CHILD SAFETY CODE OF CONDUCT

Purpose:

Our Child Safety Code of Conduct sets out the expected behaviour of adults with children and young people in our College.

All The Lakes South Morang College staff, volunteers, contractors, service providers, College council members and any other adult involved in child-connected work must follow the Child Safety Code of Conduct.

The Child Safety Code of Conduct applies to all physical and online environments used by students. It also applies during or outside of College hours and in other locations provided by the College for student use (for example, a College camp).

Acceptable behaviours:

As The Lakes South Morang College, staff, volunteers, contractors, and any other member of our College community involved in child-connected work, we are responsible for supporting and promoting the safety of children by:

- upholding our The Lakes South Morang College commitment to child safety at all times and adhering to our Child Safety and Wellbeing
- treating students and families in our College community with respect in our College environment and outside our College environment as part of normal social and community activities
- listening and responding to the views and concerns of students, particularly if they disclose that they or another child or student has been abused or are worried about their safety or the safety of another child or student
• promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal students, students with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, students with a disability, international students, students who are unable to live at home and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LQBTIQ+) students

• ensuring, as far as practicable, that adults are not alone with a student – one-to-one interactions between an adult and a student are to be in an open space or in line of sight of another adult.

• reporting any allegations of child abuse or other child safety concerns to the Principal.

• understanding and complying with all reporting and disclosure obligations (including mandatory reporting) in line with our child safety responding and reporting policy and procedures and the PROTECT Four Critical Actions.

• if child abuse is suspected, ensuring as quickly as possible that the student(s) are safe and protected from harm.

Unacceptable behaviours:

As The Lakes South Morang College, staff, volunteers, contractors and member of our College community involved in child-connected work we must not:

• ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions or disclosures of child abuse or harm

• develop a relationship with any student that could be seen as favouritism or amount to ‘grooming’ behaviour (for example, by offering gifts)

• display behaviours or engage with students in ways that are not justified by the educational or professional context

• ignore an adult’s overly familiar or inappropriate behaviour towards a student

• discuss intimate topics or use sexualised language, except when needed to deliver the College curriculum or professional guidance

• treat a child or student unfavourably because of their disability, age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality or ethnicity
communicate directly with a student through personal or private contact channels (including by social media, email, instant messaging, texting etc) except where that communication is reasonable in all the circumstances, related to Collegework or extra-curricular activities or where there is a safety concern or other urgent matter

- photograph or video a child or student in a College environment except in accordance with the Photographing, Filming and Recording Students policy or where required for duty of care purposes

- consume alcohol against College policy or take illicit drugs in the College environment or at College events where students are present

- have contact with any student outside of College hours except when needed to deliver the College curriculum or professional guidance and parental permission has been sought.

**Breaches to the Child Safety Code of Conduct:**

All The Lakes South Morang College staff, volunteers, contractors and any other member of the College community involved in child-connected work who breach this Child Safety Code of Conduct may be subject to disciplinary procedures in accordance with their employment agreement or relevant industrial instrument, professional code or terms of engagement.

In instances where a reportable allegation has been made, the matter will be managed in accordance with the Department of Education and Training Reportable Conduct Scheme Policy and may be subject to referral to Victoria Police.

All breaches and suspected breaches of the The Lakes South Morang College Child Safety Code of Conduct must be reported to the principal.

If the breach or suspected breach relates to the principal, contact The Department of Education and Training.
Policy review and approval:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy last reviewed:</th>
<th>April 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consulted with:</td>
<td>College Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved by:</td>
<td>College Principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next scheduled review date:</td>
<td>April 2024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>