**YARD DUTY AND SUPERVISION POLICY**

**Mount Pleasant Primary School**

**Purpose**

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

**Scope**

The principal is responsible for ensuring that there is a well-organised and responsive system of supervision in place during school hours, before and after school, and on school excursions and camps.

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

School staff are responsible for following reasonable and lawful instructions from the principal, including instructions to provide supervision to students at specific dates, time and places.

**Policy**

### **Before and after school**

Mount Pleasant Primary School grounds are supervised by school staff from **8:45am – 9am** and **3:15-3:30pm**. The yard duty teachers supervise all playground areas. All children are to be dropped off/picked up via their allocated gate during these times.

Parents and carers should not allow their children to attend Mount Pleasant Primary School outside of these hours. Families are encouraged to contact Extend 1300 366 437 for more information about the before and after school care facilities 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)
* contact Victoria Police and/or the Department of Health and Human Services (Child Protection) to arrange for the supervision, care and protection of the student.

School staff who are rostered on for before or after school supervision must follow the processes outlined below.

### **Yard duty**

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

The principal or Welfare Learning Specialist is responsible for preparing and communicating the yard duty roster on a regular basis. At Mount Pleasant Primary School, school staff will be designated a specific yard duty area to supervise.

The designated yard duty areas for our school:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Zone** | **Area** |
| Junior Area  | Junior Playground, Quiet Area  |
| Senior Area  | Oval, front of the school, Senior playground  |

All school entry and exit points will be unlocked between 8:45am – 9am and 3:15 – 3:30pm.



**INSERT SCHOOL MAP WITH ZONES MARKED**

The school office will be the only school entry and exit point between 9:00am and 3:15pm.

School staff must wear a provided safety/hi-vis vest whilst on yard duty. Safety/hi-vis vests will be stored in the offices of teachers.

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

During yard duty, supervising staff must:

* methodically move around the designated zone
* 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 Mount Pleasant Primary School *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 SENTRAL
* if being relieved of their yard duty shift by another staff member (for example, where the shift is ‘split’ into 2 consecutive time periods), ensure that a brief but adequate verbal ‘handover’ is given to the next 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 shouldcontact the Principalwith as much notice as possible prior to the relevant yard duty shiftto ensure that alternative arrangements are made.

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

If a relieving or next staff member does not arrive for yard duty, the staff member currently on duty should send a message to the office or ring the Leadership phone and not leave the designated area until a replacement staff member has arrived.

Should students require assistance during recess or lunchtime, they are encouraged to speak to the supervising yard duty staff member.

### **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 first contact front office or Principal for assistance. The teacher should then wait until another staff member has arrived at the classroom to supervise the class prior to leaving.

Teachers must supervise their students during a presentation from a guest speaker.

### **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 activities. Appropriate supervision will be planned for special school activities, camps and excursions on an individual basis, depending on the activities to be undertaken and the level of potential risk involved.

On excursions, the school will maintain a minimum adult to student ratio of 1:20, as set out in the Department of Education and Training (DET) guidelines.

On excursions, teacher will comprise at least half the staff.

On camps, the school will maintain a minimum adult to student ratio of 1:10, as set out in the DET guidelines.

On camps, when practicable, there will be at least one person of each gender.

Parent/carers included in the supervision ratio or given supervision roles on camps or excursions must have a Working with Children Check.

**Further Information and Resources**

* the Department’s Policy and Advisory Library:
	+ [Supervision of Students](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/supervision-students/policy)
	+ [Duty of Care](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/duty-of-care/policy)
	+ [Child Safe Standards](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/child-safe-standards/policy)
	+ [Visitors in Schools](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/visitors/policy)

## **Review Cycle**

This policy was last updated on 20th August 2020 and is scheduled for review on 2023. This policy will also be updated if significant changes are made to school grounds that require a revision of Mount Pleasant Primary School’s Yard Duty and Supervision Policy.