VISITORS POLICY
MILDURA SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Mildura South Primary School on 50232148

PURPOSE

To provide a safe and secure learning and teaching environment for students and staff by establishing processes to monitor and manage visitors to Mildura South Primary School.

SCOPE

This policy applies to any visitors who may attend school grounds when the school is open for instruction between the hours of 8:35am and 3.35pm. Outside of these times, our front office is not staffed beyond 4pm and the only visitors who are permitted on school grounds are parents/carers or their delegates who are dropping off or picking up students from Outside School Hours Care, school events such as parent teacher interviews, concerts, sport or other school activities. This includes community and other groups who have entered into contracts or agreements with the school to use school premises outside of school hours.

DEFINITIONS

Child-related work: As defined by the *Working with Children Act 2005* (Vic), child-related work is work that usually involves direct contact (including in person, over the phone, written and online communication) with a child that is a central part of that person's duties. It does not include work that involves occasional contact with children that is incidental to the work.

POLICY

Mildura South Primary School strives to create an open and inclusive school community and encourages parents and carers to be actively involved in their child's development and education. We also strive to foster strong partnerships with local community services, schools and other organisations.

Mildura South Primary School is not a public place. The principal has the authority to permit or deny entry to school grounds and encourages all visitors to familiarise themselves with our school's *Statement of Values, Child Safe Policy, Statement of Commitment to Child Safety, Child Safe Code of Conduct and Student Engagement Policies.*

From time to time, different members of the public may visit our school. Visitors may include, but are not limited to:

- Parents
- Volunteers – see our school's Volunteers Policy for more information
- Prospective parents, students and employees
- Invited speakers, sessional instructors and others addressing learning and development
- Public officials (eg Members of Parliament, local councillors)
- Persons conducting business eg: uniform suppliers, booksellers, official school photographers, commercial salespeople
- Tradespeople
- Children's services agencies
- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing workers (DFFH)
- Victoria Police
- Media personal (by appointment)
- Persons authorised to enter school premises (eg Worksafe inspectors, health officers etc)
- Other Department of Education and Training staff (including allied health staff) or contractors
- NDIS therapists or other allied health or health practitioners

Sign in procedure

All visitors to Mildura South Primary School are required to report to the school office on arrival (see exceptions below in relation to parents/carers). Visitors must:

- Record their name, signature, date and time of visit and purpose of visit on the **Compass** Kiosk
- Provide proof of identification to office staff upon request
- Produce their valid Working with Children Check where required by this policy (see below)
- Wear a visitor's [lanyard/name tag] if required
- Follow instruction from school staff and abide by all relevant policies relating to appropriate conduct on school grounds including [eg: Child Safety Code of Conduct, Wellbeing and Engagement and Statement of School Values and School Philosophy]
- Return to the office upon departure, sign out and return visitor's [lanyard/name tag]

Mildura South Primary School will ensure that our school's Child Safety Code of Conduct/Child Safety Statement of Commitment are available to visitors when they sign in if requested.

Requirements for visitors to produce a valid Working with Children Check card

Schools have the discretion to decide which visitors, if any, will be required to have a WWC Check above the legal minimum set out in the *Working with Children Act 2005* (Vic). This Act legally requires all people engaged in 'child-related' work (see definition on page one of this template), to hold a WWCC.

All visitors who are engaged in **child-related work** (see definition above) must have a valid WWC Check.

In some circumstances, visitors to Mildura South Primary School who are **not** engaged in child-related work will also be required to produce a valid WWC Check depending on the particular circumstances of their visit. For example, Mildura South Primary School will require a valid WWC Check for:

- **visitors who will be working regularly with children** during the time they are visiting, even though direct contact with children is not a central part of their normal duties

- **visitors (e.g. contractors)**, who will regularly be performing work at the school and in circumstances where they will be performing their work in an area where they will be unsupervised and around children.

Further background checks, including references, may also be requested at the discretion of the principal.

Visitors who will be working in areas away from students (e.g. a visiting auditor who will be located in the front office with administration staff) or who will be supervised and accompanied by a staff member during their visit (e.g. a Member of Parliament, a journalist, a prospective parent on a school tour) will not be required to have a WWC Check.

Sworn Victoria Police officers or sworn Australian Federal Police officers are exempt from requiring a WWC Check but may be asked to verify that they are sworn officers by providing proof of identification.

Invited speakers and presenters

On occasion, Mildura South Primary School may invite external speakers or providers to deliver incursions, presentations, workshops and special programs for our students. Consistent with Department of Education and Training requirements, Mildura South Primary School will:

- ensure that the content of presentations and programs by external providers contributes to the educational development of our students and is consistent with curriculum objectives
- ensure that any proposed visit, programs or content delivered by visitors complies with the requirement that education in Victorian government schools is secular and is consistent with the values of public education, Department policies and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* (Vic). In particular, programs delivered by visitors are to be delivered in a manner that supports and promotes the principles and practice of Australian democracy including a commitment to:
    - elected government
    - the rule of law
    - equal rights for all before the law
    - freedom of religion
    - speech and association
    - the values of openness and tolerance
- respect the range of views held by students and their families.

Parent visitors

We understand that there may occasionally be a reason why a parent or carer may want to speak to or see their child at school, during school hours.

If there is a particular pressing or unavoidable issue that cannot wait until the end of the school day, we ask that parents or carers call the school office to make the request to speak to or see their child during school hours, mutually agreed upon by both parties.

We also ask that parents avoid arranging to visit their children at school wherever possible, as this can cause inappropriate disruptions to the school day.

All parents or carers who visit our school during school hours, other than for the purposes of school pick-ups and drop offs or for specific school events (eg parent teacher interviews, concerts, assemblies etc), are required to sign in on Compass as a visitor at the school office.

Other visitors

All business operators, tradespeople and other visitors attending the school to conduct work must report to the school office upon arrival for instruction and follow the sign in procedure outlined above.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

DET Resources –

https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/visitorsinschool.aspx

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	10-8-26
Approved by	Principal – Mathew McLeod
Next scheduled review date	10-8-30