

## **The Partnered Catholic Parishes of:**

### **Sacred Heart Diamond Creek, St. Mary's Greensborough & St. Thomas the Apostle Greensborough North**



## **CODE OF CONDUCT DECLARATION**

As part of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy of the Partnered Parishes, clergy, employees and volunteers are required to sign this Code of Conduct Declaration upon their commencement of work or volunteer related activities in the Partnered Parishes of Sacred Heart Diamond Creek, St. Mary's Greensborough and St. Thomas the Apostle Greensborough North and again annually to coincide with the completion of annual child safety training requirements (see the 'Safeguarding Training' section of the Policy).

As part of our commitment to ensure the safety of children and young people, the signing of the Child Safety Code of Conduct Declaration is a requirement prior to a person's engagement within the Partnered Parishes.

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. The Partnered Parishes' clergy, employees and volunteers commit to safeguard the health and wellbeing of children and young people by:

1. Keeping children and young people safe from abuse and harm.
2. Not engaging in any form of child abuse or harm including emotional, physical and sexual abuse or neglect.
3. Avoiding any form of physical punishment or degrading, cruel, frightening or humiliating treatment.
4. Ensuring that physical contact is appropriate, non-intrusive and not sexual in nature.
5. Avoiding the development of relationships with children and young people that can be construed as favouritism and/or grooming.
6. Using respectful language and tone when communicating with children and young people and avoiding language that harms, discourages, frightens or humiliates children and young people.
7. Avoiding language that is sexual, discriminatory or racist in nature including suggestive humour, jokes or innuendo.
8. Creating a physically and psychologically safe environment.
9. Ensuring that an adult is never alone with a child or young person and they do not seek to make contact with a child or young person that places them at risk of abuse.
10. Ensuring that children and young people in their care are appropriately supervised at all times.
11. Using fair, respectful and developmentally appropriate strategies to guide the behaviour of children and young people in a positive manner.

- 12 Ensuring that photographs or video of children and young people are taken with the consent of parents or guardians within the context of a parish.
- 13 Using social media and digital communication in a manner that does not exploit or place children and young people at risk.
- 14 Acting to remove and/or minimise any physical or environmental risks that could adversely impact children and young people.
- 15 Not consuming alcohol or illicit drugs before or while engaging in the care of children and young people or being adversely affected by prescription medication.
- 16 Not supplying alcohol and drugs to children and young people.
- 17 Immediately notify the Parish Priest if the nature of their engagement in the Partnered Parishes is subject to a criminal history record check, if charged or convicted with a criminal offence.
- 18 Supporting cultural safety and inclusion.
- 19 Promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of children and young people.
- 20 Supporting the inclusion of children and young people with a disability; from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; same-sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse children and young people; and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.
- 21 Promoting respectful relationships.
- 22 Engaging in positive and respectful interactions with children and young people that upholds their rights and dignity.
- 23 Listening to and respecting the views of children and young people.
- 24 Taking action to safeguard children and young people.
- 25 Listening to and responding supportively to the concerns of children and young people in relation to their safety.
- 26 Reporting 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, consistent with the requirements of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy.

*I have read, and agree to abide by, the Child Safety Code of Conduct when engaged with children and young people within the Partnered Parishes.*

**Declaration**

Name .....

(please print)

Signature Date ..... / .....

Address: .....

Name of witness .....

(please print)

Signature Date ..... / .....