



Small School Big Learning

Volunteers and Visitors policy

Rationale

- Yering Primary School seeks to provide an open and friendly learning environment which values and encourages volunteers and visitors to the school. Typically these may include parent and community volunteers, invited speakers, representatives of community business and service groups, prospective parents, service people, official school photographers and commercial sales people.
- Concurrently we recognise our duty of care to provide a safe environment for the students, staff and parents of YPS.
- Schools must establish and implement policies to assess and verify the suitability of volunteers who will work with children requiring all volunteers to provide evidence of their suitability. This evidence is generally a working with children check (WWCC); however if a volunteer's occupation exempts them from the requirement to also have a WWCC e.g. police officers, teachers, they must provide evidence to support their claim to an exemption.

Definition

- **Volunteer** – means a person who, without remuneration or reward, voluntarily engages in tasks at school.
- **Working with Children Check (WWCC)**
 1. The WWCC is a minimum checking standard set by the Working with Children Act 2005 for those who work with children, either on a paid or voluntary basis.
 2. To be a volunteer at a school a Working with Children Card provided by the Department of Justice is required.

This card is:

- Valid for 5 years.
- Transferable between volunteer organisations.
- Free of charge for volunteers, but cannot be used for paid employment.
- WWCC for paid employment can be used to show suitability for volunteer work.

Aim

- To provide a safe and secure environment for the students, staff, families and volunteers of YPS.
- To establish protocols and procedures to effectively monitor and manage volunteers and visitors, whilst not compromising the open and inviting nature of Yering Primary School.

Implementation

School Protocols:

- Visitors are required to report to the School Administration prior if undertaking any activity within the school. Any visitor wishing to speak to a student must do so through a school staff member.

- Visitors are required to sign the 'Visitors' book and will be assigned a 'Visitors' badge which they must wear at all times within the school. Similarly, they are required to report to the School Administration at the end of their visit to return their badge and to 'sign out' in the Visitors book.
- Visitors within the school who have failed to follow this process will be monitored and reminded to do so.
- Salespeople and those delivering goods will be directed appropriately by the School Administration staff.
- Visitors providing services to the school such as tradespeople and consultants who may work independently of school personnel, will be asked to present their Working with Children Check (WWCC) in accordance with the *Working with Children Act 2005*; observe the schools 'sign in' and 'sign out' procedures; wear a 'Visitors' badge at all times and observe the school's Occupational Health and Safety procedures while on site. Any visitors providing services to the school who do not have their Working with Children Check will need to be supervised by School Administration staff on their visit.
- All volunteers (including parents), who volunteer in classrooms or excursions/incursions require a Working with Children Check (WWCC) to participate in the activity. (Refer *Working with Children Act 2005*).
- A volunteer can commence work in a school when they provide a receipt as proof they have applied for a WWCC with the Department of Justice.
- We will endeavour to advise all students of any known visitors entering the school grounds.

Volunteers:

- Volunteers are required to sign the 'Visitors' book and will be assigned a 'Visitors' badge which they must wear at all times within the school. Similarly, they are required to report to the School Administration at the end of their visit to return their badge and to 'sign out' in the Visitors book.

Visitors:

- Visitors, such as parents and community members, are actively encouraged to participate in school activities and will be invited to do so through the School Newsletter and website, notices, written invitations and personal approaches, as well as informally through conversation and opportunity.
- Visiting speakers are in attendance by invitation only. They will be well briefed about the nature of the school and its community by the Principal or Teacher in Charge and should be prepared to respect the range of views held by our students and their families.
- The Principal is responsible for ensuring that parental consent is obtained for contact with students by approved organisations (e.g. instrumental music) during school hours.

The School Administration office is the school's major public space and parents are welcome to visit this area at any time to:

- Organise the collection of their child/children by filling in the early dismissal book
- Make appointments to see staff
- Make enquires about school operations
- Pay accounts or complete other tasks that require the support of our administration staff or members of the leadership team.

Risk Management:

- Visitors and volunteers entering the school will be provided with directions, and made aware of any construction works which may impact upon their safety or comfort. School Administration staff, Principal or the Teacher in Charge of organising the visit will provide this advice.
- The school's emergency management procedures will ensure that visitors within the school at the time of emergency or practice drill will be identified and directed appropriately.

Unauthorised visitors:

- Visitors who are not listed on school records and who wish to see a student will not be given access to them. The Principal will explain the school's policy and then request the individual to leave the school grounds.
- Under the *Summary Offence Act 1966*, the principal reserves the right, and has the authority to prohibit any potential visitor from entering or remaining within the school, and also has the authority to invite or exclude people from using or being within the school's boundaries outside school operating hours.

NB: For the purpose of this policy, visitors are defined as all people other than staff members, students, and parents/guardians involved in the task of delivering or collecting students at the start or end of the school day.