

# Nathalia Primary School

## YARD DUTY AND SUPERVISION POLICY

### PURPOSE

To ensure school staff understand their supervision and yard duty responsibilities.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to all teaching and non-teaching staff at Nathalia 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.

#### Before and after school

Nathalia Primary School's grounds are supervised by school staff from 8.40am until 3.30pm or until the last school bus has departed. Outside of these hours, school staff will not be available to supervise students.

The morning supervision will monitor the arrival of students on the school bus. The school's adventure playground, courts area and oval will be supervised. Afternoon supervision will include monitoring children exiting the school from the gates on the eastern side. The children using the school bus service exit the gates on the western side of the school and are marked off a list as they egress the school.

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

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

### Yard duty

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

The Principal is responsible for preparing and communicating the yard duty roster on a regular basis. At Nathalia Primary School, yard duty staff are expected to ensure children are not in “out of bound” areas and are not playing in the toilets. Yard duty staff will supervise the adventure playground, the court area and the oval. Whilst on yard duty, staff are to remain mobile and move between supervision areas.

### **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 supervision area
- 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 principal or other member of staff 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 principal or other member of staff 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 principal or other member of staff 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.

#### Digital devices and virtual classroom

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

Nathalia 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 by a teacher.

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

- student attendance will be monitored daily
- any wellbeing or safety concerns for the student will be managed in accordance with our usual processes

#### 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.

## 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
- 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.

#### POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	October 2021
Approved by	Principal – Chris McCallum
Next scheduled review date	October 2024

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