

THE HUTCHINS SCHOOL

Practice and Behaviour Standards

Table of Contents

Commitment Statement	
	3
Responsibilities	4
Definitions	5
About these standards	5
Interpersonal conduct	7
Supporting a positive culture	7
Supervision	8

Giving gifts	10
Sexual and physical conduct	11
Physical contact with children and young people	11
Professional boundaries	12
Professional boundaries and intimate relationships: teaching staff	12
Professional boundaries and intimate relationships: support staff	13
Reporting concerning behaviours	13
Investigations and disciplinary action	14
Use of digital media	15
Social media	15
Photographs of children and young people	15
Storage of photographs	16

Created by: Policy and Compliance Manager

nline location: https://central.hutchins.tas.edu.au/sites/Staff/Policies

Document version: 2.1

Next review date: 01 A

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Student transport	17
Transporting students	17
Expectations for routine student transport	17
Co-curricular activities	18
Overnight stays and sleeping arrangements	18
Change room arrangements	18





Introduction





Exceptional situations may exist in which certain elements of these standards do not apply, such as where a child's immediate safety takes priority over the requirements of this document (for example, a student may not be collected by a parent or carer after an excursion/school event and it is therefore safer to transport that student in a private vehicle to the School's boarding house or directly to their residence). Likewise certain programs (such as Outdoor Education, Power of 9 and Performing Arts) may also require a tailored set of strategies given the nature of their ertahesra (t)]T(t)]T(b)=0.009 Tc 0.01-27.747 -1.73321-13 (i)-13.7t(e)11.6 (1]T0 T3.6 (t o(1]T0e)11.tsor)3.6i(n t)2.d(1]Tde)11.6



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- attend any school-related function, event, program or service while under the influence of alcohol, except
 where the event is sanctioned by the School and alcohol is provided (e.g., beginning/end of year events,
 staff gatherings);
- consume alcohol to excess at work-related functions, events, programs or services;
- possess or consume illegal drugs or alcohol during the course of their regular work;
- · be incapacitated by any other legal drug such as prescription or over-the-counter drugs; or
- supply alcohol or drugs (including tobacco) to children or young people.

Use of legal drugs (other than alcohol) is permitted where such use does not interfere with or impair your ability to care for children involved in our programs and services. If a staff member has concerns that a prescribed medication may affect their work performance or ability to fulfill regular work duties, they must speak with their manager or supervisor.

School staff are expected to model the responsible consumption of alcohol.

Dress code and identity cards

Providing a consistent 'brand' enables children and young people to identify and recognise school staff, contractors and volunteers, which contributes to their safety and wellbeing. Our staff should wear their uniform (where one is provided) and their Hutchins branded identification badge or card while involved in the delivery of our programs, or as required by the School, such as when representing the School at designated functions, or to and from work.

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Sexual and physical conduct





Professional boundaries

All School staff must consider the appropriateness of their relationships and interactions with students.

Relationships between students and staff are never equal, regardless of the position that the staff member holds.

While staff hold varying positions throughout the School that alter the nature of the staff/student relationship, every

Created by: Policy and Compliance Manager

Online location: https://central.hutchins.tas.edu.au/sites/Staff/Policies

Document version: 2.1

Next review date: 01 August 202

CRICOS 00478F

Page 12 of 20





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services. Staff who witness or are concerned by the inappropriate behaviour of others should report those concerns through the <u>Inappropriate Conduct Report Form</u> (which may be used anonymously). The School will respond to any alleged breach in accordance with the <u>Mandatory Reporting</u> and <u>Complaints and Grievances</u> policies.

Investigations and disciplinary action

Where it is suspected that a relationship between a staff member and student contravenes these professional boundaries, the School will conduct an investigation. Any investigation by the School will take into account:

- the role and employment agreement of the staff member;
- the age difference between the staff member and the past student;
- · the emotional and social maturity of the past student;
- the vulnerability of the past student;
- evidence regarding the nature of the relationship between the staff member and student, including the closeness, dependence, significance and length of the relationship in the educational setting; and
- any other conduct that may impact upon the staff member's good character and/or fitness to maintain their role and/or position during the professional relationship with the student.

The School is responsible for making a determination as to whether a staff member has fallen short of its <u>Code of Conduct</u>, these <u>Practice and Behaviour Standards</u> and their obligations toward safeguarding children. Where the School suspects that a staff member has contravened the law, the matter will be referred to the appropriate authorities (as outlined in the Mandatory Reporting policy) for further investigation.

The School will determine what internal consequences are appropriate. The final decision regarding such matters rests with the Headmaster.







Use of digital media

When communicating with children and young people to whom we provide services, staff and volunteers must:

 restrict that communication to issues directly associated with delivering the School's programs and services (such as advising that a scheduled event is cancelled, or feedback in relation to school work);





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Co-curricular activities

Overnight stays and sleeping arrangements

Overnight stays may only occur with the authorisation of the relevant Head of School and the parents/carers of the children or young people involved. Practices and behaviour by staff during an overnight stay must be consistent with the practices and behaviour expected during delivery of the School Tm()TjETEMC BT6 (t4.e2 (-9 0 BDC 12.6 (s)-2.4 (d be)13.





Supporting/related documents

Children's Services Transportation Policy

Commitment to Kindness

Gifts and Benefits Policy

Inappropriate Conduct Report Form

