

Outside School Hours Care

Staff Code of Conduct

Quality Area 4.2: Staffing Arrangements

Rationale:

The Education and Care Services National Regulations require Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care to have policies and procedures in relation to staffing, including a code of conduct. The National Quality Standard requires educators at Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care to be respectful and ethical at all times.

The purpose of this Code of Professional Conduct is to promote professionalism, confidentiality and ethical conduct, and to inform children and families, and the community, of the standard of professional conduct they can expect the Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care to uphold.

Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care uses this code as a basis for evaluating professional conduct, and as a reference tool for the thought processes that inform pedagogy, including actions and reactions towards professional conduct, relationships, views, influence and position within communities and society.

The professional team, to which this code applies, includes the School Council, Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care Management Sub-committee, OSHC Coordinator and all educators and volunteers. This policy has been developed in accordance with Seville Primary School Staff Code of Conduct values of integrity, respect and responsibility.

Policy Statement:

Values

Seville Primary School Out of School Hours Care is committed to:

- A code of professional conduct.
- Upholding ethical principles.
- Professional standards that guide decision-making and practice
- Observe child safe principles and expectations.
- A system of ethical inquiry to provide a basis for reflection on how to relate to and contribute to the education and care community in which it actively participates.

Standards of Professional Conduct

The professional conduct of the staff team at Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care in relation to one another, the children and their families, the community, and the sector is based on the following set of expected standards of professional conduct:

- Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care will administer an approved education and care service in compliance with legislation including the Education and Care Services National Law, professional standards and best practice.
- Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care will provide a program within a family- and child-centred context.
- Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care will engage in reflective, ethical, and sustainable decision-making.

The Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics (2016) will be used to provide a framework for reflection about the ethical responsibilities of educators.

The Code of Conduct for Victorian Public Sector Employees (2007) will be used to affirm the public accountability of all staff.

These standards should be read in conjunction with:

- Early Childhood Australia's Code of Ethics (2016)
- The Code of Conduct for Victorian Public Sector Employees (2007)
- The National Quality Framework document suite, available through the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA)

The Child Safe Standards

The purpose of these standards is to:

- Promote adherence to the values staff see as underpinning their profession.
- Provide a set of principles that will guide staff in their everyday conduct and assist them to solve ethical dilemmas
- Affirm the public accountability of staff at Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care
- Promote confidence and professionalism in staff at Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care Service.

Integrity, Respect and Responsibility

Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care holds a unique position of trust and influence, which is recognised through relationships with children and families, colleagues and the wider community.

Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care demonstrates its integrity by:

- acting in the best interests of children
- maintaining a professional relationship with children and families, colleagues and the community
- behaving in ways that respect and advance our profession.

Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care demonstrates its respect by:

- acting with care and compassion
- treating children fairly and impartially
- holding its colleagues in high regard
- acknowledging families as partners in the education and care of their child.

Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care demonstrates responsibility by:

- providing quality education and care outside of school hours
- maintaining and developing its pedagogy
- working cooperatively with colleagues and community in the best interests of children.

Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics

Early Childhood Australia's Code of Ethics (2006) is an integral part of Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care as it guides educators in the ethical principles and professional standards of conduct towards children, families, colleagues, communities, students, employers, themselves, and in the conduct of research.

The Code of Ethics is referred to widely within the education and care sector, and is highly respected. The Code of Ethics is owned by the field, rather than imposed upon it (ECA 2006).

Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care accepts professional ownership of ECA's Code of Ethics and formally acknowledges that it provides Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care Service with:

- A basis for critical reflection.
- A guide for professional behaviour.
- Principles to inform individual and collective decision-making.

Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care Code of Staff Conduct acknowledges that ECA's Code of Ethics is a valuable tool for empowering families and communities to maintain high expectations of Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care, and for educators to self-assess their professional behaviour. For this reason, the Code will be widely promoted and upheld by all professionals at Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care.

Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care Code of Staff Conduct will be made available in the policy and procedures manual, in staffing publications, and family publications. All Educators are responsible for program planning and documentation and will ensure that the planning and delivery of the program reflects ECA's Code of Ethics.

Child Safety Code of Conduct

All Educators, volunteers and Council members of Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care are required to observe child safe principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children.

All personnel of Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care are responsible for supporting the safety, participation, wellbeing and empowerment of children by:

- Adhering to Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care child safe policy at all times
- Taking reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- Listening and responding to views and concerns of children, particularly if they are telling you that they or another child has been abused and/or worried
- about their safety or the safety of another
- Promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of aboriginal children
- Promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds – zero tolerance on discrimination
- Promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability
- Ensuring as far as practicable adults are not left alone with a child
- Reporting any allegations of child abuse to Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care child safety officer/leadership, and ensure any allegation to be reported to the police or child protection
- Reporting any child safety concerns to Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care child safety officer/leadership
- If an allegation of child abuse is made, ensure as quickly as possible that the child/ren are safe
- Encouraging children to 'have a say' and participate in all relevant organisational activities where possible

Staff and volunteers must not:

- Develop any 'special' relationships with children that could be seen as favouritism
- Exhibit behaviours with children which may be construed as unnecessarily physical (sitting on laps)
- Put children at risk of abuse
- Do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes
- Engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children
- Use inappropriate language in the presence of children
- Express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of children
- Discriminate against any child, including because of culture, race, ethnicity or disability

- Have contact with a child or their family outside of our organisation without our child safety officers knowledge and/or consent
- Have any online contact with a child or their family unless it is necessary OSHC service information
- Ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse
- By observing these standards you acknowledge your responsibility to immediately report any breach of this code to Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care Child Safety Officer/ leadership
- If you believe a child is at immediate risk of abuse phone 000

Code of Conduct for Victorian Public Sector Employees

All employees of the Department of Education and Training are expected to abide by the Code of Conduct for Victorian Public Sector Employees (2007). They must undertake their duties in accordance with government and departmental policies including Ministerial Order 199; Victorian Institute of Teaching Code of Conduct; Victorian Institute of Teaching Code of Ethics; Victorian Government Schools Agreement (2010); Victorian Government Schools - Education Support Officers Agreement (2010).

Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care staff employed centrally through the Department of Education and Training or locally through the School Council, are therefore expected to carry out their role in accordance with the school's code of conduct.

The school code of conduct offers the following principles for Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care staff:

Personal Conduct

- Be positive role models at school.
- Ensure that school meeting norms are adhered to.
- Act with discretion and maintain confidentiality when discussing workplace issues.
- Be civil, courteous and observe fairness and equity in all official dealings with students, the public, other employees at the school and other persons employed by the Department or School Council.
- Maintain a clean and neat appearance and will dress appropriately to their role at the school.
- Report improper conduct.

Professional Competence

- Be knowledgeable in their area of expertise.
- Be committed to pursuing their own professional learning.
- Complete their duties in a responsible, thorough and timely way.
- Be cognizant of their responsibilities in terms of discrimination, harassment, vilification, negligence, mandatory reporting, privacy, occupational health and safety, and duty of care.

Ethical Response Cycle

All employees in the Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care endeavour to ensure that the planning and delivery of the program reflects the School Code of the Ethics and the ECA's Code of Ethics; however, we recognise that every now and then situations present that do not have laws, policies or procedures to guide their resolution.

Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care Service adopts an ethical cycle, which consists of:

- Identifying any legal aspects and community values
- Identifying the facts surrounding an issue.
- Referring to the Seville Primary School Outside School Hours Care Service philosophy, policy and procedures.
- Identifying the ethical principles that are relevant to the issue.
- Forming an opinion based on professional context for the issue, then discussing these opinion with other to decide on how to respond to the issue

- Reflecting on the outcomes to guide the development of consistent way of responding to the issue if it arises again, and documenting the outcomes to inform further development of policies and guidelines that are fair and equitable

Additional and Relevant Documents:

Sources & Legislative References

- Child Safe Standards DEEWR Child Care Service Handbook 2012- 2013– Sections 6.5, 6.6 & 6.7
- Education & Care Services National Law Act 2010 (Vic) Education & Care Services National Regulations (2011)
- National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care & School Age Care (2010)
- Victorian Early Years Learning & Development Framework (2009) Framework for School Age Care in Australia (2012)
- Victorian Child Wellbeing & Safety Act 2005 – Part 2: Principles for Children
- Victorian Public Health & Wellbeing Act 200

Service policies

Interactions with Children
Child Safe Environment
Complaints Policy

Policy evaluation and review

This policy will be reviewed as part of the School's three-year review cycle

This policy was ratified by School Council in Feb 2021.

This policy will be reviewed by School Council in Feb 2023.