



# St Andrew's Cathedral School

## Volunteer Code of Conduct

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| <b>Purpose</b>  | Volunteers are a valuable part of the St Andrew's Cathedral School (the School) community and volunteer work assists us to provide an extensive and rich educational programme. The nature of volunteer work at the school, often involving work and interaction with children, means that there are a range of obligations and responsibilities which must be undertaken by volunteers.  |
| <b>Overview</b> | <p>This Code of Conduct is intended to be made available to the School's volunteers at the commencement of their role and it is to be available and/or provided to volunteers during the course of their involvement with the School. The Code forms comprehensive directions to all volunteers as to the expected standard of behaviour</p> <p>The aim of this document is to outline the standards of behaviour expected of all volunteers at the School. It does not attempt to provide a detailed and exhaustive list of what to do in every aspect of your role.</p> |
| <b>Scope</b>    | <p>This Code of Conduct applies to all volunteers at the School.</p> <p>Except where otherwise specified, "Volunteers" in this document refers to both teaching and non-teaching volunteers employed by the School.</p> <p>This document should be read in conjunction with any other relevant St Andrew's Cathedral School Policies and Guidelines.</p>  |

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| <b>Contact Officer</b>  | <i>Director of Staffing Services</i>   |
| <b>Date Approved</b>  | <i>August 2014</i>   |
| <b>Approval Authority</b>   | <i>School Executive</i>  |
| <b>Date of Commencement</b>   | <i>August 2014</i>   |
| <b>Date for Next Review</b>   | <i>18 August 2020</i>  |
| <b>Related Policies, Procedures, Guidelines, Forms or Templates</b> | <i>Child Protection Policy; Discrimination Harassment &amp; Bullying Policy; Grievance Procedure; Privacy Policy; Work Health &amp; Safety Statement</i> |



ST ANDREW'S  
CATHEDRAL  
SCHOOL  
FOUNDED 1885



## Acknowledgement of St Andrew's Cathedral School Volunteer Code of Conduct and Volunteer Fact Sheet

Please read the following St Andrew's Cathedral School Volunteer Code of Conduct and Volunteer Fact Sheet and sign below to acknowledge you have read the information.

I \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please write name in full)

have read, understood and agree to comply with the terms of this St Andrew's Cathedral School Volunteer Code of Conduct and Volunteer Fact Sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

## **Foreword**

Welcome to St Andrew's Cathedral School. On behalf of the School Executive, staff and students, I want to thank you for your interest in and involvement with the School as a volunteer.

Reaching the School's goal of nurturing the heart to educate the mind, for each student, requires a community-wide effort. In addition to the commitment of our teachers, administrators and support staff, we must have strong community partnerships. School volunteers play a critical role in this effort.

The School's outstanding volunteer programmes serve students in a variety of ways, from Kindergarten through to High School. Volunteers are true partners in our School.

Thank you in advance for helping us to increase the quality and effectiveness of the education our children and young adults deserve. I look forward to working closely with you as we unite to serve our children and young adults.

**Dr John Collier**

**Head of School**

### Who has to comply with this Code of Conduct?

By accepting a volunteer role with the School, you must be aware of and comply with this *Code*.

Therefore, you must:

- (a) conduct yourself in a manner that upholds the ethos and reputation of the School;
- (b) comply with the School's policies and procedures;
- (c) act ethically and responsibly; and
- (d) be accountable for your actions and decisions.

### Volunteers

Volunteers working within the School must be aware of this *Code* and conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the conduct described in it. Conduct that is not consistent with the conduct set out in this *Code* may result in the volunteer role being terminated.

### General

This *Code* is not intended to be contractual in nature and does not impose any contractual obligations on the School. The School reserves the right at its sole discretion to vary or cancel this *Code* at any time.

As a volunteer, you should be aware of the School's policies and procedures, particularly those that apply to your role. Many of these are available online; others may be made available to you through induction programs or on request.

If you are uncertain about the scope or content of a policy with which you must comply, you should seek clarification from your supervisor.

You should also be familiar with the legislation under which you are engaged as this may specify requirements with which you need to comply.

## 1. What is expected of you as a volunteer?

As a School Volunteer, you are expected to:

- (a) perform your duties to the best of your ability and be accountable for your performance;
- (b) follow reasonable instructions given by your supervisor or their delegate;
- (c) comply with lawful directions;
- (d) be courteous and responsive in dealing with staff, students, parents and members of the public;
- (e) work collaboratively with staff and your colleagues; and
- (f) ensure that your conduct is consistent with the ethos of the School and does not damage the reputation of the School.

## 2. What happens if I breach the Code of Conduct?

As a School volunteer, you hold a position of trust and are accountable for your actions.

2.1 The consequences of inappropriate behaviour and breaches of this *Code* will depend on the nature of the breach.

2.2 Actions that may be taken by the School in respect of a breach of the Code include disciplinary actions ranging from a warning to termination of the volunteer role. The school will reserve the right to determine in its entirety the response to any breach of this Code.

### 3. Required Reporting

Volunteers are required to report certain information to the School.

3.1 All volunteers are required to inform the Head of School if they are charged with or convicted of a serious offence (those punishable by 12 months or more in jail). You must also inform the Head of School/s if you become the subject of an Apprehended Violence Order.

3.2 If, through your volunteer role with the School, you become aware of a serious crime committed by another person, you are required to report it to the Head of School, who may be required to inform the police.

3.3 As a School volunteer, you must report to the Head of School:

- (a) any concerns that you may have about the safety, welfare and well being of a child or young person;
- (b) any concerns you may have about the inappropriate actions of any other staff member, contractor or volunteer that involves children or young people;
- (c) any concerns you may have about any other staff member, contractor or volunteer engaging in 'reportable conduct' or any allegation of 'reportable conduct' that has been made to you; and
- (d) if you become aware that a staff member, contractor or volunteer has been charged with or convicted of an offence (including a finding of guilt without the court proceeding to a conviction) involving 'reportable conduct'; and
- (e) if you become the subject of allegations of 'reportable conduct' whether or not they relate to your role in the School.

You should refer to the ***St Andrew's Cathedral School Child Protection Policy*** for further information about these obligations.

### 4. Respect for People

The School expects volunteers to treat all others with respect and courtesy. Our daily interaction with others reflects on the School's reputation.

4.1 Volunteers who work with students have a special responsibility in presenting themselves as appropriate role models for those students. Modelling effective leadership and respect in your interactions with students can have a profoundly positive influence on a student's personal and social development.

4.2 Similarly, it is important for you to treat your colleagues, all staff, contractors, students and parents with respect. Rude or insulting behaviour, including verbal and non-verbal

aggression, abusive, threatening, intimidating or derogatory language and physical abuse or intimidation towards staff, contractors, students and parents is unacceptable. You must not use information and communication technologies, such as email, mobile phones, text or instant messaging, blogs, social media sites and other websites to engage in this type of behaviour.

4.3 You must not discriminate against, or harass for any unlawful reason, or bully for any reason any staff member, contractor, student or parent. Your obligations in this regard, including the list of unlawful reasons, are set out in the School's ***Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Policy***. Unlawful harassment or discrimination may constitute an offence under the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1977* or federal discrimination legislation. Bullying may be a breach of your obligations under your duty of care at common law.

4.4 You should ensure that you are aware of the School's ***Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Policy***. If you believe you are being unlawfully harassed or discriminated against or bullied:

- (a) where you feel comfortable ask the person to stop, or make it clear that you find the behaviour offensive or unwelcome. It may be useful to speak with your supervisor in the first instance to seek guidance on how to do this; and/or
- (b) raise the issue as a grievance in accordance with the School's ***Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Policy*** as soon as possible after the incident(s) have occurred.

4.5 The School takes reports of unlawful discrimination and harassment or bullying seriously and will consider action it considers appropriate if such conduct is found to have occurred including disciplining or dismissing offenders. Many incidents can be addressed effectively if reported early.

4.6 If you lie about or exaggerate a complaint, the School will view this as a very serious matter, and you may be asked not to continue in your volunteer role.

## 5. Duty of Care and Work Health and Safety

As a School Volunteer you have a duty of care to students in your charge to take all reasonable steps to protect students from risks of harm that can be reasonably predicted.

### Duty of care

5.1 As a School Volunteer, you have a duty of care to students in your care. That duty is to take all reasonable steps to protect students from risks of harm that can be reasonably predicted. For example, risks from known hazards and from foreseeable risk situations against which preventative measures can be taken. The standard of care that is required, for example the degree of supervision, needs to be commensurate with the students' maturity and ability.

5.2 Duty of care to students applies during all activities and functions conducted or arranged by the School for which you are engaged as a volunteer helper. The risks associated with any activity need to be assessed and managed before the activity is undertaken. This Risk Assessment will be conducted by the supervising teacher/staff

member. You should familiarise yourself with Risk Assessments which have been conducted for any activity in which you are involved.

### **Work health and safety**

5.3 You also have a responsibility under work health and safety legislation to take care of your own health and safety whilst in a volunteer role. It is also your responsibility to ensure that your activities do not place at risk the health and safety of staff, students or other persons that you may come into contact with whilst in the role.

5.4 Considerations of safety relate to both physical and psychological wellbeing of individuals.

5.5 You should ensure that you are aware of the School's **Work Health & Safety Policy**.

### **Supervision of students**

5.6 You should take all reasonable steps to ensure that no student is exposed to any unnecessary risk of injury.

5.7 You should be familiar with and comply with the School's evacuation and lockdown procedures.

5.8 You should be alert to bullying or any other form of discriminatory behaviour, and report incidents to a staff member.

5.9 Ill or injured students should be attended to by the supervising staff member. Should additional assistance be required you should contact **the School's staff who have first aid qualifications**.

5.10 Administration of prescribed medication to students should only be undertaken by staff and in accordance with school policy.

## **5. Professional Relationships between Volunteers and Students.**

As a School volunteer you are expected to always behave in ways that promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and young people. You must actively seek to prevent harm to children and young people, and to support those who have been harmed.

While not all volunteers are required to manage and supervise students, it is important for all School volunteers to understand and observe the School's child protection policies.

### **Supervision of students**

6.1 You should avoid situations where you are alone in an enclosed space with a student. Where you are left with the responsibility of a single student you should ensure that this is in an open space in view of others. Where this is not possible or practical it should be discussed with your supervisor.

6.2 You should never drive a student in your car unless you have specific permission from your supervisor and/or students parents to do so. In the event of an emergency you should exercise discretion but then report the matter to your supervisor.

6.3 If you wish to conduct a private conversation with a student you should consider the time and venue carefully to avoid placing yourselves in a vulnerable situation. It is preferable to leave the door open. You should not locate yourself between the student and the door.

6.4 When confiscating personal items, such as mobile phones or hats, ask students to hand them to you. Only take items directly from students in circumstances where concern exists for the safety of the student or others and your own safety is not jeopardised by this action.

### **Physical contact with students**

6.5 You must not impose physical punishment on a student in the course of your volunteer duties.

6.6 When physical contact with a student is a necessary part of the volunteer/learning experience you must exercise caution to ensure that the contact is appropriate and acceptable. You should seek reassurance from the student by asking for a student if necessary to demonstrate a particular activity.

6.7 Attention to the toileting needs of young children should be done with caution. It may be appropriate to have the door open. For students with a disability the management of toileting needs should be included in the student's individual management plan.

6.8 When congratulating a student, a handshake, pat on the shoulder or brief hug are acceptable as long as the student is comfortable with this action. Kissing of students is not acceptable.

6.9 Assessing a student who is injured or ill may necessitate touching the student. Always advise the student of what you intend doing and seek their consent.

6.10 Sometimes in ensuring duty of care you may be required to restrain a student from harming him or herself or others using reasonable force. Any such strategy must be in keeping with the School's behaviour management practices or individual student management plans. Your supervising teacher should have this information. You should report and document any such incidents.

### **Relationships with students**

6.11 You must not have a romantic or sexual relationship with a student. It is irrelevant whether the relationship is homosexual or heterosexual, consensual or non-consensual or condoned by parents or caregivers. You are reminded of:

- (a) the law prohibiting sexual relations with a person under the age of consent (16 years); and
- (b) the law prohibiting sexual relations between a teacher and their student under the age of 18 years.

6.12 You must not develop a relationship with any student (other than your own child) that is, or that can be interpreted as having a personal rather than a professional interest in a student. An overly familiar relationship with any student (including any adult student) that you are responsible for supervising, tutoring, advising, assessing, or for whom you provide pastoral or welfare support raises serious questions of conflict of interest, trust, confidence, dependency, and of equality of treatment. Such relationships may also have a negative impact on the teaching and learning environment for other students and staff, and may carry a serious reputational risk for



the School.

6.13 If you consider that a student is being overly familiar, seeking to establish a personal relationship with you or has developed a 'crush' on you, you should report your concerns to your supervisor as soon as possible so that a plan can be developed to manage the situation effectively and sensitively.

6.14 At all times when speaking with students care must be taken to use appropriate language. You must always treat students with respect and without favouritism. There is no place for sarcasm, derogatory remarks, inappropriate familiarity or offensive comments.

6.15 If you engage in discussion with students. you must be cautious about making personal comments about a student or asking questions that probe your own or a student's sexuality or relationships. You must not hold conversations with a student of an intimately personal nature where you disclose information about yourself.

6.16 You must not:

- (a) invite students to your home;
- (b) visit students at their home;

unless you have the express permission of their parents or care giver or you are doing so as a normal part of your parent relationship to your child.

6.17 You should be aware of, and sensitive to, children with culturally diverse or indigenous backgrounds and cultural practices that may influence the interpretation of your behaviour.

### **Child protection**

6.18 You must be aware of and comply with the School's ***Child Protection Policy***.

6.19 As set out in **Section 3** you must report any concerns you may have about any employee, contractor or volunteer engaging in 'reportable conduct' or any allegation of 'reportable conduct' that has been made to you to the Head of School. This includes self disclosure if the allegation involves you.

6.20 Broadly, 'reportable conduct' includes:

- (a) any sexual offence, or sexual misconduct, committed against, with, or in the presence of, a child (including a child pornography offence); or
- (b) any assault, ill-treatment or neglect of a child; or
- (c) any behaviour that causes psychological harm to a child, whether or not the child consents.

6.21 Reportable conduct does not extend to:

- (a) conduct that is reasonable for the purposes of the discipline, management or care of children, having regard to the age, maturity, health or other characteristics of the children and to any relevant codes of conduct or professional standards, or
- (b) the use of physical force that, in all the circumstances, is trivial or negligible, but only if the matter is to be investigated and the result of the investigation recorded under workplace employment procedures; or
- (c) conduct that is exempted from notification by a Class or Kind Agreement<sup>1</sup>.

6.22 For further information about 'reportable conduct' see the School's ***Child Protection Policy***.

<sup>1</sup> A Class or Kind Agreement is an agreement between the Ombudsman and an agency (eg the Association of Independent Schools of NSW on behalf of its member schools) that allows for certain kinds of less serious reportable conduct to be exempted from notification to the Ombudsman but the Head of Agency must still conduct a workplace investigation.

## 7. Appropriate use of electronic communication and social networking sites

By its nature, electronic communication is a fast and informal way of communicating. However, once a document or image has been sent there is no way to recall it and it exists forever. Be mindful of this when using this as a means of communicating.

7.1 You must never use the School's networks to view, upload, download or circulate any of the following materials:

- (a) sexually related or pornographic messages or material;
- (b) violent or hate-related messages or material;
- (c) racist or other offensive messages aimed at a particular group or individual;
- (d) malicious, libellous or slanderous messages or material; or
- (e) subversive or other messages or material related to illegal activities.

## 8. Use of Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco

Workplace Health and Safety is of fundamental importance to the School. Maintaining a safe work environment requires everyone's continuous cooperation.

8.1 You are responsible for ensuring your capacity to perform your volunteer duties is not impaired by the use of alcohol or drugs and that the use of such substances does not put at risk you or any other person's health and safety.

8.2 As a School Volunteer, you must:

- (a) not attend the school under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs or nonprescribed and/or restricted substances;
- (b) not consume \*alcohol, illegal drugs or non-prescribed and/or restricted substances while at the school (\*alcohol may be consumed at school only when no students are present on the site and with the express permission of the Head of School).
- (c) notify your supervisor if you are aware that your work performance or conduct could be adversely affected as a result of the effect of a prescribed drug;
- (e) consult with your supervisor or Head of School if you are concerned about working with other volunteers or staff who may be affected by drugs or alcohol.

### Drugs

8.3 As a School Volunteer, you must not:

- (a) have illegal drugs in your possession while on the premises. Any illegal drugs found on School property or in the possession of any person on School

property may result in disciplinary action including the termination of your volunteer position and referral to the Police;

- (b) give students, other volunteers or staff illegal drugs or restricted substances, or encourage or condone their use; and
- (c) supply or administer prescription or non-prescription drugs to students unless authorised to do so.

### **Alcohol**

8.4 You must not, whilst volunteering, take alcohol to the School or consume it during School hours or at any School function at any time School students are present, including those events conducted outside School premises unless expressly permitted to do so by the Head of School. A School function is any occasion organised by the School and/or in the School's name, including dances, farewells, excursions, sporting fixtures and fund raising events.

8.5 You must not:

- (a) purchase alcohol for, or give alcohol to, any School student (or to any other person under the age of 18 years); and
- (b) encourage or condone the use of alcohol by students of any age during educational activities.

### **Tobacco**

8.6 You must not smoke or permit smoking in any School buildings, enclosed area or on School grounds. This includes all buildings, gardens, sports fields, cars and car parks.

8.7 You must not purchase tobacco or tobacco products for any School student, or give them tobacco or tobacco products.

## **9. Communication and protecting confidential information**

### **Communication**

9.1 You should not disclose personal information about other volunteers or staff members to students or parents or discuss their work performance, except if authorised by the Head of School in the context of grievance resolution.

### **Confidential information**

9.2 As a School Volunteer, you must only use confidential information for the school - related purpose it was intended.

9.3 Unless authorised to do so by legislation, you must not disclose or use any confidential information without **the express permission of the Head of School**.

9.4 You must make sure that confidential information, in any form, cannot be accessed by unauthorised people.

### **Privacy**

9.5 You should always exercise caution and sound judgment in discussing the personal information of students, parents, staff and other people with other School volunteers or employees. Normally information should be limited to those who need to know in order to conduct their duties, or to those who can assist in carrying out the School's work because of their expertise.