

CODE OF CONDUCT

QUALITY AREA 4 | VERSION 1.5



AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the approved provider of Greenbrook Kindergarten on 28th August 2025

REVIEW DATE: August 2028



PURPOSE

This policy provides a clear set of guidelines and procedures for Greenbrook Kindergarten to:

- establish the expected standards of behaviour for the approved provider, nominated supervisor, early childhood teachers, educators, other staff, contractors, volunteers, students on placement, parents/guardians and visitors
- create and maintain a child safe environment that reflects the philosophy, beliefs, objectives, and values of Greenbrook Kindergarten
- articulate desirable and appropriate behaviour
- promote interactions at the service and online which are respectful, honest, courteous, sensitive, tactful, and considerate.



POLICY STATEMENT

VALUES

Greenbrook Kindergarten:

- respects the rights of the child and values diversity
- values the contribution of Aboriginal children, children from a culturally and linguistically diverse background and children with a disability
- has zero tolerance of discrimination
- maintains a duty of care (*refer to Definitions*) towards all children at the service
- is committed to the safety and wellbeing of each child at the service
- is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all staff and the members of our service's community
- is committed to supporting staff to act cohesively and ethically as a team and provide an environment that is conducive to children's learning and development
- is committed to implementing The National Model Code procedures and processes
- provides a safe and secure environment for all at the service
- provides an open, welcoming environment in which everyone's contribution is valued and respected
- is committed to communicating openly and honestly
- is committed to continually learning how to be inclusive and respectful of cultural needs
- encourages relationships that are based on the principles of mutual respect, equity and fairness.
- encourages both adults and children to identify and raise concerns through the appropriate channels to maintain a culture of reporting and pro-actively responding to concerns
- encourages volunteers, students, parents/guardians and visitors to support and participate in the program and activities of the service.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the approved provider, persons with management or control, nominated supervisor, persons in day-to-day charge, early childhood teachers, educators, other staff, students, volunteers,

parents/guardians, children and others attending the programs and activities of Greenbrook Kindergarten, including during offsite excursions and activities.

RESPONSIBILITIES	Approved provider and persons with management or control	Nominated supervisor and persons in day-to-day charge	Early childhood teachers, educators and all other staff	Parents/guardians	Contractors, volunteers and students
R indicates legislation requirement, and should not be deleted					
1. Ensuring that copies of the <i>Code of Conduct Policy</i> is readily accessible and available to all staff, volunteers and families	R	√			
2. Providing a safe physical and online environment for everyone attending the programs and activities of Greenbrook Kindergarten	R	R	√		
3. Acting in accordance with Greenbrook Kindergarten child safety and wellbeing policies and procedures at all times.	R	R	R		R
4. Abiding by the <i>Safe Use of Digital Technologies and Online Environment Policy</i> and reading and signing the acknowledgement of compliance.	R	R	R		R
5. Behaving respectfully, courteously and ethically towards children and their families and towards other staff.	√	√	√		√
6. Promoting the human rights, safety and wellbeing of all children in Greenbrook Kindergarten	√	√	√		√
7. Ensuring appropriate physical contact with children (<i>refer to Definition</i>) is maintained at all times	√	√	√		√
8. Working with children in an open and transparent way	√	√	√		√
9. Demonstrating appropriate personal and professional boundaries <i>refer to Attachment 5</i>	√	√	√		√
10. Providing a workplace that is free from unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and bullying where all persons attending are treated with dignity, courtesy and respect	R	√	√		
11. Ensuring racism within the service is identified, confronted and not tolerated.	R	√	√	√	√
12. Ensuing all early childhood teachers/educators/other staff, volunteers, students and parents/guardians are aware of behaviours that are considered concerning, misconduct, or criminal conduct within the service (<i>refer to Attachment 5</i>)	R	R	√	√	√
13. Ensuring that the children educated and cared for at Greenbrook Kindergarten are protected from harm and	R	R	√		

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from any hazard likely to cause injury (<i>National Law: Section 167</i>)					
14. Identifying and mitigating risks to children's safety and wellbeing as required by Greenbrook Kindergarten risk assessment and management processes	R	R	√		√
15. Responding to any concerns or complaints of child harm or abuse promptly and in line with <i>Compliments and Complaints policy</i>	R	R	R		R
16. Providing guidance through leadership and by being a positive role model; putting children first, prioritising training and education and having a culture of continuous improvement	R	√			
17. Developing, updating and reviewing Code of Conduct for Greenbrook Kindergarten in collaboration with all stakeholders within the service (<i>refer to Attachments 1 and 3</i>)	R	√	√	√	
18. Ensuring that early childhood teachers/educators/other staff, volunteers, students and parents/guardians are provided with a copy of this policy on employment, engagement or enrolment at the service and that the current codes of conduct are publicly displayed and promoted to everyone including contractors and visitors	R	√			
19. Ensuring that the codes of conduct are regularly discussed at staff meetings to reinforce expectations	R	√			
20. Developing a culture of accountability within the service for complying with the code of conduct and responding when behavioural expectations are not adhered to (<i>refer to Attachment 5</i>)	R	√	√	√	√
21. Ensuring that all children being educated and cared for at Greenbrook Kindergarten are protected from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury (<i>National Law: Section 167</i>)	R	R	√		√
22. Providing an environment that encourages positive interactions, supports constructive feedback and holds one another to the codes of conduct	√	√	√	√	√
23. Abiding by the <i>Interactions with Children policy</i> , ensuring all staff maintain appropriate, respectful, and safe relationships with children	R	√	√		√
24. Ensuring that parents/guardians of a child attending the service can enter the service premises at any time that the child is being educated and cared for (<i>Regulation 157</i>), except where this may pose a risk to the safety of children or staff, or conflict with any duty of care of the approved provider, nominated supervisor or early childhood teachers and educators under the <i>National Law: Section 167 & 171</i>	R	R			
25. Ensuring that contractors, volunteers, parent/guardians, students or visitors at the service are not placed in a situation where they are left alone with a child	R	R	√		

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26. Ensuring all staff and volunteers receive relevant cultural training so they have an understanding of Aboriginal culture, and an appreciation for culturally sensitive issues	R	R			
27. Respecting individual abilities, needs, cultural practices and beliefs in all interactions, both verbal and non-verbal. Paying particular attention to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres strait Islander children, children with disability and children from CALD backgrounds	√	√	√	√	√
28. Engaging in open, two-way communication with families and communities about the service's child safety approach and providing relevant and accessible information, including information about The National Model Code and the procedures and practices implemented at our service. <i>(Refer to attachment 7)</i>	√	√	√		
29. Ensuring children are supported to express their culture and enjoy their cultural rights.	R	R	R		R
30. Listening and responding to the views and concerns of children, particularly if they communicate (verbally or non-verbally) that they do not feel safe or well.	√	√	√		√
31. Ensuring all staff, contractors, volunteers and students do not consume or are under the influence of alcohol or be affected by drugs <i>(refer to Tobacco, Alcohol and other Drugs Policy)</i>	R	R			
32. Not consuming or being under the influence of alcohol or be affected by drugs <i>(refer to Tobacco, Alcohol and other Drugs Policy)</i>	R	R	R	√	R
33. Notifying DE within 24 hours of a serious incident <i>(refer to Definitions)</i> or of a notifiable complaint being made <i>(refer to Definitions)</i> at the service <i>(National Law: Sections 174(2)(b) and 174(4), National Regulations: Regulations 175(2)(c) and 176(2)(b))</i> via the NQAITS	R	√			
34. Referring notifiable complaints <i>(refer to Definitions)</i> , grievances or complaints that are unable to be resolved appropriately and in a timely manner to the Grievances Subcommittee/investigator <i>(refer to Compliments and Complaints Policy)</i>	R	√			
35. Notifying WorkSafe of any reportable incidences <i>(refer to Definitions)</i> that have occurred in the workplace	R	√			
36. Activating the <i>Compliments and Complaints Policy</i> on notification of a breach of the <i>Code of Conduct Policy</i>	R	√			
37. Taking appropriate disciplinary or legal action, or reviewing the terms of employment in the event of misconduct or a serious breach of the <i>Code of Conduct Policy</i>	R				
38. Contacting police in an emergency situation where it is believed that there is an immediate risk, such as when violence has been threatened or perpetrated or where sexual abuse or grooming is suspected as outlined in the <i>Child Safe Environment and Wellbeing Policy</i> .	R	R	R	√	R

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39. Reading the <i>Code of Conduct Policy</i> (refer to Attachment 1) and signing the Code of Conduct and Child Safety Code of conduct Acknowledgement for staff (refer to Attachment 2 and 6) and that these are filed with individual staff records upon engagement in the service	√	√	√		√
40. Adhering to the Code of Conduct at all times	R	R	R	R	R
41. Informing the approved provider in the event of a serious incident (refer to Definitions), of a notifiable complaint (refer to Definitions) or of a breach of the <i>Code of Conduct Policy</i>		R	√		
42. Providing an environment that encourages positive interactions, supports constructive feedback and holds one another to the codes of conduct	√	√	√		
43. Ensuring that parents/guardians, students and volunteers sign the Code of Conduct Acknowledgement (refer to Attachment 4)	√	√		√	√
44. Ensuring children can access abuse prevention programs and information	R	√	√		
45. Understanding and accepting that serious breaches of this code will be deemed misconduct and may lead to disciplinary or legal action, or a review of their employment		√	√	√	√
46. Being attentive to signs of harm and facilitating child-friendly ways for children to communicate and raise their concerns	R	R	R		R
47. Reporting and acting on any concerns or observed breaches of this <i>Code of Conduct Policy</i> (refer to Compliments and Complaints Policy)		R	R	R	R
48. Ensuring duties are performed in a professional, safe and satisfactory manner at all times.	√	√	√		√
49. Reviewing and updating the <i>Code of Conduct</i> following any incidents, complaints, concerns or near misses	R	√			

BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION



BACKGROUND

Codes of conduct establish standards of behaviour to be followed and define how individuals are expected to behave towards each other, towards the children in their care, and towards other organisations and individuals in the community.

The approved provider, nominated supervisor, early childhood teachers, educators and all other staff have a duty of care to the children attending the service and must ensure 'that every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children being educated and cared for by the service from harm and from any hazard likely to cause injury' (*National Law: Section 167*).

The *National Quality Standard* requires that all staff be respectful and ethical and that 'professional standards guide practice, interactions and relationships' (*National Quality Standard: 4.2 and 4.2.2*).

Employers also have a legal responsibility to provide, as far as is practicable, a safe workplace that is free from discrimination, bullying and harassment.

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Child Safe Standards requires services to ensure the Code of Conduct provides guidelines for staff and volunteers on expected behavioural standards and responsibilities, and breaches to the Code of Conduct are acted upon and reported.

A Code of Conduct should be informed by the service's philosophy, beliefs and values, and based on ethical principles of mutual respect, equity and fairness. Consideration should be given to the Victorian Teaching Profession *Code of Conduct and the Code of Ethics* and to the Early Childhood Australia's *Code of Ethics* in developing the code of conduct.

The approved provider must ensure that the nominated supervisor, early childhood teachers, educators, other staff, contractors, volunteers, students on placement, parents/guardians, children and others attending the programs and activities of Greenbrook Kindergarten adhere to the expectations outlined in the Code of Conduct when communicating to and interacting with:

- children at the service and their parents and family members
- each other
- others in the community.

LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)
- Child Safe Standards (Vic)
- Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic)
- Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic)
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)
- Early Childhood Australia's Code of Ethics (2016)
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Sections 166, 167, 173, 174
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: Regulations 83, 155, 156, 157, 168, 170, 171, 174, 175, 176
- Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic)
- Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth)
- Fair Work Regulations 2009 (Cth)
- National Quality Standard, Quality Area 4: Staffing Arrangements
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017
- Racial Discrimination Act 1975
- Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001 (Vic)
- Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth)
- Victorian Institute of Teaching the Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct
- Victorian Institute of Teaching the Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Ethics

The most current amendments to listed legislation can be found at:

- Victorian Legislation – Victorian Law Today: www.legislation.vic.gov.au
- Commonwealth Legislation – Federal Register of Legislation: www.legislation.gov.au



DEFINITIONS

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy. For regularly used terms e.g. Approved provider, Nominated supervisor, Notifiable Complaints, Serious Incidents, Duty of Care, etc. refer to the Definitions file of the PolicyWorks catalogue.

Behaviour: the way in which one acts or conducts oneself, especially towards others.

Bullying: Repeated verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour that is harmful and involves the misuse of power by an individual or group towards one or more persons. Bullying occurs when one or more people deliberately and repeatedly upset or hurt another person, damage their property, reputation or social acceptance.

Ethical conduct: Behaviour which reflects values or a code of conduct.

Harassment: When someone is demeaning, derogatory or intimidating towards another person. Harassment includes:

- racial taunts
- taunts about sexual orientation or gender identity
- sexual harassment: unwelcome physical, verbal or written behaviour of a sexual nature
- repeated insulting remarks.

Investigator: A person/staff member assigned or organisation engaged with the responsibility of investigating suspected breaches of the Code of Conduct by the Approved provider

Physical attack: the direct or indirect application of force by a person to the body of, or to clothing or equipment worn by another person, where that application creates a risk to health and safety.

Appropriate Physical Contact: Refers to physical interactions between an educator and a child that are respectful, nurturing, and developmentally suitable. Such contact supports the child's safety, wellbeing, learning, and emotional development. Where possible, the child consents to or initiates the contact.

It includes actions such as:

- comforting a distressed child,
- holding a child's hand for safety,
- providing assistance with personal care in a respectful and hygienic manner,
- giving first aid, and
- supporting children who have hurt themselves.

All physical contact MUST be observable by to another staff member. It must always align with the service's policies, maintain professional boundaries, and uphold child safe standards.

Examples of appropriate physical contact include:

- Placing a hand or gently patting a child on the back or shoulder to comfort or reassure them
- Holding a child's hand while crossing the yard, during group transitions and crossing a road/carpark
- Sitting a child on your lap if they are upset and seeking comfort; only when initiated by the child and in view of others, and until the child is no longer distressed
- Helping a child blow their nose, clean up, or change clothes when needed, using respectful hygiene practices
- Administering first aid with care and sensitivity when a child is injured

Offering a side hug or placing a supportive hand on a child's shoulder (if welcomed by the child), and reciprocating affection from the child in an appropriate and respectful manner.

Respect: Demonstrating regard for the rights of individuals, for different values and points of views.

Sexual harassment: includes offensive gestures, leering, staring or suggestive comments about a person's physical appearance, inappropriate physical contact, unwanted invitations of a sexual manner, sexually orientated jokes, sending of obscene letters, notes, telephone texts or emails.

Support: Work in a co-operative and positive manner.

Threat: a statement or behaviour that causes a person to believe they are in danger of being physically attacked.

Unreasonable behaviour: includes actions of individuals or a group and may involve using a system of work as a means of victimising, humiliating, undermining, or threatening.

Verbal harassment: includes name-calling, offensive language, putting people down.

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SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

SOURCES

- Early Childhood Australia, *Code of Ethics*: www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/our-publications/eca-code-ethics/
- United Nations, *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*: www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/
- United Nations, *Convention on The Rights of the Child*: www.unicef.org/crc/
- Victoria Legal Aid: www.legalaid.vic.gov.au
- Victorian Institute of Teaching – *The Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics*: www.vit.vic.edu.au
- Commission for Children and Young People: www.cryp.vic.gov.au

RELATED POLICIES

- Child Safe Environment and Wellbeing
- Compliments and Complaints
- Delivery and Collection of Children
- Inclusion and Equity
- Information Communication Technology
- Interactions with Children
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Privacy and Confidentiality
- Rest and Sleep
- Safe Use of Digital Technologies and Online Environment
- Staffing
- Tobacco, Alcohol and other Drugs



EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the approved provider will:

- regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- assess whether a satisfactory resolution has been achieved in relation to issues arising from this policy
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required
- notifying all stakeholders affected by this policy at least 14 days before making any significant changes to this policy or its procedures, unless a lesser period is necessary due to risk (*Regulation 172 (2)*).



ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: Code of Conduct for approved provider, nominated supervisor and all staff
- Attachment 2: Code of Conduct Acknowledgement for staff
- Attachment 3: Code of Conduct for parents/guardians, students, contractors and volunteers

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- Attachment 4: Code of Conduct Acknowledgement for parents/guardians, students, contractors and volunteers
 - Attachment 5: Defining concerning behaviour, misconduct and criminal conduct in a Code of Conduct
 - Attachment 6: Child Safety Code of Conduct and acknowledgement
 - Attachment 7: Greenbrook Kindergarten's Obligations Under The National Model Code
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ATTACHMENT 1. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE APPROVED PROVIDER, PERSONS WITH MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL, NOMINATED SUPERVISOR, PERSON IN DAY-TO-DAY CHARGE AND ALL STAFF

This attachment was informed by the Victorian Institute of Teaching's *the Victorian Teaching Profession Code of Conduct* and *A Guide for Creating a Child Safe Organisation*, available from the Commission for Children and Young People (*refer to Sources*).

The approved provider, persons with management and control, nominated supervisor and all staff at Greenbrook Kindergarten are responsible for promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and their families by:

- welcoming all children and their families and being inclusive
- treating everyone with respect, including listening to and valuing their ideas and opinions
- contributing to a culture of child safety
- adhering to the *Child Safe Environment policy* and all other policies
- taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- respecting the privacy of children and their families, and only disclosing information to people who have a need to know as required under the *Privacy and Confidentiality policy*
- reporting and acting on any breaches of this *Code of Conduct*, complaints or concerns.
- acknowledging the vulnerability of Aboriginal children, children from a culturally and linguistically diverse background and children with a disability and having zero tolerance of discrimination

Professional responsibilities

The approved provider, persons with management and control, nominated supervisor and all staff demonstrate our commitment to our professional responsibilities by:

- undertaking duties in a competent, timely and responsible way
- ensuring our knowledge and expertise is up to date and relevant to our roles
- being aware of the role of other professionals and agencies and working collaboratively and within the limits of our professional expertise
- understanding and complying with legal obligations in relation to:
 - discrimination, harassment and vilification
 - negligence
 - grooming
 - disclosure of child sexual abuse
 - protection of a child from child sexual abuse
 - mandatory reporting
 - privacy and confidentiality
 - occupational health and safety, including emergency evaluation procedures
 - raising any complaints or grievances in accordance with the *Compliments and Complaints policy*
 - maintaining teacher registration and Working with Children checks as applicable.
- raising any complaints or grievances in accordance with the *Compliments and Complaints policy*.

Relationships with children

The approved provider, persons with management and control, nominated supervisor and all staff at Greenbrook Kindergarten demonstrate our commitment to high-quality education and care for children by:

- encouraging children to express themselves and their opinions
- allowing children to undertake experiences that develop self-reliance and self-esteem
- maintaining a safe environment for children
- being a positive role model at all times
- speaking to children in an encouraging and positive manner
- giving each child positive guidance and encouraging appropriate behaviour
- providing opportunities for children to interact and develop respectful and positive relationships with each other, and with other staff members and volunteers at the service

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- regarding all children equally, and with respect and dignity
- having regard to their cultural values and supporting them to express their culture
- respecting individual difference including age, physical and intellectual development, and catering for the abilities of each child at the service
- working with children in an open and transparent way by informing other staff about the work being done with children
- encouraging and assisting children to undertake activities of a personal nature for themselves e.g. toileting and changing clothes
- informing children if physical contact is required for any purpose, asking them if they are comfortable with this interaction and complying with the *Interactions with Children policy*.

Relationships with parents/guardians and families

In our relationships with parents/guardians and families, the approved provider, nominated supervisor and all staff demonstrate our commitment to collaboration by:

- maintain professional and ethical relationships with families attending the service
- respecting the role of parents/guardians as the child's first educator
- working collaboratively with parents/guardians and families
- considering the perspective of parents/guardians and families when making decisions that impact on the education and care of their child
- communicating with parents/guardians and families in a timely and sensitive manner
- responding to concerns expressed by parents/guardians and families in a timely and appropriate manner.

Relationships with employer and between colleagues

In relationships with the approved provider, persons with management and control, nominated supervisor and staff and between colleagues demonstrate collegiality by:

- encouraging others to act in accordance with this *Code of Conduct* and taking action when they observe behaviours which are outside of the *Code of Conduct*
- developing relationships based on mutual respect, equity and fairness
- working in partnership in a courteous, respectful and encouraging manner
- valuing the input of others
- sharing expertise and knowledge in appropriate forums, and in a considered manner
- respecting the rights of others as individuals
- giving encouraging and constructive feedback, and respecting the value of different professional approaches
- being prepared to have difficult conversations and use constructive processes to address differences of opinion.

ATTACHMENT 2. CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR APPROVED PROVIDER, PERSONS WITH MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL, NOMINATED SUPERVISOR, PERSON IN DAY-TO-DAY CHARGE AND ALL STAFF

I hereby acknowledge that on _____[Insert Date], I received a copy of the *Code of Conduct policy attachment* for Greenbrook Kindergarten. I understand the full policy is available to read on the kindergarten website.

I have read the policy attachment, and I understand its contents.

I commit to abiding by the *Code of Conduct* and fulfilling my responsibilities as outlined in this policy whilst working at Greenbrook Kindergarten.

I understand that the approved provider will address any breach of this policy, and that any serious breach could lead to disciplinary or legal action.

Signature

Name (please print)

Date

Witness signature

Name (please print)

Date

Thank you for your contribution to making Greenbrook Kindergarten an open, safe, welcoming, and friendly environment.

ATTACHMENT 3. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS, STUDENTS, VOLUNTEERS, CONTRACTORS AND VISITORS

I commit to contributing to creating an environment at Greenbrook Kindergarten that:

- respects the rights of the child and values diversity
- acknowledges the vulnerability of Aboriginal children, children from a culturally and linguistically diverse background and children with a disability and has zero tolerance of discrimination
- maintains a duty of care (*refer to Definitions*) towards all children at the service
- is committed to the safety and wellbeing of each child at the service
- is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all staff at the service
- provides a safe and secure environment for all at the service
- provides an open, welcoming environment in which everyone's contribution is valued and respected
- is committed to communicating openly and honestly
- is committed to continually learning how to be inclusive and respectful of cultural needs
- encourages parents/guardians, volunteers, students and community members to support and participate in the program and activities of the service.

Relationships with children

In my relationships with children, I commit to:

- being a positive role model at all times
- encouraging children to express themselves and their opinions
- allowing children to undertake experiences that develop self-reliance and self-esteem
- maintaining a safe environment for children
- speaking to children in an encouraging and positive manner
- giving each child positive guidance and encouraging appropriate behaviour
- regarding all children equally, and with respect and dignity
- having regard to each child's cultural values
- respecting individual difference including age, physical and intellectual development, and catering for the abilities of each child at the service.

Relationships with the approved provider, persons with management and control, nominated supervisor, staff and others

In my relationships with the approved provider, nominated supervisor, staff, other parents/guardians, volunteers and visitors I commit to:

- reading and abiding by the *Code of Conduct policy*
- developing relationships based on mutual respect
- working in partnership in a courteous, respectful and encouraging manner
- valuing the input of others
- sharing our expertise and knowledge in a considered manner
- respecting the rights of others as individuals
- giving encouraging and constructive feedback, and respecting the value of different professional approaches
- respecting the privacy of children and their families and only disclosing information to people who have a need to know as required under the *Privacy and Confidentiality policy*
- following the directions of staff at all times
- treating the early childhood environment with respect
- raising any concerns, including concerns about safety, as soon as possible with staff to ensure that they can be resolved efficiently
- raising any complaints or grievances in accordance with the *Compliments and Complaints Policy*.

Safety & Wellbeing of all children at Greenbrook Kindergarten

- I commit to keeping my child and all children at Greenbrook Kindergarten safe by adhering to the practices and procedures of The National Model Code as outlined in the Safe use of digital technologies and online environments policy.
- I understand that I am not to take out or use any personal mobile phone, ipad, digital camera or other device capable of taking or recording images while at Greenbrook Kindergarten.

ATTACHMENT 4. CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS, STUDENTS, CONTRACTORS ,VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

- I hereby acknowledge that on _____ (Insert Date), I received a copy of the *Code of Conduct policy attachment* for Greenbrook Kindergarten and understand I can read the full policy on the kindergarten's website.
- I have read this policy attachment and understand its contents. I commit to abiding by the *Code of Conduct* and fulfilling my responsibilities as outlined in this policy whilst my child is attending / or while I'm visiting Greenbrook Kindergarten.
- I agree to abide by the values, principles and practices set out within including not taking out or using any device capable of recording images or videos while at the service.
- I understand that a breach of the *Code of Conduct* may lead to limitations being placed on my attendance at the service.

_____ Signature	_____ Name (please print)	_____ Date
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_____ Witness signature	_____ Name (please print)	_____ Date
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_____ Signature	_____ Name (please print)	_____ Date
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_____ Witness signature	_____ Name (please print)	_____ Date
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Thank you for your contribution to making Greenbrook Kindergarten an open, safe, welcoming and friendly environment.

ATTACHMENT 5: DEFINING APPROPRIATE, CONCERNING/INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR, MISCONDUCT AND CRIMINAL CONDUCT IN A CODE OF CONDUCT

Appropriate behaviour includes, but is not limited to:

- Treating all children and young people with respect with regard to the dignity and rights of each child regardless of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status
- Listening to and valuing children and young people's ideas and opinions
- Creating a positive, non-confrontational communication environment where the child feels safe and comfortable to interact.
- Putting in place clear professional boundaries so interactions with children cannot be misinterpreted
- Welcoming all children and their families and carers by being inclusive
- Actively promoting cultural safety and inclusion
- Listening to children and responding to them appropriately
- Welcoming parents and carers to participate in decisions about their child's training schedule and any other matters about their safety
- Reporting any conflicts of interest (such as an outside relationship with a child)
- Adhering to all relevant Australian and Victorian legislation and our child safe policies and procedures
- Working within a team to ensure that the needs of the child (and their family) remain the paramount focus
- Participating in all compulsory training
- Raising concerns with management if risks to child safety are identified, including cultural, environmental and operational risks
- Reporting and acting on any concerns or observed breaches of this Code of Conduct
- Taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- Respecting the privacy of children and their families by keeping all information about child protection concerns confidential
- Informing parents and carers if there are situations that need to be safely managed but are outside the boundaries of this Code of Conduct
- Taking a child seriously if they disclose harm or abuse
- Ensuring breaches of this Code are reported immediately
- Upholding the rights of the child and always prioritise their needs.

Concerning/inappropriate behaviours includes, but is not limited to:

- disciplining or correcting a child or young person in an unreasonable manner
- making excessive and/or degrading demands of a child or young person
- taking photos of a child or young person who is in the care of the organisation outside of official duties
- creating situations to be alone with a child or young person
- repeatedly visiting a child/young person and/or their family at their home for no professional reason
- providing gifts or favours to a child/young person or their family
- wearing inappropriate clothing around children or young people (for example, clothing with sexually explicit images or messages or clothes that expose or accentuate the genitals or breasts)
- ignoring or disregarding concerns, suspicions or disclosures of child abuse, harm and family violence
- ignoring or disregard an adult's overly familiar behaviour, that is not justified by an educational or professional context, towards a child or young person
- disregarding or failing to consider the views of children, especially about their physical and emotional safety, cultural safety, or issues or decisions that are important to them
- initiating unnecessary physical contact with a child, or do things of a personal nature for them that they can do themselves.

Misconduct that may be, but is not limited to:

- condoning or participating in illegal, unsafe, abusive or harmful behaviour towards children
- using sexual language or gestures
- making written or verbal sexual advances

- sharing sexual photos or videos or other photos of the child or young person
- sharing details of one's own sexual experiences with a child or young person
- taking a child or young person to one's house to be alone with them
- sharing phone numbers with a child or young person except as allowed by the organisation's policies and procedures
- engaging with a child or young person via social media except as provided by the organisation's policies and procedures
- asking children or young people to keep a relationship secret
- showering or dressing or undressing with the door open (for example, on excursions and in residential situations)
- not respecting the privacy of children/young people when they are using the bathroom or changing (for example, on excursions and in residential situations).

Examples of conduct, which if proven, would be criminal includes, but is not limited to:

- intentionally or recklessly applying physical force against a child or young person
- obscene exposure
- having, attempting to have or facilitating any kind of sexual contact with a child or young person
- possessing, creating or exposing children to pornography
- giving goods, money, attention or affection in exchange for sexual activities or images
- sexting
- grooming offences (as defined by law in most jurisdictions)
- trafficking, possession, supply, or use of a prohibited drug
- manufacture or cultivation of a prohibited drug.

ATTACHMENT 6: CHILD SAFETY CODE OF CONDUCT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



CHILD SAFETY CODE OF CONDUCT

GREENBROOK KINDERGARTEN

All paid and unpaid staff, including volunteers, trainees and committee members of Greenbrook Kindergarten, are responsible for the safety and wellbeing of children and young people who engage with our service. All paid and unpaid staff are expected to act in accordance with this Code of Conduct in their physical and online interactions with children and young people under the age of 18 years.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Greenbrook kindergarten is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people as outlined in Greenbrook Kindergarten's Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and Greenbrook Kindergarten's Child Safe Environment & Wellbeing Policy.

Greenbrook Kindergarten adopted the National Model Code on the 3rd September 2024. In doing so, we are taking steps towards enhancing a child safe environment around the use of personal devices. (This includes the taking, use, storage and destruction of images and videos of children) This will help manage risks to child safety that continue to evolve alongside technology advancements. It also supports educators to adopt child safe practices when taking, sharing and storing images of children. More information can be found here: [Statement of Regulatory Expectations – National Model Code](#)

PURPOSE

This Code of Conduct aims to protect children, reduce any opportunities for child abuse (including neglect) or harm to occur and to ensure a response where there are concerns about abuse or harm whether they occur in the physical or online environment. It also assists in understanding how to avoid or better manage risky behaviours and situations.

DEFINITIONS

- Child means a person under the age of 18 years (Children Safety and Wellbeing Act 2005).

RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Committee of Management and staff at Greenbrook kindergarten have a leadership role in ensuring safe, supportive and enriching environments which respect and foster the dignity and self-esteem of children and enable them to thrive in their learning and development.
- Members of the Committee and

staff are required to have a Working with Children Check or to be registered by the Victorian Institute of Teaching.

- As part of Greenbrook kindergarten's plan for the implementation of Child Safe Standards, the Committee will support the implementation and monitoring of this Child Safety Code of Conduct.
- All Committee members and staff are required to comply with this Child Safety Code of Conduct by observing expectations for appropriate behaviour as outlined below.
- All Committee and staff are required to comply with the National Model Code procedures as outlined in the National Model Code attachment within the Code of Conduct and Information Communication Technology / Safe Use of Digital Technologies and Online Environments policies, including:
 - only service-issued electronic devices are used when taking images or videos of children
 - personal electronic devices that can take images or videos, and personal storage and file transfer media, are not in the possession of any person while providing education and care and working with children, **except for limited essential purposes**
 - strict controls in place for the appropriate storage and retention of images and videos of children
 - awareness of service policies and procedures required under regulation 168 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations (National Regulations) and regulation 112 of the Children's Services Regulations

ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOURS

Committee members and staff are responsible for actively supporting and promoting the safety of children by:

- Upholding / acting in accordance with Greenbrook kindergarten's Child Safe Environment & Wellbeing and Safe Use of Digital Technologies and Online Environments Policies and procedures at all times
- Contributing, where appropriate, to Greenbrook Kindergarten's policies, discussions, learning and reviews about child safety and wellbeing.
- Identifying and mitigating risks to children's safety and wellbeing as required by Greenbrook Kindergarten's risk assessment and management processes for both online and physical environments.
- Understanding and complying with all reporting or disclosure obligations (including mandatory reporting) as they relate to protecting children from harm or abuse.
- Taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- Responding to any concerns or complaints of child harm, neglect or abuse promptly and in line with policy and procedure for receiving and responding to complaints.
- Ensuring as quickly as possible, if child abuse is suspected, that the child(ren) is/are safe and protected from harm
- Reporting all suspected or disclosed child harm, neglect or abuse as required.
- Complying with policies and procedures on record keeping and information sharing.
- Complying with protocols for communicating with children.
- Demonstrating appropriate personal and professional boundaries.
- Welcoming all children who come into contact with Greenbrook Kindergarten, their families and carers and being inclusive
- Behaving respectfully, courteously and ethically towards children and their families and towards other staff., including listening to and valuing the ideas and opinions of all who come into contact with Greenbrook kindergarten

- Promoting human rights, safety and wellbeing of all children.
- Listening to children and responding to views and concerns, particularly if they communicate (verbally or non-verbally) that they do not feel well / that they or another child has been abused / neglected / that they are worried about their safety or the safety of another child
- Creating an environment that promotes and enables children's participation and is welcoming, culturally safe and inclusive for all children and their families, respecting their diverse backgrounds and needs.
- Involving children in making decisions about activities, policies and processes that concern them wherever possible.
- Promoting a culturally safe environment where all children can participate, feel safe and their voices are heard. This includes cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally or linguistically diverse backgrounds, children in out of home care, children with a disability and gender diverse children.
- Respecting cultural, religious and political differences and acting in a culturally sensitive way
- Complying with this code of conduct and Greenbrook kindergarten's Child Safe Environment & Wellbeing Policy and Safe Use of Digital Technologies and Online Environments Policy when in contact with children in both physical and online environments, ensuring that where contact occurs with children, that this happens in an open and transparent way – so other adults know what you are doing with children
- Reporting and acting on any breaches of this Code of Conduct, complaints, or concerns
- Reporting allegations of child abuse or other child safety concerns to the kindergarten's Child Safety Officer (President or Nominated Supervisor)
- Respecting the privacy of children and their families and only disclosing information to people who have a need to know.
- Treating children and their families with respect both in relation to Greenbrook kindergarten's activities and outside of Greenbrook kindergarten as part of normal social and community activities.

APPROPRIATE PHYSICAL CONTACT

Examples of appropriate physical contact with a child include:

- Placing a hand or gently patting a child on the back or shoulder to comfort or reassure them
- Holding a child's hand while crossing the yard, during group transitions and crossing a road/carpark
- Sitting a child on your lap if they are upset and seeking comfort; only when initiated by the child and in view of others, and until the child is no longer distressed
- Helping a child blow their nose, clean up, or change clothes when needed, using respectful hygiene practices
- Administering first aid with care and sensitivity when a child is injured
- Offering a side hug or placing a supportive hand on a child's shoulder (if welcomed by the child), and reciprocating affection from the child in an appropriate and respectful manner.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOURS

Committee members and staff **must NOT**:

- Engage in any unlawful activity with or in relation to a child.
 - seek to use children in any way to meet the needs of adults.
 - Engage in any activity that is likely to physically, sexually or emotionally harm a child.
 - Unlawfully discriminate against any child or their family members.
 - treat a child unfavourably because of their disability, age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality or ethnicity
 - Be alone with a child unnecessarily.
 - have unauthorised contact with children and young people who you come into contact with through your role at Greenbrook kindergarten online or by phone
 - Arrange personal contact, including online contact, with children / families for a purpose unrelated to [the organization's] activities.
 - develop a relationship with any child that could be seen as favouritism or amount to 'grooming' behaviour (for example, offering gifts or inappropriate attention)
 - exchange personal contact details such as phone number, social networking site or email addresses with children who you come into contact with through your role at Greenbrook Kindergarten
 - ignore behaviours by other adults towards children when they appear to be overly familiar or inappropriate
 - Disclose personal or sensitive information about a child, including images of a child, unless the child and their parent or legal guardian consent or unless I am required to do so by [Greenbrook Kindergarten's] policy and procedure on reporting.
 - Use inappropriate language in the presence of children or show or provide children with access to inappropriate images or material.
 - Work with children while under the influence of alcohol or prohibited drugs
 - ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions or disclosures of child harm or abuse
- 50.
- photograph or video a child who you come into contact with through your role at Greenbrook kindergarten except in accordance with Greenbrook kindergarten policies and procedures as outlined in the National Model Code Attachment
- 51.
- Use their personal devices / phone while in the presence of children as outlined in the National Model Code Attachment

52.

If I think this Code of Conduct has been breached by another person within Greenbrook Kindergarten I will:

- Act to prioritise the best interests of children.
- Take actions promptly to ensure that children are safe.
- Promptly report any concerns to the Child Safety Officer or Head of Organisation.
- Follow policies and procedures for receiving and responding to complaints and concerns and procedures on internal and external reporting.

If I am found to have breached this Code of Conduct / have used ICT devices for unlawful purposes, I understand that:

- As per the child safe environment and wellbeing policy, the kindergarten will contact the President, Victoria Police, the Quality assessment and regulation division and the commission for children and young people
- 53.
- As per the Safe Use of Digital Technologies and Online Environments Policy I may be liable to criminal or civil legal action. This could result in serious consequences such as fine, damages and / or costs being awarded against me, or imprisonment.
- 54.
- As a staff member I may be liable to counselling, disciplinary action or dismissal or have my access to the services ICT facilities restricted / denied.

During my employment / volunteer period / student placement / time on the committee of management with Greenbrook Kindergarten, I agree to abide by this Code of Conduct including:

- the procedures and processes outlined in the Child Safe Environment & Wellbeing Policy and Safe Use of Digital Technologies and Online Environments Policy and The National Model Code processes and procedures.
- I understand that breaches of this Code of Conduct may lead to disciplinary action / legal action / termination of my role as volunteer / student on placement / committee position / employment with Greenbrook Kindergarten as outlined above.

Signed _____ **Date** _____

Witness _____ **Date** _____

Attachment 7: Greenbrook Kindergarten's Obligations Under The National Model Code

The Model Code & Personal Device Restrictions at Greenbrook Kindergarten Expectations, Practices and Approaches

National Model Code

Greenbrook Kindergarten adopted the National Model Code on the 3rd September 2024. In doing so, we are taking steps towards enhancing a child safe environment around the use of personal devices. This will help manage risks to child safety that continue to evolve alongside technology advancements. It also supports educators to adopt child safe practices when taking, sharing and storing images of children.

Images & videos used for children's documentation

At times our educators and teachers may intentionally take or record images or videos of children within the program and place them on children's Story Park profiles. This can be an effective way to document and communicate with families and carers about their child's learning, and their participation in experiences.

Without a clear purpose, recording and sharing images and videos through overly frequent updates can take the place of providing more meaningful information to families and carers. This can also impact educators' and teacher's abilities to effectively supervise, interact and engage with children in their learning. Each term families will be provided with some photograph or video content relating to their child's learning, but please note this will not be a daily occurrence.

In Compliance with the National Model Code Greenbrook Kindergarten will ensure that:

- only service-issued electronic devices are used when taking images or videos of children
- personal electronic devices that can take images or videos, and personal storage and file transfer media, **(see list below)** are not in the possession of any person while providing education and care and working with children, **except for limited essential purposes (see below)**
- strict controls in place for the appropriate storage and retention of images and videos of children
- service policies and procedures required under regulation 168 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations (National Regulations) and regulation 112 of the Children's Services Regulations must be updated so they align with the National Model Code

Restricted Personal Electronic Devices

The restricted devices under the National Model Code are:

- personal devices that can take images or videos and
- personal storage and file transfer media.

For example:

- phones
- tablets
- digital cameras
- smart watches with camera/recording functionality
- wearables, such as camera glasses
- SD cards
- USB drive
- hard drives.

Who the restrictions apply to

These restrictions apply to any person who is providing education and care and working directly with children, including:

- teachers and educators, including casual and agency staff
- students attending the service as part of a practicum and representatives of tertiary providers who attend the service to assess students
- volunteers, including parent volunteers
- any third parties delivering programs or incursion activities to children in a service, whether paid or unpaid
- allied health and inclusion professionals attending a service to observe, assess or work with a child at the service(see note below for exceptions)
- mentors or coaches attending the service to support teachers or educators working with children or providing education and care
- preschool field officers
- primary school teachers attending a service as part of a school transition program.

Allied Health & Inclusion Professionals

If a third-party professional attending a service and working directly with children (such as an allied health or inclusion professional) needs to use a device (for example, to undertake an assessment or take notes) they can use a device that is:

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- issued by their business or institution; and
- used only for work purposes (and not personal use).

Facilitating the use of service issued devices

We may at times be able to consider facilitating the use of a service-issued device where

- a student attending the service as part of a practicum; or
- a visiting allied health or inclusion professional needs to take images or videos but has no business or institution-issued device.

Exceptions to the restrictions

The National Model Code lists the following **essential purposes** for which the use or possession of a personal devices may be authorised where access does not impede the active supervision of children:

- **communication in an emergency situation to ensure safety**
 - involving a lost child, injury to child or staff member, or other serious incident
 - in the case of a lockdown or evacuation of the service premises
- **personal health requirements**
 - for example, heart or blood sugar level monitoring
- **disability**
 - for example, where a personal electronic device is an essential means of communication for an educator or other staff member
- **family necessity**
 - for example, an early childhood staff member with an ill family member
- **technology failure**
 - for example, when a temporary outage of service-issued electronic devices has occurred
- during a local emergency event to receive emergency notifications. This could include government warning systems such as a bushfire evacuation text notification.

Documentation required for essential purposes authorisations

All authorisations must be documented by the approved provider:

- Authorisations must be made in writing in advance where possible.
- Approved providers must create and maintain suitable logs or registers for recording:
 - authorisations made in writing in advance, and
 - retrospectively, authorisations made through another means where written authorisation is not possible (for example, in an emergency situation).

- The logs or registers should be stored securely. All documentation should be available at the service for authorised officers to inspect.

Who the restrictions do not apply to

The restrictions do not apply to people who are not providing education and care and not working directly with children.

This includes:

- parents and carers attending the service to drop off or pick up their child
- Victorian Regulatory Authority Authorised Officers
- police
- officers of other regulators, such as environmental health officers
- third parties who are attending the service but are not working with children or providing education or care (for example, maintenance contractors).

Broader child safe policies and procedures and supervision requirements continue to apply in these examples.

When Personal Devices Can be used

Personal devices can be accessible to teachers, educators and other staff when they are not providing education and care or working directly with children.

Examples could include:

- while taking a scheduled break from work, such as a lunch or tea break
- during planning time
- during administrative activities.

As per our Safe Use of Digital Technologies and Online Environments Policy, the Greenbrook Committee of Management requires that families:

- Do not use their personal devices to record images of their child / children at any time within the kindergarten environment. This includes at drop off and pick up time or while remaining at the kindergarten for any length of time.
- Refrain from using their mobile phones or tablet devices
- in the bathroom area of Greenbrook Kindergarten
- be mindful of the use of phones whilst on the kindergarten grounds. If you are taking a personal or work call, please wait outside the gate until your call has finished.
- Do not take photos or videos of children in the kindergarten other than your own child, unless permission from the child/ren's parents is given
- Refrain from entering the bathroom area if you can see that a child is being changed / having their nappy changed. In this instance they must speak with a staff member to assist their child if they need to enter the bathroom / bag area.

Induction Procedures:

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- Induction with the nominated Supervisor / Child Safety Officer must be completed. (Refer to induction checklists)
- Readings and training have been completed as per the Child Safe Standards Training Register

Devices that staff use for taking, sending and storing images are:

- distinctly branded with an identification code
- are password protected
- are stored securely / locked away when not being used

Storage and retention of photographs / video images:

Images and Videos are stored on the computers, ICLOUD, Onedrive , the kindergarten hard drive and Story Park Profiles. They are all password protected. When the photographs / videos are no longer being used, they will be stored securely at the service as per Regulation 177. All photographs and videos will be stored for the duration of the child's enrolment and then destroyed / deleted from storage, with the exception of photos and videos used for documentation and assessment within Storypark profiles which are required to be archived for the set 3 year period as per Regulation 183 (2) (d)

The National Model Code Related Policies

- Child Safe environment and Wellbeing
- Staffing
- Participation of Students and Volunteers
- Staff Recruitment
- Interactions with Children
- Code of Conduct
- Safe Use of Digital Technologies and Online Environments
- Incident, Injury, trauma and Illness
- Governance and Management of the service
- Determining Responsible Person
- Mental Health and Wellbeing