



Hughesdale Primary School

VISITORS Policy

Last Review Date;
August 2021

Due for Next Review;
August 2024

Included on Website;
☒ Yes ☐ No

Authorised (Principal);

PURPOSE

To provide a safe and secure learning and teaching environment for students and staff by establishing processes to monitor and manage visitors to Hughesdale Primary School.

SCOPE

This policy outlines our school's arrangements for visitors who attend school grounds when the school is open for instruction between the hours of 8:30am to 4:30pm, and when the office is staffed to monitor/receive visitors at reception, including parents, contractors. Outside of these times, our front office is not staffed and this policy does not apply.

DEFINITIONS

Child-related work: As defined by the *Worker Screening Act 2020* (Vic), child-related work is work that usually involves direct contact (including in person, over the phone, written and online communication) with a child that is a central part of that person's duties. It does not include work that involves occasional direct contact with children that is incidental to the work.

POLICY

Hughesdale Primary School strives to create an open and inclusive school community, and encourages parents and carers to be actively involved in their child's development and education. We also strive to foster strong partnerships with local community services, schools and other organisations.

Hughesdale Primary School is not a public place. The principal has the authority to permit or deny entry to school grounds and encourages all visitors to familiarise themselves with our school's *Statement of Values and Philosophy, Child Safety Standards Policy and Child Safety Code of Conduct*. From time to time, different members of the public may visit our school. Visitors may include, but are not limited to:

- Parents;
- Volunteers – see our school's Volunteers Policy for more information;
- Prospective parents, students, and employees;
- Invited speakers, sessional instructors and others addressing learning and development;
- Public officials (e.g., Members of Parliament, local councillors);
- Persons conducting business e.g.: uniform suppliers, booksellers, official school photographers, commercial salespeople;
- Tradespeople;
- Children's services agencies;
- Department of Health and Human Services workers;
- Victoria Police;
- Persons authorised to enter school premises (e.g. Worksafe inspectors, health officers etc);
- Other Department of Education and Training staff (including allied health staff) or contractors;
- NDIS therapists or other allied health or health practitioners;

Sign in procedure

All visitors to Hughesdale Primary School are required to report to the school office on arrival (see exceptions below in relation to parents/carers). Visitors must:

- Record their name and phone number in the Compass Kiosk at the front reception which time and date stamps their arrival;
- Provide proof of identification to office staff upon request;
- Produce evidence of their valid Working with Children Clearance where required by this policy (see below)
- Wear a visitor's lanyard/sticker at all times;
- Follow instruction from school staff and abide by all relevant school policies relating to appropriate conduct on school grounds including Child Safety Code of Conduct, Statement of Values as well as Department policies such as the [Sexual Harassment Policy](#) and [Workplace Bullying Policy](#);
- Return to the office upon departure, sign out and return visitor's tags.

Hughesdale Primary School will ensure that our school's Child Safety Code of Conduct is available and visible to visitors when they sign in.

Working with Children Clearance

For working with Children (WWC) Check and other suitability check requirements relating to parents/carers and other volunteers working with students please see out Volunteers Policy.

All visitors who are engaged in **child-related work** (see definition above) must have a valid WWC Clearance.

All visitors (e.g. contractors), who will be performing work at the school during school hours or any other time where children are present must have a valid WWC clearance. Further background checks, including references, may also be requested at the discretion of the principal.

Visitors who will be working in areas away from students (e.g. a visiting auditor who will be located in the front office with administration staff) or who will be supervised and accompanied by a staff member during their visit (e.g. a Member of Parliament, a journalist, a prospective parent on a school tour) will not be required to have a WWC Clearance.

Sworn Victoria Police officers or sworn Australian Federal Police officers are exempt from requiring a WWC Check, but may be asked to verify that they are sworn officers by providing proof of identification.

Invited speakers and presenters

On occasion, Hughesdale Primary School may invite external speakers or providers to deliver incursions, presentations, workshops and special programs for our students. Consistent with Department of Education and Training requirements, Hughesdale Primary School will:

- ensure that the content of presentations and programs by external providers contributes to the educational development of our students and is consistent with curriculum objectives;
- ensure that any proposed visit, programs or content delivered by visitors complies with the requirement that education in Victorian government schools is and is consistent with the values of public education, Department policies and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* (Vic). In particular, programs delivered by visitors are to be delivered in a manner that supports and promotes the principles and practice of Australian democracy including a commitment to:
 - elected government;

- the rule of law;
- equal rights for all before the law;
- freedom of religion, speech and association;
- the values of openness and tolerance;
- respect the range of views held by students and their families.

All invited speakers and presenters must have a valid WWC Clearance.

Parent visitors

We understand that there may occasionally be a reason why a parent or carer may want to speak to or see their child at school, during school hours.

If there is a particular pressing or unavoidable issue that cannot wait until the end of the school day, we ask that parents or carers call the school office to make the request to speak to or see their child during school hours.

We also ask that parents avoid arranging to visit their children at school wherever possible, as this can cause inappropriate disruptions to the school day.

All parents or carers who visit our school during school hours, other than for the purposes of school pick ups and drop offs are required to sign in as a visitor at the school office.

Parents or carers who are prohibited from entering the school under a court order or direction of the Principal are not permitted to visit the school. Our school maintains and provides office staff with a list of restricted parents/carers which may include identifying photographs and any other information as required depending on the level of risk posed.

Other visitors

All business operators, tradespeople and other visitors attending the school to conduct work must report to the school office upon arrival for instruction and follow the sign in procedure outlined above.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website;
- Included in induction processes for relevant staff;
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- [School Policies:](#)
 - Statement of Values and Philosophy
 - Volunteers Policy
 - Child Safety Standards
 - Child Safety Code of Conduct
 - Contractor OHS Management

POLICY REVIEW

Policy last reviewed	August 2021
Next scheduled review date	August 2024
Review Cycle	The recommended minimum review cycle for this policy is 3 to 4 years