

Code of Conduct for

St Mary's, Catholic Parish, Cowes.

Incorporating St. Mary's, Cowes, St. Joseph's, Bass and Star of the Sea, San Remo.

All Parish staff, volunteers and contractors to St. Mary's parish are required to observe child safe principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children, as noted below.

All staff, volunteers of and contractors to St Mary's, St Joseph's, and Star of the Sea are responsible for supporting the safety, participation, wellbeing and empowerment of children by:

1. upholding St Mary's, St Joseph's, Star of the Sea Parish Statement of Commitment to Child Safety at all time
2. taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
3. treating everyone with respect
4. listening and responding to the views and concerns of children, particularly if they are telling you that they or another child has been abused and/or are worried about their safety or the safety of another
5. promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of all children
6. ensuring as far as practicable that adults are not left alone with a child
7. reporting any allegations of child abuse to St Mary's Parish Child Safety Officer [Alan O'Connor 0407 548 087 or Roger Breen 0413 311 824], and ensure any allegation is reported to the police or child protection
8. reporting any child safety concerns to St Mary's Parish Child Safety Officer [Alan O'Connor 0407 548 087 or Roger Breen 0413 311 824]
9. if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensure as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe.

Staff and volunteers must not:

1. develop any 'special' relationships with children that could be seen as favouritism (for example, the offering of gifts or special treatment for specific children)
2. exhibit behaviours with children which may be construed as unnecessarily physical (for example sitting on laps.)
3. put children at risk of abuse (for example, by locking doors)
4. engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children (for example, personal social activities)
5. use inappropriate language in the presence of children
6. express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of children
7. discriminate against any child
8. ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse.

Parents or guardians must:

Supervise their child who uses the outside toilet at the rear of each of our churches.

By observing these standards you acknowledge your responsibility to immediately report any breach of this code to St Mary's Parish Child Safety Officer [Alan O'Connor 0407 548 087 or Roger Breen 0413 311 824].

If you believe a child is at immediate risk of abuse phone 000.

I agree to adhere to this Code of Conduct:

Name:

Signature.....

Date.....