



Parishes of
Camberwell
Balwyn
Deepdene &
Surrey Hills Wattle Park

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE CODE OF CONDUCT DECLARATION

Welcome to the Code of Conduct for Camberwell, Balwyn Deepdene and Surrey Hills Wattle Park Parishes

The Code of Conduct helps to create a positive, respectful and safe environment by setting expectations in relation to the appropriate behaviour of clergy, employees and volunteers in their interactions with children and young people engaged in programs, activities and events across the parishes. While participating in parish ministry, clergy, employees and volunteers are required to comply with the Code of Conduct and act in a manner that safeguards children and young people from abuse and harm at all times.

Please take the time to read and understand our Code of Conduct. At the conclusion, you will be asked to sign a declaration indicating that you agree to abide by the Code of Conduct.

Please contact the Parish Office if you have any questions or wish to seek clarification on any of the areas covered. Thank you for your assistance.

All clergy, employees and volunteers in the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to upholding a duty of care to all children and young people and taking all reasonable steps to protect children and young people from all forms of abuse and harm. At Camberwell, Balwyn Deepdene and Surrey Hills Wattle Park Parishes, clergy, employees and volunteers commit to safeguard the health and wellbeing of children and young people by:

Keeping children and young people safe from abuse and harm

- Not engage in any form of child abuse or harm including emotional, physical and sexual abuse or neglect.
- Avoid any form of physical punishment or degrading, cruel, frightening or humiliating treatment.
- Ensure that physical contact is appropriate, non-intrusive and not sexual in nature.
- Avoid developing relationships with children and young people that can be construed as favouritism and/or grooming.
- Use respectful language and tone when communicating with children and young people and avoid language that harms, discourages, frightens and humiliates children and young people.
- Avoid language that is sexual, discriminatory and racist in nature including suggestive humour, jokes or innuendo.

Creating a physically and psychologically safe environment

- Ensure that an adult is never alone with a child or young person and they do not seek to make contact with a child or young person that places them at risk of abuse.
- Ensure that children and young people in your care are appropriately supervised at all times.
- Use fair, respectful and developmentally appropriate strategies to guide the behaviour of children and young people in a positive manner.
- Ensure that photographs or video of children and young people are taken with the consent of parents or guardians within the context of the parish, agency or entity activity.
- Use social media and digital communication in a manner that does not exploit or place children and young people at risk.
- Act to remove and/or minimise any physical or environmental risks that could adversely impact children and young people.
- Not consume alcohol or illicit drugs before or while engaging in the care of children and young people or being adversely affected by prescription medication.
- Not supply alcohol and drugs to children and young people.
- Immediately notify the Parish Priest if charged or convicted with a criminal offence (if subject to a criminal history record check in relation to your involvement with a CAM parish, agency or entity).

Supporting cultural safety and inclusion

- Promote the safety, participation and empowerment of children and young people.
- Support the inclusion of children and young people with a disability; from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; same-sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse children and young people; and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

Promoting respectful relationships

- Engage in positive and respectful interactions with children and young people that uphold their rights and dignity.
- Listen to and respect the views of children and young people.

Taking action to safeguard children and young people

- Listen to and respond supportively to the concerns of children and young people in relation to their safety.
- Report any child safety concerns, reports or disclosures to relevant statutory child protection authorities (for example, Child Protection (DHHS), Victoria Police) and the Professional Standards Unit, consistent with the requirements of this Policy.

Please complete

Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct Declaration

I have read, and agree to abide by, the Safeguarding Code of Conduct when engaged with children and young people within the Parishes of Camberwell, Balwyn Deepdene and Surrey Hills Wattle Park in the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.

I agree

To read the Parish Safeguarding Policy and for other resources, visit the [parish website](#).

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Professional Standards Unit
psu@cam.org.au