

# Yard Duty and Supervision Policy

## WARATAH SPECIAL DEVELOPMENTAL SCHOOL

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### 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 Waratah Special Developmental School (Waratah SDS), 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**

The majority of students travel to and from school by bus and processes are in place to ensure that students are supervised during bus arrivals and departures. For parents dropping off and picking up students staff are available to supervise students from 8.45am until 3.30 pm. Parents must ensure that their child/ren are handed over to the care of a staff member and must never be left unsupervised.

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
- 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 Waratah SDS are expected to assist with yard duty supervision and will be included in the weekly roster.

The section coordinator is responsible for preparing and communicating the yard duty roster for their section on a regular basis.

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 or undertake specific responsibilities outlined on the roster.
- be alert and vigilant
- intervene immediately if potentially dangerous or inappropriate behaviour is observed in the yard
- promote our expected behaviours in the playground and reward and acknowledge students for demonstrating these behaviours.
- respond to inappropriate behaviour following the guidelines 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 i.e. on Xuno, edusafe
- 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 should 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 Assistant 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 call Assistant Principal 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 the section coordinator for assistance. The teacher should then wait until another staff member has arrived at the classroom to supervise the class prior to leaving.

## **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.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

- School Policy and Advisory Guide:
  - [Supervision](#)
  - [Duty of Care](#)
  - [Child Safe Standards](#)
  - [Visitors in Schools](#)

## **REVIEW CYCLE**

This policy was last updated on May 2020 and is scheduled for review on May 2021. This policy will also be updated if significant changes are made to school grounds that require a revision of Waratah SDS's Yard Duty and Supervision Policy.