



Yard Duty & Supervision



If you need help to understand this policy – please contact the office

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

This policy applies to all teaching and non-teaching staff at Deer Park West Primary, 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, 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

Deer Park West Primary School grounds are supervised by school staff from 8:45am until 3:30pm. 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 our school outside of these hours. An exception to this is if their child is attending the school's breakfast club which operates on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 8.30am, in Room 10.

Families will be encouraged to contact office staff on 9363 3915 for information about the before and after school care provider available to our school community.

If a student arrives at school before supervision commences at the beginning of the day, the Principal or nominee staff member 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 or nominee staff member will consider whether it is appropriate to:

- attempt to contact the parents/carers
- attempt to contact the emergency contacts
- place the student in an out of school hours care 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 Deer Park West Primary are expected to assist with yard duty supervision and will be included in the weekly roster.

The Principal (or nominee) is responsible for preparing and communicating the yard duty roster on a regular basis. At Deer Park West Primary, school staff will be designated a specific yard duty area to supervise.

Yard duty zones

The designated yard duty areas for our school are:

Area	Area
Area 1	Foundation playground, F-2 Toilets, Rooms 12 & 13, Basketball Court
Area 2	1-2 Classrooms, 1-2 Playground, Environment Area, Shade Sails
Area 3	3-6 playground, 3-6 toilets, synthetic turf games spaces, Shade Sails
Area 4	Oval, Soccer Pitch, Rooms 18-23
*Area 5	Library

*these areas may vary slightly day to day/termly depending on weather conditions and other factors e.g. oval out of bounds after heavy rainfall

Yard duty equipment

School staff must:

- wear a provided safety/hi-vis vest whilst on yard duty
- carry the yard duty first aid bag at all times during supervision
- be familiar with the student health and safety information

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 practice Active Supervision which includes:

- methodically move around the designated zone ensuring active supervision of all students
- ensure students only play on their allocated play equipment, when playing on a playground
- 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 Wellbeing & Engagement policy
- ensure that students who require first aid assistance receive it as soon as practicable

- log any incidents, safety issues or other concerns as appropriate on Compass and/or add to the maintenance book. Yard duty bags to contain sticky notes and a pen to assist with keeping records.

If being relieved of their yard duty shift by another staff member (for example, where the shift is 'split' into 2 consecutive time periods), 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 the yard duty organiser (or assistant principals) 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 the office 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 send a message to the office and 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.

If a teacher needs to leave the classroom unattended at any time during a lesson, they should:

- ask their neighbouring teacher to actively supervise their class (in line of sight of all students)
- OR
- contact the office for assistance - the teacher should then wait until a replacement staff member has arrived at the classroom before leaving.

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 Excursions Policy.

Digital devices and virtual classroom

Deer Park West Primary School follows the Department's Cybersafety and Responsible Use of Technologies Policy with respect to supervision of students using digital devices.

Deer Park West Primary School will also ensure appropriate supervision of students participating in remote and flexible learning environments while on the school site.

While parents are responsible for the appropriate supervision of students accessing virtual classrooms from home:

- Student attendance will be monitored
- Any wellbeing or safety concerns for the student will be managed in accordance with our usual processes

Students requiring additional supervision support

Sometimes students will require additional supervision, such as students with 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. Education Support staff are rostered to support yard duty, which includes:

- directly assisting students
- line of sight and providing support as needed
- support high needs areas such as the foundation playground and the senior toilets area

Supervision of students 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

At Deer Park West Primary School, students needing to use the bathroom during learning time, will do so in pairs.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Included in staff induction processes
- Discussed at staff briefings or meetings, as required
- Included in our staff handbook
- Made available in hard copy 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 at the beginning of each term 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	22/07/2022
Approved by	Principal July 2022
Next scheduled review date	July 2024

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