

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT for parents and carers of youth members

Thank you for choosing St John Youth! St John Youth welcomes parents and carers into a partnership in the development of your child. We offer a wide range of exciting opportunities for your child to develop practical knowledge in first aid alongside other important life skills.



St John Victoria is committed to the safety of all youth members who participate in our activities, programs, events or services.

St John Victoria has zero tolerance for child abuse and neglect. We take all allegations and concerns about abuse very seriously. St John Victoria will always strive to ensure that a child safe environment is provided, and our youth members are free from harm.



St John Victoria has a range of policies in place that are designed to ensure that young people accessing St John's programs, activities and services are safe. These policies talk about important child safety practices such as the screening of new members for criminal history, child safety training requirements, reporting obligations and processes and risk management.

It's important to know that St John Victoria members are mandatory reporters. If a St John Victoria member suspects abuse or if an allegation or disclosure is made, they must report it to the authorities. You can view St John's child safety policies and procedures on our website. Visit <https://www.stjohnvic.com.au/youth> to find out more.



As a parent or carer, there are some things that we ask that you **do** and **don't do**. These things help St John Youth and your child's division run smoothly and keep youth members safe.

DO:

- Respect the rights, dignity, diversity and worth of all members, regardless of any differences and encourage your child to act inclusively towards other St John Youth Members.
- Sign your child in at the start of the meeting and events, and out at the end.
- Pick up your child from the door of the youth program's venue, not the car park.
- Be aware of the procedures regarding permission forms for events or duties and provide signed permission forms for any event or duty that your child wants to attend. If they do not have a signed permission form, they will not be permitted to participate. If you are unsure of the process, ask your Divisional Youth Manager.
- Give thought to how your child is getting to or from events or duties safely. If you cannot guarantee their safe transport, reconsider sending them to the event or duty. If you, or someone you have approved, is picking up your child, please ensure you/they are on time.
- Know that St John Youth will always aim to communicate with you about the youth program. Typically, this will occur via Operoo and emails. Where necessary, we will give you a call.
- Keep your child's Operoo profile up to date about:
 - Any health (or behavioural) condition(s);
 - Medical information and any applicable management plans;
 - Any change to your contact details;
 - Any court orders or custody arrangements;
 - If your child intends to be absent for long periods (e.g. more than two weeks)
- Encourage your child in their participation with St John Youth.
- Help youth staff members to manage your child's behaviour where necessary. St John has a zero-tolerance approach to bullying—it's a breach of the St John Code of Conduct. If a Youth Member breaches the Code of Conduct, youth staff may invite parents to assist them in managing the youth member's behaviour.
- Attend special events and support your child's progress, achievements and efforts*
- Conduct yourself in a manner that is safe and respectful to children, including in online environments.
- Talk with a St John Adult Leader about any concern or complaint that you have. If you are not happy with their response, follow up with the State Office and email youth.admin@stjohnvic.com.au
- Tell a St John Adult Leader as soon as practicable if you have any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of any child in our care.
- Ask questions. Your Adult Leaders will welcome the opportunity to give answers and help.

*If your attendance at your child's division becomes more regular than attending special occasions or events (e.g. you wish to attend regularly), St John Youth may ask that you become an adult helper. It is our policy that if any adult attends a youth division outside of special occasions, that they must become a member or will be asked to drop their child off and pick them up from their meetings only. This is a child safety requirement.

DON'T:

- Engage in any activity or behaviour that would be considered abuse, neglect, exploitation, harassment, discrimination, violence or victimisation—in person or online.
- Ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions, allegations or disclosures of child abuse. If you have concerns about the safety of a Youth Member, always speak to a youth staff member.
- Express personal views on culture, race or sexuality in front of St John Youth members.
- Make comments or engage in conversation with, or in front of St John Youth members which may be inappropriate, including topics of a sexual nature or offensive language.
- Attend your child's division or other St John event or activity while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

St John thanks you for your cooperation and support.

Breaching this Code of Conduct

St John treats all breaches of conduct seriously. While your child is a member of St John Youth, you have a responsibility to follow this Code of Conduct.

Failure to do so, or if the breach is serious, may result in parents or carers and their child being asked to leave St John Youth, an event, meeting or activity. Serious matters, such as those that involve violence or abuse, will be reported to the Police.