

Oatlands Primary School

Yard Duty and Supervision Policy



HELP FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Oatlands Primary School on 03 9705 6055 or oatlands.ps@education.vic.gov.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 Oatlands 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

Oatlands Primary School's grounds are supervised by school staff from 8:30am until 4:00pm. Outside of these hours, school staff will not be available to supervise students.

Children arriving at school from 8:30am will be supervised in the 'Pirate Ship area' (at front of school) where they will move into the rest of the school grounds at 8:45am. All children staying on site after school will also be supervised in the Pirate Ship area from 3:30pm until 4:00pm.

Parents and carers will be advised about before and after school supervision through our school website, regular reminders in our newsletter and Compass and that they should not allow their children to attend Oatlands Primary School outside of these hours.

If a student arrives at school before supervision commences at the beginning of the day, the principal or assistant principals 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.

If a student is not collected before supervision finishes at the end of the day, the principal or assistant principals 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

- contact Victoria Police and/or Child Protection to arrange for the supervision, care and protection of the student.

Yard duty zones

All staff at Oatlands Primary School are expected to assist with yard duty supervision and will be included in the weekly rosters.

The Assistant Principal is responsible for preparing and communicating the yard duty roster on a regular basis. At Oatlands Primary School, all staff will be designated a specific yard duty area to supervise.

The designated yard duty areas as of November 2023 are as follows:

Zone	Area	Time(s)
Zone 1	Around Grade 5 & 6 Classrooms & Kitchen	8:45 – 9:00am; 10:45 – 11:15am; 1:00 – 1:50pm, 3:30 – 3:45pm
Zone 2	Oval, Grade 3/4 & Grade 5/6 Playgrounds	8:45 – 9:00am; 10:45 – 11:15am; 1:00 – 1:50pm, 3:30 – 3:45pm
Zone 3	Around Grade Prep, 1 & 3 Classrooms and Art Room	8:45 – 9:00am; 10:45 – 11:15am; 1:00 – 1:50pm, 3:30 – 3:45pm
Zone 4	Grade 1/2 Playground and Surrounding Area	8:45 – 9:00am; 10:45 – 11:15am; 1:00 – 1:50pm, 3:30 – 3:45pm
Zone 5	Front of School Playground	8:45 – 9:00am; 10:45 – 11:15am; 1:00 – 1:50pm, 3:30 – 3:45pm
Front of school carpark	Drop-off/Pick Up - Kurrajong Rd	8:45 – 9:00am and 3:30 – 3:45pm
Pirate Ship Playground area	Front of school Playground	8:30 – 9:00am and 3:30 – 4:00pm
Soccer Car Park Bowl	Drop-off – Soccer Club Car Park	8:30 – 9:00am

Please note: Undercover Outdoor Basketball Courts are a shared zone and part of Zones 1, 2 & 3. (see map below)



Map of Yard Duty Zones

Yard duty equipment

School staff must:

- wear a provided safety/hi-vis vest whilst on yard duty. Safety/hi-vis vests supplied to all staff members.
- carry the yard duty first aid bag at all times during supervision. The yard duty first aid bag will be stored in the staffroom.
- be familiar with the contents of the yard duty first aid bag especially specific student medical, health and safety information.
- yard duty equipment must be returned after the period of supervision or handed to the relieving 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 the school's code of conduct.
- ensure that students who require first aid assistance receive it as soon as practicable.
- log any behavioural or safety incidents 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/call Assistant Principal 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 their neighbouring teacher or the office 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

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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

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

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

- student attendance will be monitored daily/every class]
- 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 assistant principal will ensure arrangements are made to roster additional staff as required. This may include on yard duty, in the classroom or during school activities.

When students are participating in workplace learning programs, such as work experience, school-based apprenticeships and traineeships, and structured workplace learning, the safety and welfare of the student is paramount. Organising staff are required to follow all applicable Department of Education and Training policies and guidelines in relation to off-site learning, including policy and guidelines on the safety and wellbeing of students. Refer to:

- [Structure Workplace Learning](#)
- [School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships](#)
- [Work Experience](#)
- [School Community Work](#)

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.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Included in staff induction processes.
- Discussed at staff briefings or meetings, as required.
- Included in our staff handbook.
- Included as a reference in our school newsletter each term.
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request.

Information for parents and students on supervision before and after school is available on our school website and parent reminders are sent at the beginning of each term in our school newsletter.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies on 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	20/11/23
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	20/11/25

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

