

Yard Duty and Supervision Policy



Help for non-English Speakers.

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Miners Rest Primary School on 03 5334 6328 or miners.rest.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

Purpose

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

Scope

This policy applies to all teaching and non-teaching staff at Miners Rest 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

Miners Rest Primary School's grounds are supervised by school staff from 8:45am until 3:35pm. Outside of these hours, school staff will not be available to supervise students

Parents and carers will be advised through regular reminders in our newsletter that they should not allow their children to attend Miners Rest Primary School outside of these hours. Families are encouraged to contact our school 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
- place the student in an out of school hours care program with parent consent
- contact Victoria Police and/or Child Protection to arrange for the supervision, care, and protection of the student.

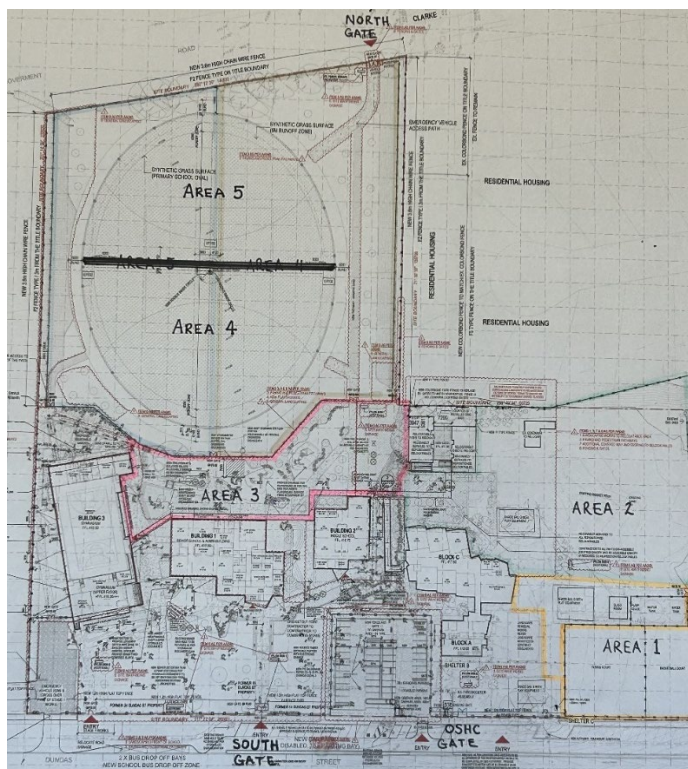
Yard duty

All staff at Miners Rest Primary School are expected to assist with yard duty supervision and will be included in the weekly roster.

The Daily Organiser is responsible for preparing and communicating the yard duty roster on a regular basis. At Miners Rest Primary School, school staff will be designated a specific yard duty area to supervise.

Yard duty zones

Area	Location
Area 1	Basketball/Tennis Courts
Area 2	Turf Oval, Playgrounds, Asphalt area, Brady Building toilets
Area 3	Cubby House, North side of Millie and Davey Building Playgrounds and Davey Building toilets
Area 4	South side of Medwell Oval
Area 5	North side of Medwell Oval





Yard duty equipment

School staff must:

- wear the provided safety/hi-vis vest whilst on yard duty.
- carry the yard duty first aid bag, and mobile phone, at all times during supervision.
- be familiar with the yard duty information regarding student health and safety – ‘at risk’ students have photo cards located in yard duty bags.
- wear a broad-brimmed hat from September 1 through to April 30.

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 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 lanyard and have signed in (excluding drop off and collection periods)
- 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 on Sentral in a timely manner
- 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 Daily Organiser 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 Daily Organiser, 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/staffroom and not leave the designated area until a replacement 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 Assistant Principal/Principal 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/Assistant 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 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.

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

Miners Rest 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 a focused learning space by a member of staff.

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

- student attendance will be monitored daily
- 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 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.

Supervision of student in emergency operating environments.

In emergency circumstances our school will follow our Emergency Management Plan, including with respect to supervision.

In the event of any mandatory period of remote or flexible learning, our school will follow the operations guidance issued by the Department.



Further Information and Resources

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies in the Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):

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

Communication

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

- Available publicly on school website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in the MRPS Operations Guide
- Annual reference in school newsletter
- Hard copy available 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.

Policy Review and Approval

Policy last reviewed	28 th November 2023
Approved by	Principal, School Council, and Inclusion & Engagement SIT
Next scheduled review date	Before November 2025, or prior in the event of a critical incident.

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