

Toolangi PRIMARY SCHOOL

Yard Duty and Supervision Policy

Main Rd. Toolangi TEL: 5962 9255

Email: toolangi.ps@education.vic.gov.au Website: <https://www.toolangi.ps@education.vic.gov.au>



Policy Name	Yard Duty and Supervision	Approved	September 11th 2023
Responsibility	Sally Herbert	Review Date	September 2025

Purpose

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

Scope

This policy applies to all teaching and non-teaching staff at Toolangi 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

Toolangi Primary School's grounds are supervised by school staff from 8.45am until 3.45pm. Outside of these hours, school staff will not be available to supervise students. The areas that are supervised are the rotunda, playground and front of school. Students travelling on the bus will be supervised by a staff member at the pickup point on the other side of the road.

Parents and carers will be advised through our newsletter and on Compass that they should not allow their children to attend Toolangi Primary School outside of these hours. Families will be encouraged to contact the school for more information about the 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.

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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 Toolangi Primary School are expected to assist with yard duty supervision and will be included in the daily roster

The Principal is responsible for preparing and communicating the yard duty roster on a regular basis. Due to the small nature of our school, staff will be responsible for supervising the entire play areas. Students are not allowed to enter the kitchen garden without supervision.

Yard duty equipment

School staff must:

- Be visible to the students and supervise the outside yard area.
- Wear a high visibility jacket during bus duty and fill out the student bus list daily.
- Carry the school portable phone or mobile phone during yard duty
- Be familiar with the yard duty information pack containing student health and safety information stored in the school kitchen near the first aid cabinet
- Be familiar with the procedures for a snake sighting

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
- 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)
- ensure students remain in the playground area
- be alert and vigilant
- intervene immediately if potentially dangerous or inappropriate behaviour is observed in the yard

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- 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 policy
- ensure that students who require first aid assistance receive it as soon as practicable
- log any incidents or near misses as appropriate (i.e. in a Yard Duty Book, on Compass, or make an Edusafe report)

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 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 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 Principal 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 first contact the Principal or second teacher 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 and Training [Excursions Policy](#).

Digital devices and virtual classroom

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

Toolangi Primary School will also ensure appropriate supervision of students participating in remote and flexible learning environments while on school site. In these cases, students will be supervised in the classrooms.

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

- student attendance will be monitored on a daily basis.
- any wellbeing 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 disabilities 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.

Other areas requiring supervision

Students that need to use the bathroom during class time will go in pairs.

Students are not allowed to enter the buildings during break times without permission from the yard duty teacher.

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
- Included as a reference in our school newsletter each term
- 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](#)

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- [Duty of Care](#)
- [Excursions](#)
- [Supervision of Students](#)
- [Visitors in Schools](#)

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

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed annually by the School Council to confirm/enhance internal control procedures. Proposed amendments to this policy will be discussed with Administration Staff, and School Council Certification

This policy was ratified by the School Council on Monday September 11th 2023.

Signed.....
PRINCIPAL

Signed.....
SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT