

VISITORS POLICY

PURPOSE

To provide a safe and secure learning and teaching environment for students and staff by establishing processes to monitor and manage visitors to Berwick Chase 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 6:30 am to 6.30 pm (including before and after school care) and when the office is staffed to monitor/receive visitors at reception 8.30 am to 4.00 pm. This policy includes parents, family members, visiting professionals and contractors.

DEFINITIONS

Child-related work: As defined by the *Worker Screening Act 2020 (Vic)*, child-related work usually involves direct contact (including in person, over the phone, and 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 job.

POLICY

Berwick Chase Primary School strives to create an open and inclusive school community, encouraging parents and carers to participate actively in their child's development and education. We also strive to foster strong partnerships with local community services, schools and other organisations.

Berwick Chase Primary School is not a public place. The principal can permit or deny entry to school grounds and encourages all visitors to familiarise themselves with our school's *Statement of Values, Child Safety Policy, Child Safety Code of Conduct, Working with Children's card check, and Volunteer Policy*.

From time to time, different public members 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 to address learning and development
- Public officials (e.g. Members of Parliament, local councillors)
- Persons conducting business, e.g., uniform suppliers, booksellers, official school photographers, commercial salespeople
- Tradespeople
- Children's services agencies
- Talent scouts



- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Services workers
- Victoria Police
- Persons authorised to enter school premises (e.g. 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 Berwick Chase Primary School must report to the school office on arrival (see exceptions below about parents/carers). Visitors must;

- Record their name, signature, date and time of visit and purpose of stay in the visitor's book, computer system, etc.]
- Provide proof of identification to office staff upon request
- Produce evidence of their valid Working with Children Clearance where required by this policy (see below)
- Wear a visitor's name tag at all times
- Follow instructions from school staff and abide by all relevant school policies relating to appropriate conduct on school grounds including, e.g., the Child Safety, Code of Conduct, Respect for School Staff, Statement of Values etc. as well as Department policies such as the [Sexual Harassment Policy](#) and [Workplace Bullying Policy](#)
- Return to the office upon departure, sign out and return the visitor's name tag.
- Berwick Chase Primary School will ensure that our school's Child Safety Code of Conduct is available and visible to visitors when they sign in.

Working with Children's Clearance

Please see the Volunteer Policy for Working with Children (WWC) Check and other suitability check requirements for parents/carers and other volunteers working with students.

All visitors engaged in **child-related work** (see definition above) must have a valid WWC Clearance. Other suitability checks may also involve undertakings and may be required, such as a reference, proof of identity, qualifications, and work history involving children checks.

In some circumstances, visitors to Berwick Chase Primary School who are **not** engaged in child-related work will also be required to produce a valid WWC Clearance depending on the particular circumstances of their visit. For example, Berwick Chase Primary School will need a good WWC Clearance for the following:

- **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 regular duties

visitors (e.g. contractors) who will regularly be performing unsupervised work at the school during school hours or any other time where children are present. Further background checks, including references, may also be requested at the principal's discretion.



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 Clearance.

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

Invited speakers and presenters

On occasion, Berwick Chase 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, Berwick Chase 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 comply 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 for 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 a particular pressing or unavoidable issue must be resolved at the end of the school day, we ask that parents or carers call the school office to 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 school pick-ups and drop-offs or for specific school events, e.g. parent-teacher interviews, concerts, assemblies etc.), are required to sign in as a visitor at the school office.

Parents or carers who are prohibited from entering the school under a court order or the direction of the principal are not permitted to visit the school. Our school maintains and provides office staff with



a list of local parents/carers, which may include identifying photographs and any other information as required depending on the level of risk posed.

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 will be 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

Berwick Chase Primary School policies:

- *Statement of Values and Philosophies, Volunteers Policy, Child Safety and Wellbeing policy, Child Safety Code of Conduct*

Department policies:

- [Child Safe Standards](#)
- [Visitors in Schools](#)
- [Contractor OHS Management](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	May 2024
Consultation	School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	May 2025