

Code of conduct for school councillors

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the Public Administration Act 2004. School councillors must abide by the 2016 Directors' Code of Conduct issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to:

- act with honesty and integrity (be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty)
- act in good faith in the best interests of the school (work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds)
- act fairly and impartially (consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self interest)
- use information appropriately (respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available)
- use their position appropriately (not use their position as a councillor to gain an advantage)
- act in a financially responsible manner (observe all the above principles when making financial decisions)
- exercise due care, diligence and skill (accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school)
- comply with relevant legislation and policies (know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law)
- demonstrate leadership and stewardship (set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable).

Resources and links

Victorian Public Sector Commission – Code of Conduct for Directors

<http://vpssc.vic.gov.au/resources/code-of-conduct-for-directors/>

Department of Education and Training Values – Code of Conduct for the Victorian Public Sector

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/hrweb/workm/Pages/Public-Sector-Values.aspx>

School Policy and Advisory Guide – Ethical Decision-Making

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/governance/Pages/ethicaldecisionmaking.aspx>