



## VOLUNTEERS

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



### PURPOSE

To outline the processes that Athol Road Primary School will follow to recruit, screen, supervise and manage volunteers to provide a child safe environment, and to explain the legal rights of volunteers.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to the recruitment, screening, supervision and management of all people who volunteer at our school.

### DEFINITIONS

*Child-related work:* 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.

*Closely related family member:* parent, carer, parent/carer's spouse or domestic partner, stepparent, parent/carer's mother or father in-law, grandparent, uncle or aunt, brother or sister, including step or half siblings.

*Volunteer worker:* A volunteer school worker is a person who voluntarily engages in school work or approved community work without payment or reward.

*School work:* School work means:

- Carrying out the functions of a school council
- Any activity carried out for the welfare of a school, by the School Council or any other body organised to promote the welfare of the school
- Any activity carried out for the welfare of the school at the request of the principal or school council
- Providing assistance in the work of any school or kindergarten
- Attending meetings in relation to government schools convened by any organisation which receives government financial support

This is a broad definition and means that volunteers who participate in school community activities, such as fundraising and assisting with excursions, are legally protected (ie indemnified) from action by others in the event of an injury or accident whilst they are performing volunteer school work in good faith.

### POLICY

Athol Road Primary School is committed to implementing and following practices which protect the safety and wellbeing of children and our staff and volunteers. Athol Road Primary School recognises the valuable contribution that volunteers provide to our school community.

The procedures set out below are designed to ensure that Athol Road Primary School's volunteers are suitable to work with children and are well-placed to make a positive contribution to our school community.

### Becoming a volunteer

Members of the school community who would like to volunteer are encouraged to contact the school office where they will be put in contact with the relevant personnel who will outline the requirements of the volunteering role.

### SUITABILITY CHECKS INCLUDING WORKING WITH CHILDREN CLEARANCES

#### Working with students

Athol Road Primary School values the many volunteers that assist in learning spaces or with school events or programs. To ensure that the school is meeting its legal obligations under the *Worker Screening Act* and the Child Safe Standards, Athol Road Primary School is required to undertake suitability checks which may include a Working With Children Clearance, proof of identity, work history involving children and/or reference checks.

Considering the legal obligations, and the school's commitment to ensuring that Athol Road Primary School is a child safe environment, volunteers will be required to obtain a WWC Clearance and produce their valid card to the school office for verification in the following circumstances:

- **Volunteers who are not parent/family members** of any student at the school if they are engaged in child-related work regardless of whether they are being supervised.

- **Parent/family volunteers** who are assisting with any classroom or school activities involving direct contact with children in circumstances where the volunteer's child is **not** participating, or does not ordinarily participate in, the activity.
- **Parent/family volunteers** who assist with excursions (including swimming), camps and similar events, regardless of whether their own child is participating or not.
- **Parent/family volunteers** who regularly assist in school activities, regardless of whether their own child is participating or not
- **Parent/community School Council members** sitting on School Council with student School Council members, regardless of whether their own child is a student member or not
- In addition, depending on the nature of the volunteer work, our school may ask the volunteer to provide other suitability checks at its discretion (for example, references, work history involving children and/or qualifications). Proof of identity may also be required in some circumstances.

### **Non child-related work**

On some occasions, parents and other members of the school community may volunteer to do work that is not child-related. For example, gardening, maintenance, parents club, etc. during which children will not be, or would not reasonably be expected to be, present.

Volunteers for this type of work are not required to have Working with Children or other suitability clearances as they are not engaged in child-related work and children are not generally present during these activities. However, Athol Road Primary School reserves the right to undertake suitability checks, including proof of identity, Working with Children Clearances, at its discretion if considered necessary, for any particular activities or circumstances.

### **Management and supervision**

Volunteer workers will be expected to comply with any reasonable direction of the principal (or their nominee). This will include the requirement to follow school policies, including, but not limited to the Child Safe Policy, Statement of Commitment to Child Safe, Child Safe Environments, Child Safe Code of Conduct and our Statement of Values and School Philosophy. Volunteer workers will also be expected to act consistently with Department of Education and Training policies, to the extent that they apply to volunteer workers, including the Department's policies relating to Equal Opportunity and Anti-Discrimination, Sexual Harassment and Workplace Bullying.

The principal has the discretion to make a decision about the ongoing suitability of a volunteer worker and may determine at any time whether or not a person is suitable to volunteer at Athol Road Primary School.

Athol Road Primary School will provide any appropriate induction and/or training for all volunteer workers. The principal (or their nominee) will determine what induction and/or training is necessary depending on what type of work the volunteer will be engaged in and will ensure a record is kept of the induction undertaken.

All volunteers will be provided induction in relation to Athol Road Primary School child safety practices, including reporting obligations and procedures. Our school has a Child Safety Reporting Obligations Policy of which all staff and volunteers should be aware.

The principal will determine what supervision, if any, of volunteers is required for the type of work being performed.

## **COMPENSATION**

### **Personal injury**

Volunteer workers are covered by the Department of Education and Training's Workers Compensation Policy if they suffer personal injury in the course of engaging in school work.

### **Property damage**

If a volunteer worker suffers damage to their property in the course of carrying out school work, the Minister (or delegate) may authorise such compensation as they consider reasonable in the circumstances. Claims of this nature should be directed to the principal who will direct them to the Department's Legal Division.

### **Public liability insurance**

The Department of Education and Training's public liability insurance policy applies when a volunteer worker engaged in school work is legally liable for:

- a claim for bodily injury to a third party
- damage to or the destruction of a third party's property.

## **COMMUNICATION**

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

- Available 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](#)
- [Visitors' Policy](#)
- [Statement of Commitment to Child Safe](#)
- [Child Safe Policy](#)
- [Child Safe Code of Conduct](#)
- [Child Safe Environments Policy](#)

#### **DEPARTMENT POLICIES:**

- [Equal Opportunity and Anti-Discrimination](#)
- [Child Safe Standards](#)
- [Sexual Harassment](#)
- [Volunteers in Schools](#)
- [Volunteer OHS Management](#)
- [Working with Children and Other Suitability Checks for School Volunteers and Visitors](#)
- [Workplace Bullying](#)

#### **POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

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