



Yard Duty & Supervision Policy- Staff

Purpose

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

Scope

This policy applies to all teaching and non-teaching staff at Spensley Street 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

Spensley Street Primary School grounds are supervised by school staff from 8.45am until 9am and from 3.30pm until 3.45pm. Outside of these hours, school staff will not be available to supervise students. In the morning, once students have arrived at school, they are encouraged to move to their Areas.

Parents and carers should not allow their children to attend Spensley Street Primary School outside of these hours. If families require supervision for their children outside of these hours, they are encouraged to utilise 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.

Yard duty

All staff at Spensley Street Primary School are expected to assist with yard duty supervision and will be included in the weekly roster. The assistant principal is responsible for preparing and communicating the yard duty roster on a regular basis. At Spensley Street Primary School school staff on duty will supervise the three different zones, working together to ensure that all areas of the school are appropriately supervised.

The designated yard duty areas for our school are:

Zone	Area
Zone 1 (Yellow)	Playground & Basketball Court
Zone 2 (Green)	Courtyard
Zone 3 (Blue)	Grass Area & Basketball Court



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

Yard Duty Equipment

School Staff must:

- wear a provided safety/hi-vis vest whilst on yard duty. Safety/hi-vis vests will be stored outside the first aid room
- carry the yard duty hi-vis satchel containing bandaids, care cards, and a list of children with allergies at all times during supervision. The yard duty first aid bag will be stored outside the first aid room.
- 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 the relieving staff member.

During yard duty, supervising staff must:

- methodically move around the designated zone ensuring active supervision of all students
- 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 your 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 (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 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 arrange to swap their shift. If this is unable to be done, contact the Assistant Principal 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 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 and have the next person called 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

Teachers are responsible for the supervision of all students in the area and of their homegroup when not in the area. If a teacher needs to leave the area unattended at any time during a lesson, they should first contact another staff member in their area for assistance.

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 and virtual classroom

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

Spensley Street 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 when participating in remote learning activities such as the Victorian High Ability Program and other online learning opportunities.

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

- student attendance will be monitored through a daily roll
- any well-being or safety concerns for the student will be managed in accordance with our usual processes – refer to our Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy and our Child Safety Responding and Reporting Policy and Procedures for further information.

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 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 ways

- Included in staff induction processes
- Discussed at staff briefings or meetings, as required
- Included in our staff handbook
- On the school website
- Made available in hard copy from the 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 & 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 Renew and Approval

<i>Policy last reviewed</i>	19th December 2022
<i>Approved by</i>	Principal
<i>Next scheduled review date</i>	19th December 2024

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