

Dimboola Memorial Secondary College

YARD DUTY AND SUPERVISION POLICY



Statement:

Dimboola Memorial Secondary College believes that the safety of children is of paramount importance and as such, has a zero tolerance of child abuse. Duty of care extends to protecting all children from child abuse. (Ministerial Order 870)

Rationale:

Adequate supervision of students in the school yard is a requirement of the school's duty of care.

The school will normally satisfy the duty of care for the on-site management of students outside normal timetabled class time by allocating responsibilities for supervision to different staff.

The principal is responsible for making and administering such arrangements for supervision as are necessary according to the circumstances in the school, and teachers are responsible for carrying out their assigned supervisory duties in such a way that students are, as far as can be reasonably expected, protected from injury.

Aims:

- To ensure arrangements for onsite supervision are clear.

Implementation:

1. As part of its duty of care the school is required to adequately supervise students for a defined period before school; at recess time and lunch time; and after school.
2. This on-site supervision requires not only protection from known hazards, but also protection from those that could arise (that is, those the teacher should reasonably have foreseen) and against which preventive measures could be taken.
3. It is essential parents/carers are kept informed as to when supervision of students is available before and after school, and that outside these times supervision and/or the collection of students is the responsibility of parents/carers. This information should be clearly provided to parents/guardians on a regular basis. This will be done via the newsletter. Students should not arrive before 8.30am and should leave the school grounds at 3.20pm – unless engaged in a school-sanctioned and supervised activity which is onsite. (For example, SMART Sessions)
4. Parents/carers may require their child to leave the school grounds to:
 - be dismissed early from school to attend an appointment

Any student arriving late is required to sign in on the iPad in the office. Any student leaving early is required to sign out on the iPad in the office.

The school must receive written permission from a parent/carer before the school will authorise a student to be dismissed to:

- go home for lunch (in special circumstances)
- to attend an appointment during school hours

PROGRAM

A roster system will be used to timetable staff members for yard supervision.

Yard supervision will include before school, recess and lunch breaks, and after school. Supervision extends to the bus pick up area at the rear of the school.

In determining whether supervision of students entering or exiting the school is adequate, the principal or their nominee will consider a number of factors including:

- which entry/exit points should be or are used by students
- designated pick up and drop off areas

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the school's 'Duty of Care Policy'

YARD DUTY ROSTERS

Supervision before and after school

- The school will provide staff supervision for students arriving at school from 8.30am.
- The school will provide staff supervision for students after school between 3.20pm and 3.30pm or until the last bus departs.
- This information is provided to parents/guardians on a regular basis via the school newsletter. Outside of these times the supervision and/or the collection of students is the responsibility of parents/guardians.
- Two teachers will be allocated by the school principal or their nominee to supervise students during these periods.
- Staff on Yard Duty will wear a high-vis vest and carry a mobile phone and set of school keys with them in case of emergency.

Should a teacher be called away to other duties alternate supervision arrangements will be put in place in consultation with the principal or their nominee.

Supervision at recesses and lunch time

Students are required to be adequately supervised during recesses and lunch times. In order to ensure that students are adequately supervised, a 'Yard Duty Roster' will be created each term allocating teachers to supervise students in defined areas of the school grounds during these times.

Details of the roster are communicated to teachers via briefings, email, and via the staff noticeboard.

If the Stadium is open during lunchtime, an additional staff member from the Physical Education Dept will be on duty to supervise these indoor activities.

Unauthorised student departure from school

When a student departs from the school (following initial attendance) without authorisation, the parent/guardian will be informed immediately.

Where there is reasonable concern for the student's safety or the safety of others, immediate contact will also be made with the police and the DET's iSOC Incident Reports service, telephone 1800 126 126 (24 hour service).

Arrangements for students not collected after school

Parents/guardians will be informed when supervision of students is available before and after school hours and that supervision outside of these times and/or the collection of students is the responsibility of parents/guardians. Students remaining in the school yard awaiting collection after 3.35pm will be directed to the office waiting area.

If it becomes known that a student who is normally collected from the school, remains at the school well beyond the normal time of collection, attempts will be made to contact the parents/guardians, or the emergency contact person identified by the parent/guardian in the school records.

Where all reasonable attempts have been made to locate the parents/guardian and the emergency contact persons, and the time is well beyond a reasonable time for collection, consideration will be given to contacting the police or the Department of Health and Human Services and for them to arrange for the care and protection of the student.

Information about the whereabouts of the student will be left with emergency contacts for the student as listed at the school, and at the school.

Arrangements for student supervision on school camps and excursions

The school will provide supervision ratios in line with the Department's policy as outlined in the DET School Policy & Advisory Guide, depending on the nature and location of the school activity.

Reference – Child Safe Standards

<http://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/childsafepages/resources.html>

Evaluation

This policy was last reviewed by School Council in February 2021 and will be reviewed in February 2022.