



YARD DUTY AND SUPERVISION POLICY

Heathmont East Primary School



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact office on (03) 9729 5439 or <https://heathmonteastps.vic.edu.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 Heathmont East 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

The Heathmont East Primary School grounds are supervised by school staff from 8:45am until 3:45pm. Outside of these hours, school staff will not be available to supervise students.

Before and after school, school staff will be available to supervise the front of the school, basketball courts and the P-2 play space.

Parents and carers should not allow their children to attend HEPS outside of these hours unsupervised.

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.

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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 (if available)
- contact Victoria Police and/or the Department of Health and Human Services (Child Protection) to arrange for the supervision, care and protection of the student.

School staff who are rostered on for before or after school supervision must follow the processes outlined below.

Yard duty

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

The assistant principal is responsible for preparing and communicating the yard duty roster on a regular basis. At HEPS, school staff will be designated a specific yard duty area to supervise.

The designated yard duty areas for our school are:

Zone	Area
Yellow	Front of School & Cottage
Red	P-2 Play Space out the front of the gym
Green	Basketball Court & 3/4 Play Space
Blue	Oval, on the oval and around the oval (walking around including path at bottom of slope)



School staff must wear a provided safety/hi-vis vest whilst on yard duty. Safety/hi-vis vests will be stored in each classroom along with a yard duty bag with some first aid

Staff who are rostered for yard duty must remain in the designated area until they are replaced by a relieving teacher.

During yard duty, supervising staff must:

- methodically move around the designated zone, to ensure that all areas are within line of sight to at least one yard duty teacher at a time.
- be alert and vigilant
- intervene immediately if potentially dangerous or inappropriate behaviour is observed in the yard
- enforce HEPS' behavioural expectations and implement appropriate consequences for breaches of safety following the HEPS behaviour flow chart and in accordance with our 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 as appropriate on Compass – Student Chronicle
- 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.
- teachers are encouraged to carry and use their mobile phones on yard duty to call for support when required.



If the supervising staff member is unable to conduct yard duty at the designated time, they should arrange a replacement staff member to cover the duty with as much notice as possible prior to the relevant yard duty shift. Staff to inform AP in charge of the daily bulletin for this to be placed on Compass.

If the supervising staff member needs to leave yard duty during the allocated time, they should contact the assistant principal 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 or call assistant principal and not leave the designated area until a replacement staff member has arrived.

Should students require assistance during recess or lunchtime, they are encouraged to speak to the supervising yard duty staff member.

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 school 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 pass 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 the school's Student Engagement policy
- ensure that students who require first aid assistance receive it as soon as practicable
- log any incidents or near misses as appropriate on Compass
- If being relieved of their yard duty shift by another staff member (for example, where the shift is 'split' into 2 consecutive time periods), the staff member must ensure that a brief but adequate verbal 'handover' is given to the relieving 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 Assistant Principal] 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 Assistant Principal] but should not leave the designated area until the relieving staff member has arrived in the designated area.

If the relieving staff member does not arrive for yard duty, the staff member currently on duty should send a message to the office and not leave the designated area until a relieving 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 the Assistant Principal for assistance. The teacher should then wait until a replacement staff member has arrived at the classroom before leaving.

School activities, camps and excursions

The 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

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

Heathmont East 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 while undertaking virtual and remote learning while at school for example the classroom, library, break out space and common area.

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

- student attendance will be monitored through a dedicated class WebEx meeting.
- 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.

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COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website and via Compass
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Included in student diaries so that it is easily accessible to parents, carers and students
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- 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](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	June 2024
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	July 2026

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