



## VISITORS

Approved by School Council: 2021



If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the school on 9547 1224

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the Visitors policy is to provide a safe and secure learning and teaching environment for students and staff by establishing processes to monitor and manage visitors to Athol Road Primary School

### SCOPE

This policy applies to any visitor who may attend school grounds when the school is open for instruction between the hours of 8.00am and 4.00pm. Outside of these times, the front office is not staffed and the only visitors who are permitted on school grounds are parents/carers or their delegates who are dropping off or picking up students from Outside School Hours Care, school events such as parent teacher interviews, concerts, sport or other school activities.

### DEFINITION

*Child-related work:* As defined by the *Worker Screening Act* (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 contact with children that is incidental to the work.

### GUIDELINES

Athol Road Primary School strives to create an open, 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.

Athol Road 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, Child Safe Policy, Child Safe Code of Conduct* <https://atholroadps.vic.edu.au/parents/#policies>

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 and others addressing learning and development
- Public officials (eg Members of Parliament, local councillors)
- Persons conducting business eg: 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 (eg 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

### IMPLEMENTATION

#### SIGN IN PROCEDURE

All visitors to Athol Road Primary School are required to report to the school office on arrival. Visitors must:

- Record their name, signature, date and time of visit and purpose of visit in PassTab (Digital sign in system)
- Provide proof of identification to office staff upon request
- Produce their valid Working with Children Clearance where required by this policy (see below)
- Wear their school lanyard at all times
- Follow instruction from school staff and abide by all relevant policies relating to appropriate conduct on school grounds including *Statement of Values, Child Safe Policy, Statement of Commitment to Child Safety, Child Safe Code of Conduct* <https://atholroadps.vic.edu.au/parents/#policies>
- Return to the office upon departure, sign out and return the school lanyard

Athol Road Primary School will ensure that our school's Child Safety Code of Conduct/Child Safety Statement of Commitment are available and visible to visitors when they sign in.

### **Requirements for visitors to produce a valid Working with Children Clearance**

- All visitors who are engaged in child-related work must have a valid WWC Clearance
- It is at the discretion of the principal as to whether to require a WWCC for those not engaged in child-related work, noting that the Department *recommends* that visitors have a WWCC if they will be *regularly present at the school and/or children can reasonably be expected to be present*

In some circumstances, visitors to Athol Road Primary School who are not engaged in child-related work will also be required to produce a valid WWC Clearance depending on the particular circumstances of their visit. Athol Road Primary School will require a valid WWC Clearance for:

- visitors who will be working regularly with children during the time they are visiting, even though direct contact with children is not a central part of their normal duties
- visitors (e.g. contractors), who will regularly be performing work at the school and in circumstances where they will be performing their work in an area where they will be unsupervised and around children.

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 Clearance, but may be asked to verify that they are sworn officers by providing proof of identification.

### **INVITED SPEAKERS AND PRESENTERS**

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

### **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 or for specific school events (eg parent teacher interviews, concerts, assemblies etc), 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.

### **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
- Included in our staff handbook/manual
- Discussed in an annual staff briefing/meeting
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

### **Related policies and resources:**

- [Statement of Values](#)
- [Volunteers Policy](#)
- [Child Safety policy](#)
- [Child Safety Code of Conduct](#)

### **Department policies:**

- [Child Safe Standards](#)
- [Visitors in Schools](#)
- [Contractor OHS Management](#)

### **Policy Review and approval**

Policy last reviewed	July 2021
Consultation	School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	July 2023