



Primary Only	Secondary Only	Combined Policy
Both Campuses	<i>Taylors Hill Only</i>	<i>Mernda only</i>
Policy Type: Welfare		

RATIONALE

Gilson College provides a values-based education which focuses on the development of the whole child and where the home and school work together harmoniously to provide this education. In this context, there is a legislative and moral imperative that there is a zero tolerance for any forms of child abuse and where the school through its teachers provides duty of care, and further takes every precaution to avoid abuse happening. To ensure the health, safety and overall wellbeing of all students, Gilson College will comply with the Child Safe Standards, introduced by Ministerial Order 870.

This Code of Conduct, which is particularly associated with Standard 3 of the Child Safe Standards detailed in Ministerial Order 870, outlines the expected standards for appropriate behaviour with and in the company of children in the school environment. The Code of Conduct is to ensure appropriate behaviour with children in Gilson College and to protect children from abuse. This Code of Conduct does not replace any legislative or regulatory obligations or other professional or occupational codes of conduct that regulate particular staff at the School. For example, the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) Victorian Teaching Profession Codes of Conduct and Ethics provides clarity regarding professional behaviour expected of teachers at all times.

SCOPE

In accordance with the ethos of Seventh-day Adventist Schools (VIC) Ltd (ASV), and to comply with Ministerial Order 870, this Code of Conduct is to be adhered to by members of the Gilson College community, including:

- The Gilson College Council;
- The senior leadership team of the school;
- Teachers and all other staff members;
- Students who are 18+ years old
- Volunteers;
- International Student Homestay Parents/Families;
- Contractors; and
- Other visitors to School's campuses.

IMPLEMENTATION

Appropriate Behaviour

All staff, volunteers, and other adults within the Gilson College community, including students who are 18+ years old, are required to observe 'child safe' principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children, as noted below. All personnel of the School are responsible for supporting the safety, participation, and wellbeing of children by:

- adhering to the School Child Safe Protection Policy at all times and upholding the School Statement of Commitment to child safety at all times
- taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- treating everyone with respect
- listening and responding to the views and concerns of children, particularly if they are reporting that they or another child have been abused and/or are worried about their safety or the safety of another
- guarding the cultural safety, participation and advancement of children who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- guarding the cultural safety, participation and advancement of children with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds (for example, by having a zero tolerance of discrimination)
- guarding the safety, participation and advancement of children with a disability (for example, during personal care activities)
- ensuring as far as practicable that adults are not left alone with a child
- reporting any allegations of child abuse to the Gilson College Child Protection Officers and Leadership team.
- if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensuring as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe
- supporting children to actively participate in all relevant organisational activities where possible, especially concerning issues that are important to them.

Inappropriate Behaviour

Staff, and other adults within the Gilson College community, including students who are 18+ years old, volunteers, contractors, consultants, stakeholders and other personnel must not:

- develop any 'special' relationships with children that could be seen as favouritism (for example, the offering of gifts or special treatment for specific children)
- exhibit behaviours with children which may be construed as unnecessarily physical (for example inappropriate 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 (for example, personal social activities)
- use inappropriate language in the presence of children
- express inappropriate personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of children
- discriminate against any child because of culture, race, ethnicity, gender or disability
- have uninvited (by parent/carer) contact with a child or their family outside of our organisation. Accidental contact, such as seeing people in the street, is appropriate
- have any online or other electronic contact with a child or their family outside of school sponsored websites, such as but not limited to social media, or by phone
- ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse.

Acknowledgement

By observing these standards, you acknowledge your responsibility to immediately report any breach of this Code of Conduct to the College's/ASV leadership.

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:

This policy was shared with Taylors Hill staff Jul, 2017

This policy was shared with Mernda staff Jul, 2017

This policy was checked by ADCOM Jun, 2017

This policy was ratified by the College Council Jun, 2017

This policy was updated Jun, 2019

This policy is due for review by 2021