VISITORS POLICY 2025 - 2027

Help for non-English speakers
If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the Watsonia Heights Primary School Office at (03) 9435 4617.

PURPOSE

To provide a safe and secure learning and teaching environment for students and staff by establishing processes to monitor and manage visitors to Watsonia Heights Primary School.

SCOPE

This policy outlines our school's arrangements for visitors who attend school grounds when the school is open for instruction between the hours of 8:30am to 4:00pm and when the office is staffed to monitor/receive visitors, including but not limited to, parents, carers and contractors. Outside of these times, our front office is not staffed, and the only visitors who are permitted on school grounds are parents/carers of their delegates who are dropping off or picking up students from Outside School Hours Care, school events such has parent teacher interviews, concerts, sport or other school activities, and community and other groups who have entered into contracts or agreements with the school to use school premises outside school hours.

DEFINITIONS

Child-related work: As defined by the *Worker Screening Act 2020* (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 direct contact with children that is incidental to the work.

POLICY

Watsonia Heights Primary School strives to create an open and 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.

Watsonia Heights 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 Safety and Wellbeing Policy, Child Safety Code of Conduct, Volunteers Policy*.

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, sessional instructors 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
- Talent scouts
- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing 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

Sign in procedure

All visitors to Watsonia Heights 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, via the kiosk, at the administration office,
- Provide proof of identification to office staff upon request
- Produce their valid Working with Children Check where required by this policy (see below)
- Wear a visitor's lanyard or name tag at all times
- Follow instruction from school staff and abide by all relevant policies relating to appropriate conduct on school grounds including : Child Safety Code of Conduct, Sexual Harassment Policy, Workplace Bullying Policy, Respect for School Staff and Statement of Values
- Return to the office upon departure, sign out and return visitor's lanyard or name tag

Watsonia Heights 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.

Working with Children Clearance and other suitability checks

For Working with Children Check (WWC Check) and other suitability check requirements relating to parents/carers and other volunteers working with students please see our Volunteers Policy.

All visitors who are engaged in **child-related work** (see definition above) **must** have a valid WWC Check. Additional suitability checks may also be required such as reference, proof of identify, qualification and work history involving children checks.

In some circumstances, visitors to Watsonia Heights Primary School who are **not** engaged in child-related work will also be required to produce a valid WWC Check depending on the particular circumstances of their visit. Watsonia Heights Primary School will require a valid WWC Check 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 Check.

Sworn Victoria Police officers or sworn Australian Federal Police officers are exempt from requiring a WWC Check, but may be asked to verify that they are sworn officers by providing proof of identification.

Invited speakers and presenters

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

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.

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 is 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

Related Watsonia Heights Primary School policies include:

- Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
- Child Safety Code of Conduct
- Child Abuse (including grooming) – Identification and Response Policy
- Statement of Values and School Philosophy
- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Volunteers Policy
- Yard Duty and Supervision Policy

Please visit the school website for further information on these related policies:
https://www.watsoniaheightsps.vic.edu.au/page/111/Policies

Department Policies:

- Child Safe Standards
- Contractor OHS Management
- Visitors in Schools

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	December 2025
Consultation	School Council was consulted about this policy on 9 December 2025.
Approved by	Michael Kent, Principal on 9 December 2025.
Next scheduled review date	December 2027
Policy updated	This document is version 2 and was updated on 19 October 2026.