



Mount Pleasant Primary School Yard Duty and Supervision Policy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the office on 5332 3646.

Purpose

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

Scope

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.

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

Mount Pleasant Primary School's grounds are supervised by school staff from 8:40am until 3:30pm. On scheduled Breakfast Club scheduled days, supervision will be in the Arts Centre/Canteen (only) from 8:40am-9:00am. Outside of these hours, school staff will not be available to supervise students.

Parents and carers should not allow their children to attend Mount Pleasant Primary School outside of these hours. Families are encouraged to contact the Principal for more information about possible before and after school care facilities/providers 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 Mount Pleasant Primary School are expected to assist with yard duty supervision and will be included in the weekly roster.

The Principal 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.

Yard Duty Zones

The designated yard duty areas for our school are as follows:

Zone	Area
Purple Zone (Before school)	Cobden and Trethowan Street gates; Breakfast Club (Arts Centre/Canteen, Junior playground).
Orange Zone (After school)	Cobden and Trethowan Street gates.
Green Zone (Top area)	New playground, Quiet Area (including student toilets), front lawn and wooden playground.
Red Zone (Bottom area)	Oval, sandpit, basketball court.
Brown Zone (ES targeted supervision)	Targeted supervision – identified students.
Blue Zone (Withdrawal)	Library.
Clubs (ES targeted supervision)	Arts Centre.

Yard Duty Equipment

School staff must:

- wear a provided safety/hi-vis vest whilst on yard duty. Safety/hi-vis vests will be distributed to all staff at the beginning of the year.
- carry the yard duty first aid bag at all times during supervision. The yard duty first aid bag will be stored in Room 4 and Room 7.

Yard duty equipment must be returned after the period of supervision or handed to the relieving staff member.

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.
- 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 Sentral, or alert the Principal if required.

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 Principal/Business Manager 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 Principal/Business Manager 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.

Should a student need to leave the classroom to visit the bathroom or undertake an errand/message, the student must be accompanied by another student or staff member as available.

If a teacher needs to leave the classroom unattended at any time during a lesson, they should first contact the Principal 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 is 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's [Excursions Policy](#).

Digital Devices and Virtual Classroom

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

Mount Pleasant Primary School will also ensure appropriate supervision of students participating in remote and flexible learning environments while on the school site. In these cases, students will be supervised in designated learning areas by a school staff member.

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.

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.

Communication

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

- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Available publicly on our school's website
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Discussed at parent information sessions
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request.

Information for parents and students on supervision before and after school (including Extend Before and After School Care as the school's third party service provider for outside school hours care) 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](#)

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's two-year review cycle.

Policy Review and Approval

Created date	March, 2025
Consultation	Staff and School Council, Month, Year
Endorsed/Ratified by	Principal and School Council
Endorsed/Ratified on	26 March, 2025
Next review date	March, 2027

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 arrangements.