



Policy Statement

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

A volunteer is a person who works without payment or financial reward for the Learning Community.

Volunteers make a considerable contribution to the Learning Community by giving their time and sharing their skills and expertise with others. Examples of volunteer work within the Learning Community include:

- College Council membership;
- coaching and managing sporting teams;
- assisting with theatre and musical productions;
- canteen/barbeque duty;
- reading and learning support;
- assisting on excursions and overnight camps;
- assisting with college events and functions.

Volunteers may be members of the parent/guardian body, from the wider Learning Community or local community. When considering the role of volunteers in the Learning Community we consider both the risks associated with the health and safety of the volunteers themselves, as well as the welfare of our students.

St Martins Lutheran College recognises the value of volunteers in contributing to the Learning Community by giving their time and sharing their skills and expertise with others. Volunteers may have a wide range of interests, skills and abilities that are able to complement our programs, thus giving a wider range of interactions and experiences to our students.

It is our policy to:

- welcome the involvement of community members in providing assistance within the Learning Community;
- provide all volunteers with a safe working environment;
- publicise volunteer opportunities throughout the wider Learning Community to provide all interested people with the opportunity to volunteer;
- ensure that the contribution of volunteers aligns with the Learning Community's vision and mission;
- provide appropriate support and/or instruction to volunteers to help them carry out their tasks at the Learning Community;
- ensure that volunteers understand and comply with the Learning Community's Child Protection Program;
- meet the requirements of all relevant legislation, particularly legislation that pertains to matters of workplace safety and child protection; and
- publicly recognise the contribution of volunteers within the Learning Community.

Volunteer Safety

Under WHS legislation, the Learning Community is responsible for the health and safety of volunteers while they are carrying out activities authorised by the Learning Community. This includes:

- activities involving volunteers will be subject to the same process of risk assessment and management undertaken in relation to activities involving employees;
- the Learning Community will take all reasonable steps to eliminate or minimise the risks to health and safety to which volunteers may be exposed;

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- volunteers will not be expected to take primary responsibilities for activities with significant foreseeable risks;
- volunteers will be provided with safety inductions covering identified hazards, safe work procedures, emergency procedures including first aid, and procedures for notifying college of hazards, incidents, and injuries;
- volunteers will be provided with the appropriate training and PPE;
- a nominated supervisor for each volunteer, as the main contact point for guidance, queries and feedback; and
- suitable insurance will be arranged to cover volunteers in case of injury while assisting the Learning Community.

Types of Volunteer Activities

Given the potential diversity of volunteer activities as well as the risks associated with these activities, we categorise volunteers as either “Direct Contact Volunteers” or “Indirect Contact Volunteers”.

Ultimately it is the responsibility of the Principal as to how a particular volunteer activity is categorised.

The distinction between the two types of volunteer activities determines the level of screening, induction and supervision that is required to be undertaken by the Learning Community as part of the Child Protection Program.

Child-Related Employment Screening

In certain circumstances volunteers (including parent volunteers) are required by law to undergo Child-Related Employment Screening.

For more details as to the requirement for volunteers to undergo child-related employment screening, refer to our Child-Related Employment Screening policy.

General Guidelines for All Volunteers

Volunteers are required to:

- carry out tasks in a manner consistent with Learning Community expectations, including the maintenance of a professional, cooperative and confidential working environment;
- take reasonable care for their own health and safety and ensure they don't adversely affect the health and safety of others;
- carry out tasks within the role assigned and not to perform duties they do not have the skills to undertake;
- cooperate with the reasonable policies, procedures and instructions given by the Learning Community;
- refer all student concerns or behavioural issues to the Learning Community;
- notify the Learning Community as early as possible if they are unable to fulfill their volunteer commitment; and
- report all workplace safety incidents or injuries to the Learning Community.

Volunteers must not:

- work unsupervised with students unless the procedures for dealing with Volunteers set out below have been complied with;
- be involved in toileting students or assisting with change rooms/sick rooms;
- breach matters of student or staff confidentiality, commercial-in-confidence matters;
- encourage affection from or dependency in students (e.g. giving presents, having intimate physical contact or intimate personal contact through written or electronic means such as email, letters, telephone, text messages, social media sites or chatrooms); or

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- display bullying or intimidating behaviours towards students.

Procedures for Dealing with Indirect Contact Volunteers

Given that Indirect Contact Volunteer Activities (such as those assisting with the Learning Community's Saturday canteen or at a Learning Community function) are often arranged informally through teachers, class parents or team managers it may not always be practical to provide these volunteers with a detailed induction.

Prior to the commencement of volunteer work, volunteers will be inducted which includes training relating to child safety and WHS responsibilities.

To minimise risks associated with activities undertaken by Indirect Contact Volunteers, the Learning Community:

- publishes a Volunteer Code of Conduct on the Learning Community's public website and promotes the code through the Learning Community's parent newsletters;
- provides appropriate induction and training for the volunteer work;
- provides appropriate supervision and instruction; and
- provides appropriate First Aid and Critical Incident (Emergency Situations) Response procedures for any activities being undertaken on Learning Community grounds or on organised Learning Community excursions.

Procedures for Dealing with Direct Contact Volunteers

Given the potential risks associated with Direct Contact Volunteers the Learning Community has developed the following procedures:

- The Learning Community regularly reviews the volunteer activities that it offers and maintains a register of all volunteer activities that are considered to be Direct Contact Volunteer Activities.
- Teachers and staff are required to be familiar with the nature of Direct Contact Volunteer Activities and must not offer or permit volunteer opportunities without following these procedures;

The Learning Community screens all Direct Contact Volunteers by:

- requesting appropriate background information, including details of relevant skills and experience where necessary;
- verifying the information provided including undertaking reference/referee checks;
- interviewing the volunteer applicant; and
- conducting Child-Related Employment Screening as required by the Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016 (SA).

Prior to the commencement of volunteer work, all approved Direct Contact Volunteers are required to:

- undergo induction training; and
- be assigned a supervising teacher who will be available to discuss volunteer concerns as they arise.

During the period of the volunteer work:

- the supervising teacher may regularly review the volunteer's performance including discussing the volunteer's performance with students and parents/guardians; and
- provide the volunteer with constructive feedback, when necessary or requested.

The Learning Community may terminate the volunteer's work at any time without notice.

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Record Keeping

The Learning Community will at minimum maintain the following records:

- a copy of the volunteer's Child-Related Employment Screening details (if applicable);
- the name of the volunteer's supervising teacher;
- a copy of any complaints that have been raised against the volunteer; and
- the work undertaken by the volunteer including details of any unscheduled activities and off-site excursions.

Insurance Arrangements for Volunteers

Covered under public liability insurance.

Workers' Responsibility

All workers are responsible to:

- follow the guidelines as set out in this policy;
- not permit a Volunteer to perform volunteer activities unless the volunteer has been approved in accordance with the procedures set out in this policy;
- provide induction training to Volunteers where requested to do so;
- properly supervise any Volunteers where they have been nominated as the supervising staff member; and
- immediately report any matters of concern relating to volunteers.

Implementation

This policy is implemented through a combination of:

- staff training;
- identification of volunteer activities;
- publication of information in relation to volunteer activities including the Volunteer Code of Conduct;
- effective induction training and supervision;
- effective complaints handling procedures;
- effective incident notification procedures; and
- initiation of corrective actions where necessary.

Discipline for Breach of Policy

Where a staff member breaches this policy St Martins Lutheran College may take disciplinary action, including in the case of serious breaches, summary dismissal.

Where a volunteer breaches the Volunteer Code of Conduct or displays behaviour inconsistent with the Christian ethos of the College, the Learning Community may ban the individual concerned from engaging in further volunteer activity on behalf of the Learning Community.

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