



YARD DUTY AND SUPERVISION POLICY

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

This policy applies to all teaching and non-teaching staff at Heatherhill 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 in place during school hours, before and after school, and on school excursions and camps.

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.

Before and after school

Heatherhill Primary School's grounds are supervised by school staff from 8:45 am until 3:45 pm. Outside these hours, school staff will not be available to supervise students.

Parents and carers will be advised about before and after school supervision through regular reminders in our newsletter that they should not allow their children to attend Heatherhill Primary School outside of these hours.

Students in or about the schoolyard after 3:45 pm will be brought to the school office by the supervising teacher. Parents will be contacted

Parents and carers should not allow their children to attend Heatherhill Primary School outside of these hours. Families are encouraged to contact the office on 9546 7562 for more information about 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
- 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.

School staff who are rostered on for before or after school supervision must follow the processes outlined below.

Yard duty

All teaching staff at Heatherhill 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 Heatherhill Primary School, teaching staff will be designated a specific yard duty area to supervise.

Yard Duty Zones



School staff must:

- wear a provided safety vest whilst on yard duty, located in the teacher's room/office
- carry the provided first aid pack, located in the teacher's room/office
- comply with Sunsmart guidelines

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 schoolyard
- 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

If being relieved of their yard duty shift by another staff member (for example, where the shift is 'split' into two 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 or contact the 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 front Assistant Principal or Principal for assistance or the office if the principal/AP cannot be contacted. The teacher should then wait until another staff member has arrived at the classroom to supervise the class before 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.

Digital devices and virtual classroom

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

Heatherhill 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.

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

- student attendance will be monitored daily through the morning check-in.
- 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 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.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on the school's website: heatherhill.ps@education.vic.gov.au
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in our staff handbook/manual
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

The Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL): <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal>

- [Child Safe Standards](#)
- [Cybersafety and Responsible Use of Technologies](#)
- [Duty of Care](#)
- [Excursions](#)
- [Supervision of Students](#)
- [Visitors in Schools](#)
- [Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	September 2020
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	November 2023

This policy will also be updated if significant changes are made to school grounds that require a revision of Heatherhill Primary School's Yard Duty and Supervision Policy.