events provided by the School;
- raise concerns and make complaints to the School without fear of being victimised;
- access and contribute to School policies and procedures that affect you, including this Code of Conduct
- privacy and have your personal, sensitive and health information kept confidential in accordance with the School's [Privacy Policy](#), except as otherwise provided by law;



- procedural fairness in assessments and when being disciplined;
- receive special care, support, counselling, guidance and advice for personal, social, educational, career, and vocational development.

## Students' Responsibilities

You **must**:

- follow the School rules and relevant policies, as well as the directions of teachers and staff
- uphold the core values of the School and behave in a safe and responsible manner at all times in all physical, virtual and online School environments during or outside of school hours;
- be responsible ambassadors when representing the School within the community and when on social media;
- treat others with respect and fairness;
- listen to and value the opinion of others;
- consider your responsibilities and the consequences when exercising your freedom of expression;
- respect the privacy of others;
- use School property and resources, including information and communication technology resources, cooperatively, legally, sustainably, ethically and appropriately;
- participate co-operatively in all School activities and listen to all reasonable instructions;
- achieve at your own individual level and be challenged and supported, knowing that support is available;
- be active participants in your learning and allow others to learn without disruption or interference;
- not engage in unlawful behaviour;
- not engage in bullying, discrimination and harassment of others;
- not endanger, or potentially endanger, the physical safety or mental health of others;
- raise issues or concerns with the School in a timely manner;
- report a breach of the Code of Conduct if you reasonably believe that you have observed a breach;
- report any child safety and wellbeing concerns to a Child Safety and Wellbeing Officer, your teacher, Head of House, Year Level Coordinator or any other trusted adult;
- comply with any reasonable request or directions from the School with regard to safety or compliance with this Code of Conduct.

## Consulting with Students About the Student Child Safety and Wellbeing Code of Conduct

The School uses a variety of strategies to consult with students when developing and reviewing the [Student Child Safety and Wellbeing Code of Conduct](#). These may include surveys, discussion groups, consultation with the student representative body or other means.

## Raising Concerns About Safety

If you are concerned that a child, young person or student aged 18 or over is in immediate danger, call the Police on 000.

Any person, including students, can at any time, contact DFFH Child Protection if they are concerned about the wellbeing of a child aged under 17.

You can do this by:

- during business hours (8:45am-5:00pm, Monday to Friday), contacting the Child Protection intake service for the local government area where the child resides, listed [here](#)
- after hours, telephoning 13 12 78.

If you are concerned about your safety, or the behaviour of others, it's important that you tell a trusted adult. This could be a parent or carer, a trusted teacher or a School Child Safety and Wellbeing Officer.

Our Staff are committed to ensuring that all students feel empowered to speak up and be heard. Staff will take your concerns seriously. They will also ensure that you receive ongoing support.

The School provides all students with information about and encourages them to use multiple pathways to raise child safety concerns about or at the School, including concerns about the behaviour of other students.

You can raise concerns informally, formally or through external child advocacy or child safety organisations.

A child-friendly version of our [Child Safety and Wellbeing Complaints Management Policy](#), which explains these different pathways, is available on Policy Connect and maple.

## Implementation

The [Student Child Safety and Wellbeing Code of Conduct](#) is:

- published on the student policy page on our intranet

The School provides a child-friendly version of the [Student Child Safety and Wellbeing Code of Conduct](#), found on the student policy page on our intranet, to all students.

## Breach

If you breach the [Student Child Safety and Wellbeing Code of Conduct](#), or other School rules or policies, the School will follow the [Student Behaviour Management \(Discipline\) Policy](#) and may discipline you, but it will also support you to address behaviours that are not in line with the Code and to mitigate any underlying factors.

## Source of Obligation

- Victorian Child Safe Standards, Standard 3
- Ministerial Order 1359, Clause 6



## Policy Review

The School Board has strategically delegated aspects of its child safety and wellbeing policy review responsibilities to the School executive team, to support operational efficiency in policy development, while retaining ultimate oversight and approval authority for the Child Safety and Wellbeing Program.

All policies and procedures that make up the Child Safety and Wellbeing Program will be reviewed by the relevant approval authorities (School Board or executive team) **at least once every 2 years** or earlier if required, such as if a significant child safety incident occurs at the School or due to changes in legislation.