**Appendix 1: The Anglican Parish of Christ Church Essendon.**

**Code of Conduct for a Child Safe Church**

This Code of Conduct outlines appropriate standards of behaviour by adults towards children. The Code of Conduct aims to protect children and reduce any opportunities for abuse or harm to occur. It also helps clergy, staff, parishioners, and volunteers by providing them with guidance on how to best support children and how to avoid or better manage difficult situations.

**All clergy, staff, parishioners and volunteers are required to comply.**

**All** are responsible for promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people by:

* Reading and complying with the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne Child Safe Policy and the Duty of Care Handbook which includes guidelines on physical contact with children
* Adhering to Anglican Parish of Christ Church Essendon’s Child Safe Policy
* Taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
* Treating everyone with respect, including listening to and valuing their ideas and opinions
* Welcoming all children and their families and carers and being inclusive
* Respecting cultural, religious and political differences and acting in a culturally sensitive way
* Modelling appropriate adult behaviour
* Listening to children and responding to them appropriately
* Reporting and acting on any breaches of this Code of Conduct, complaints or concerns
* Working with children in an open and transparent way – other adults should always know about the work you are doing with children
* Respecting the privacy of children and their families, and only disclosing information to people who have a need to know

The staff and volunteers in contact with children must NOT:

* Seek to use children in any way to meet the needs of adults
* Ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions or disclosures of child abuse
* Use prejudice, oppressive behaviour or inappropriate language with children
* Engage in rough physical games
* Discriminate on the basis of age, gender, race, culture, physical or mental disability, vulnerability or sexuality
* Initiate unnecessary physical contact with children or do things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes
* Develop ‘special’ relationships with specific children or show favouritism through the provision of gifts or inappropriate attention **\***
* Ask for or exchange personal contact details either physical or cyber, such as phone number, home address, facebook address, twitter or other on-line social networking site, or email addresses with children (under 18)
* Have unauthorised contact with children and young people online or by phone

**\***  It is NEVER acceptable to deliberately take a child to one side to have a private conversation with them. To protect yourself and the child, all conversations with children should be done so in the presence of other adults.

I have read this Code of Conduct and agree to abide by it at all times. I understand that breaching of this code may result in disciplinary action, including reporting to authorities.

Name………………………………………………………………

Signature …………………………………………………. Date ………………………