

GSCA 1.7

Code of Conduct for Student Protection

Introduction

This Code of Conduct is intended as a guide for the overall care and protection of children and young people associated with schools under the auspices of *Good Samaritan Education (GSE)*. It aims to provide direction for *Good Samaritan Education* when considering activities involving students, both within and outside of *GSE* schools.

The safety and wellbeing of students in *GSE* schools is paramount. The responsibility for the care and protection of students rests with the adults entrusted with this duty.

Adults in this context include *GSE* employees, College staff, contractors, parents and volunteers.

The most effective protection for children and young people is the proactive prevention of harm. This concept of prevention involves due diligence at all levels of activity.

The following list of positive behaviours is not exhaustive but aims to indicate the minimum standards expected of those working with and in Good Samaritan Schools.

Positive Behaviours

1. All adults, as defined above, working with students are to be appropriately credentialled if working in a professional capacity and have relevant working with children certification according to the legal requirements of each State or Territory.
2. Students are to be appropriately supervised at all times. Levels of supervision are dependent upon a number of factors including, but not limited to:
 - (i) the number of students involved in the activity
 - (ii) the degree of complexity or danger associated with the activity
 - (iii) the location of the activity
 - (iv) the age and ability levels of the students
3. All adults are to maintain appropriate adult-student relationships with children and young people. All students are to be treated equitably and perceptions of favouritism are to be avoided.
4. Students are to be encouraged to develop autonomy and independence. All adults must be cognizant of the need to discourage dependency relationships.
5. All adults need to be aware of the necessity to avoid **unnecessary** physical contact. The need for physical contact in a medical emergency or other appropriate circumstances is recognized..
6. Adults should, where practicable, be in the presence of, or have ready access to, another adult when working with or supervising students.
7. All adults should be familiar with relevant *GSE* and College policies/procedures and legislative requirements for reporting concerns about the safety and wellbeing of young people to designated authorities (eg. mandatory reporting requirements)
8. All adults should foster the development of positive relationships amongst the students in their care and should have an awareness of behaviours that may indicate that a student is being bullied and/or victimised and/or abused, physically, emotionally or sexually.

Reporting

An open and aware culture where adults and young people alike feel able to raise their concerns, and can see those concerns are acted upon, is the best protection for children and young people.

Any complaints from students relating to their care and protection must be taken seriously, recorded and reported according to College policies/procedures and legislative requirements relevant to the College in which the student is enrolled. This should be done in a timely manner.

All schools under the auspices of *GSE* should have in place policies, protocols and procedures for the reporting and management of complaints and allegations in accordance with relevant legislation.

Review History

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