



Officer Specialist School

YARD DUTY AND SUPERVISION POLICY



Help for non-English speakers.

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Officer Specialist School



(03) 5943 2800

www.officerss.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 Officer Specialist 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

Officer Specialist School's grounds are supervised by school staff from 8.50 until 3.00pm. Outside of these hours, school staff will not be available to supervise students.

Staff will unlock the entry gates and supervise the gates and grounds as students transition to and from the classrooms.

- Parents escort students to hand over to staff at school gates in the morning
- Parents are invited into the school in the afternoon to pick up students from the classrooms.
- Students will also be escorted to waiting benches near the main entry gate to wait for their parents.
- Only students who have completed appropriate travel education through the school programs will be permitted to leave the school grounds to meet their parents in the local street or to travel home.

Parents and carers will be advised through the School Community Information handbook, a notification on our school website and regular reminders in our newsletter, that they should not allow their children to attend Officer Specialist School outside of these hours. Families will be encouraged to contact the school for more information about the before and after school care facilities available to our school community.

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.

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

Yard duty

All staff at Officer Specialist School are expected to assist with yard duty supervision and will be included in the daily roster.

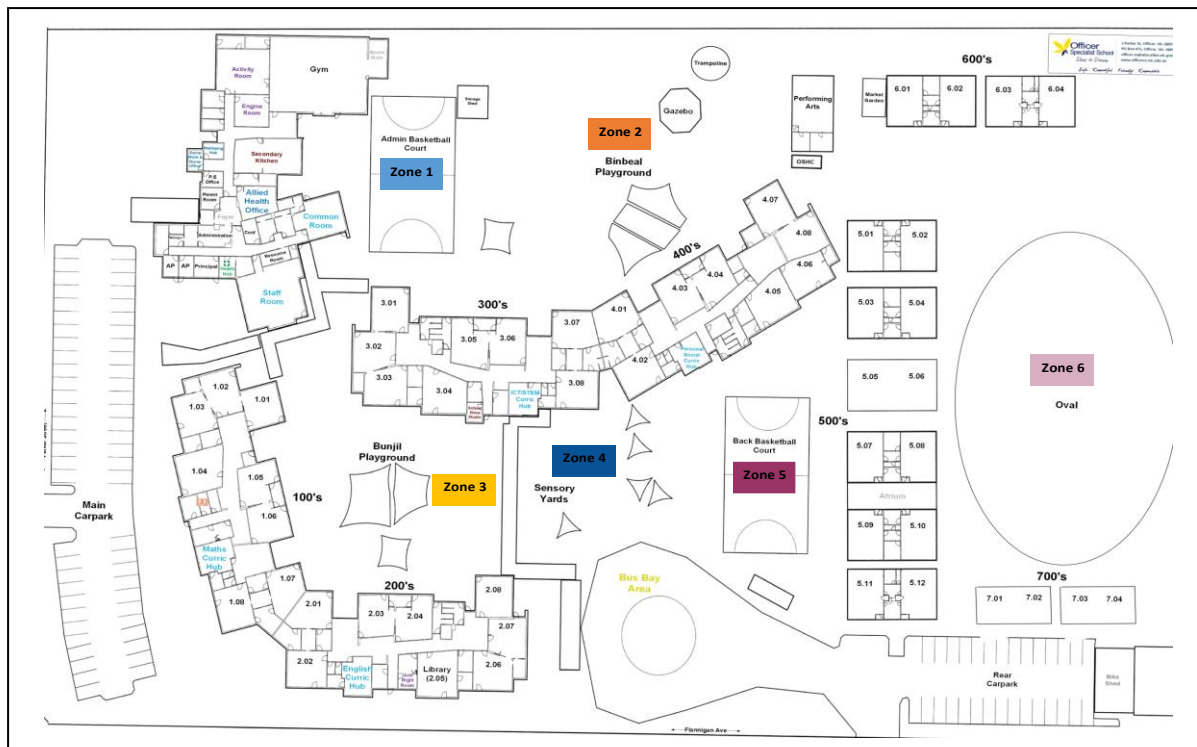
The Principal Department Leaders are responsible for preparing and communicating the yard duty roster on a regular basis. At Officer Specialist School, staff will be designated a specific yard duty area to supervise.

Yard duty zones

The designated yard duty areas for our school (as at Term 1, 2023) are.

Zone	Area
Zone 1	Admin Basketball Court
Zone 2	Binbeal playground
Zone 3	Bunjil Playground

Zone 4	Sensory Yards
Zone 5	Back Basketball Court
Zone 6	Oval



Yard duty equipment

School staff must:

- Wear a provided safety/hi-vis vest whilst on yard duty. Safety/hi-vis vests will be provided for each staff member.
- Designated staff will carry the yard duty first aid bag at all times during supervision. The yard duty first aid bag will be stored in workspaces.
- Be familiar with the yard duty information provided and updated in each department (Primary and Secondary)

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, engaging with 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)
- ensure students remain in their designated areas.
- be alert and vigilant.
- intervene immediately if potentially dangerous or inappropriate behaviour is observed in the yard.
- enforce behavioural standards and implement appropriate positive behaviour strategies.
- Intervene in inappropriate behaviours in line with 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 through 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 department leaders 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 department leaders/assistant principal but should not leave the designated area until the relieving staff member has arrived in the designated area.

If a relieving staff member does not arrive for yard duty, the staff member currently on duty should call department leaders/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 the department leader for assistance. The teacher should then wait until a replacement staff member has arrived at the classroom before leaving.

Unless in an emergency situation, Education Support staff will supervise a maximum of 4 students at a time.

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

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

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

- student attendance will be monitored on a daily basis.
- 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 behaviours of concern or or additional medical 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.

Workplace learning programs

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.

Other areas requiring supervision

Class teachers will organise adequate supervision of students transitioning around the school or completing a toilet routine.

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 the staff handbook.

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 and Compass.

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](#)
 - [Structured Workplace Learning](#)
 - [Supervision of Students](#)
 - [Visitors in Schools](#)
 - [Work Experience](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	10.4.23
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	10.4.25

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