



YARD DUTY AND SUPERVISION POLICY 2022

PURPOSE

To ensure school staff understand their supervision and yard duty responsibilities.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all teaching and non-teaching staff at Reservoir West Primary School, including education support staff, casual relief teachers and visiting teachers.

POLICY

Appropriate supervision is an important strategy to monitor student behaviour and enables staff to identify and respond to possible risks at school as they arise. It also plays a vital role in helping schools to discharge their duty of care to students.

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that there is a well organised and responsive system of supervision and yard duty in place during school hours, before and after school, and on school excursions and camps and other school activities.

School staff are responsible for following reasonable and lawful instructions from the Principal, including instructions to provide supervision to students at specific dates, times and places. Supervision should be undertaken in a way that identifies and mitigates risks to child safety.

Before and after school

Reservoir West Primary School's grounds are supervised by school staff from 8.45 am until 3.45 pm. Outside of these hours, school staff will not be available to supervise students. Parents and carers will be advised through regular reminders in our newsletter that they should not allow their children to attend Reservoir West Primary School outside of these hours. Families will be encouraged to contact the school for more information about the School Age Care program available to our school community.

If a student regularly arrives at school before supervision commences at the beginning of the day, the Principal or Wellbeing Team will, as soon as practicable, follow up with the parent/carer to:

- advise of the supervision arrangements before school
- request that the parent/carer make alternate arrangements.

If a student is not collected before supervision finishes at the end of the day, the Principal, Wellbeing Team or office staff will consider whether it is appropriate to:

- attempt to contact the parents/carers
- attempt to contact the emergency contacts
- place the student in the SAC program (if available and the parent consents)
- contact Victoria Police and/or Child Protection to arrange for the supervision, care and protection of the student.

Yard duty

All staff at Reservoir West Primary School are expected to assist with yard duty supervision and will be included in the weekly roster.

The Daily Organiser is responsible for preparing and communicating the yard duty roster on a regular basis. At Reservoir West Primary School, school staff will be designated a specific yard duty area to supervise.

Yard duty zones

The designated yard duty areas for our school, as at Term 4, 2022, are set out in Appendix A.

Yard duty equipment

School staff must:

- wear a provided safety/hi-vis vest whilst on yard duty.
- each yard duty staff member is provided with a first aid bum bag that contains; gloves, wipes and band aids
- carry the yard duty first aid bum bag at all times during supervision. The yard duty first aid bag will be stored in a place deemed appropriate by each staff member
- carry their mobile phone whilst on yard duty

Yard duty responsibilities

Staff who are rostered for yard duty must remain in the designated area until they are replaced by a relieving staff member.

During yard duty, supervising school staff must:

- methodically move around the designated zone ensuring active supervision of all students including supervision of toilet areas
- where safe to do so, approach any unknown visitor who is observed on school grounds without a clear legitimate purpose, and ensure they have a visitor pass and have signed in (excluding drop off and collection periods)
- be alert and vigilant
- intervene immediately if potentially dangerous or inappropriate behaviour is observed in the yard
- enforce behavioural standards and implement appropriate consequences for breaches of safety rules, in accordance with any relevant disciplinary measures set out in the school's Student Engagement and Wellbeing policy
- ensure that students who require first aid assistance receive it as soon as practicable
- log any incidents or near misses as appropriate on Compass

If being relieved of their yard duty shift by another staff member the staff member must ensure that a brief but adequate verbal 'handover' is given to the relieving staff member in relation to any issues which may have arisen during the first shift.

If the supervising staff member is unable to conduct yard duty at the designated time, they should contact a member of the school leadership team with as much notice as possible prior to the relevant yard duty shift to ensure that alternative arrangements are made.

If the supervising staff member needs to leave yard duty during the allocated time, they should contact a member of the school leadership team, but should not leave the designated area until the relieving staff member has arrived in the designated area.

If the relieving staff member does not arrive for yard duty, the staff member currently on duty should either send a message to the office for an announcement to be made or call a member of the leadership team, but not leave the designated area until a relieving staff member has arrived.

Students will be encouraged to speak to the supervising yard duty staff member if they require assistance during recess or lunchtime.

Classroom

The classroom teacher is responsible for the supervision of all students in their care during class.

Specialist/support teachers are responsible for the supervision of all students in their care during specialist/support lessons.

If a teacher needs to leave the classroom unattended at any time during a lesson, they should first contact a colleague for assistance to ensure supervision of students is continuous. If it is for a significant period of time, contact a member of the school leadership team. The teacher should then wait until the supervision of the classroom has been organised before leaving.

At no stage should students be left unsupervised in a classroom before school, at recess, at lunch or after school.

School activities, camps and excursions

The Principal and leadership team are responsible for ensuring that students are appropriately supervised during all school activities, camps and excursions, including when external providers are engaged to conduct part or all of the activity. Appropriate supervision will be planned for school activities, camps and excursions on an individual basis, depending on the activities to be undertaken and the level of potential risk involved, and will follow the supervision requirements in the Department of Education and Training [Excursions Policy](#).

Digital devices

Reservoir West Primary School follows the Department's [Cybersafety and Responsible Use of Technologies Policy](#) with respect to supervision of students using digital devices.

Students requiring additional supervision support

Sometimes students will require additional supervision, such as students with a disability or other additional needs. In these cases, the Principal or delegate will ensure arrangements are made to roster additional staff as required. This may include on yard duty, in the classroom or during school activities.

Supervision of student in emergency operating environments

In emergency circumstances our school will follow our Emergency Management Plan, including with respect to supervision.

In the event of any mandatory period of remote or flexible learning our School will follow the operations guidance issued by the Department.

Other areas requiring supervision

Some students require more frequent movement, sensory, or brain breaks for physical and cognitive wellbeing, particularly students with a disability or additional needs. These are arranged collaboratively with input from the wellbeing team, classroom teacher, parents, students, and external providers. In this instance students will be supervised by either their

teacher, an education support staff, another staff member. Alternatively, their teacher may instruct them to go in pairs for a set time in an area near the classroom.

Students in all year levels are to visit the toilet in pairs.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Available publicly on our school's website and Compass under School Documentation
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request.

Information for parents and students on supervision before and after school is available on our school website and parent reminders are sent regularly in our school newsletter.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

The Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):

- [Child Safe Standards](#)
- [Cybersafety and Responsible Use of Technologies](#)
- [Duty of Care](#)
- [Excursions](#)
- [Supervision of Students](#)
- [Visitors in Schools](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	September 2022
Consultation	School Council Staff Newsletter
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	September 2024 This policy has a mandated two-year review cycle

This policy will also be updated if significant changes are made to school grounds that require a revision of Reservoir West Primary School's yard duty and supervision arrangements.

