

Visitors Policy

Reviewed by: Consultative Committee
and School Council

Date reviewed: June 2019

Date of next review: June 2022

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Position: _____



Purpose:

To provide a safe and secure learning and teaching environment for students and staff by establishing processes to monitor and manage visitors to Mount Beauty Secondary College.

Implementation guide:

Is it compulsory for all Victorian government schools to have a policy addressing this issue? Yes, a school policy addressing this issue is required by Department policy and school registration requirements (to comply with the Child Safe Standards in relation to appropriate screening of people performing work at the school such as contractors).

Does this policy have to be approved by school council? Yes (for any child safety elements of the policy).

Recommended consultation: School council should be consulted and its views should be taken into account when you adopt this policy.

What is the basis of this policy? DET policy requirement, see School Policy and Advisory Guide:

- Visitors in Schools
- Suitability Checks for School Volunteers and Visitors
- Ministerial Order 870: Child Safe Standards – Standard 4
- Ministerial Order 1038: Clause 11.2.2(10) – principal as occupier of the school who can authorise a person to enter or remain on school premises.

Implementation:

This policy applies to any visitors who may attend school grounds when the school is open for instruction, including before and after school, when students are likely to be present. This policy applies between the hours of 8.10am – 4.00pm, when the General Office is staffed to monitor/receive visitors at the Office.

Outside of these times, our General 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 school events such as parent teacher interviews, concerts/band rehearsals/productions, 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 of school hours.

Recommended review cycle: 3-4 years.

Further information and resources:

Related policies:

Statement of Values

Child Safe Policy

Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Child Safe Code of Conduct

Volunteers Policy

Sexual Harassment Policy

Workplace Bullying Policy

Respect for School Staff

References:

Visitors in Schools <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/visitorsinschool.aspx>

Child Safe Standards <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/protect/Pages/default.aspx>

Volunteer checks <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/community/Pages/volunteers.aspx>

Volunteer workers <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/governance/Pages/volunteers.aspx>

External resource: [Department of Justice and Regulation-Working with Children Check](#)

Definitions:

Child-related work: As defined by the *Working with Children Act 2005 (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.

For example: A person coming to talk to a class of students would not have 'direct contact' with the students. A person running a specialised PE session with a class of students is likely to have 'direct contact' with the students.

POLICY:

Mount Beauty Secondary College 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.

Mount Beauty Secondary College 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, Statement of Commitment to Child Safety, Child Safety Code of Conduct*.

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 Health and Human Services workers
- Victoria Police
- Persons authorised to enter school premises (eg Work Safe 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 Mount Beauty Secondary College are required to report to the General Office on arrival.

This includes parents/carers.

Visitors must:

- Record their name, signature, date and time of visit and purpose of visit in the visitors book
- Provide proof of identification to office staff upon request
- Produce their valid Working with Children Check where required by this policy (see below)
- Read the College's Child Safe Code of Conduct
- Sign the College's Visitor's/Volunteer's Agreement
- Wear a visitor's lanyard at all times
- Where appropriate, complete an OH&S induction
- Follow instruction from school staff and abide by all relevant policies relating to appropriate conduct on school grounds including, but not limited to: Child Safety Code of Conduct, Sexual Harassment Policy, Workplace Bullying Policy, Respect for School Staff, Statement of Values
- Return to the office upon departure, sign out and return visitor's lanyard.

Mount Beauty Secondary College will ensure that our school's Child Safe Code of Conduct is available to visitors when they sign in and a copy of the Visitor's/Volunteer's Agreement is made available to sign.

Requirements for visitors to produce a valid Working with Children Check card

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

All visitors who are engaged in **child-related work** (see definition above) that usually involves direct contact (including in person, over the phone, written and online communication) with a child, must have a valid WWCC.

In some circumstances, visitors to Mount Beauty Secondary College 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. For example, Mount Beauty Secondary College 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 WWCC.

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

Invited speakers and presenters

On occasion, Mount Beauty Secondary College 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, Mount Beauty Secondary College 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
 - freedom of 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 General 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.