



MEREDITH Primary School

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Visitors Policy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the Meredith Primary School Office on 0 52861313

PURPOSE

To provide a safe and secure learning and teaching environment for students and staff by establishing processes to monitor and manage visitors to Meredith 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 8:30am to 4:00pm, and when the office is staffed to monitor/receive visitors at reception, including parents, contractors, and any other visitors. Outside of these times, our front office is not staffed, and this policy does not apply.

DEFINITIONS

Child-related work: As defined by the [Worker Screening Act 2020](#) (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 direct contact with children that is incidental to the work.

POLICY

Meredith Primary School 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.

Meredith Primary School 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 and School Philosophy, Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy, Child Safe Code of Conduct and Volunteers Policy*.

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



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



PRIDE



EXCELLENCE

- Prospective parents, students and employees
- Invited speakers, sessional instructors and others addressing 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 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 our School are required to report to the school office on arrival (see exceptions below in relation to parents/carers). Visitors must:

- Record their name, signature, date and time of visit and purpose of visit in
- 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 [lanyard/name tag] at all times [delete if not applicable]
- Follow instruction from school staff and abide by all relevant school policies relating to appropriate conduct on school grounds including [insert relevant policies eg: Child Safety Code of Conduct, Respect for School Staff, Statement of Values and School Philosophy 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 visitor's [lanyard/name tag] [delete if not applicable].

Meredith Primary School will ensure that our school's Child Safety Code of Conduct are available and visible to visitors when they sign in.

Working with Children Clearance and other suitability checks

For Working with Children (WWC) Check and other suitability check requirements relating to parents/carers and other volunteers working with students please see our Volunteers Policy. [see Volunteers Policy template].

[Schools have the discretion to decide which visitors, if any, will be required to have a WWC Clearance above the legal minimum requirements set out in the Worker Screening Act 2020 (Vic). This Act requires all people engaged in 'child-related' work (see definition on this template), to hold a WWC Clearance. The Department has a useful flowchart to assist schools in relation to making decisions about suitability checks- <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/PAL/working-with-children-check-flowchart.pptx>. The text below is an example that follows the recommendations in the flowchart].

All visitors who are engaged in **child-related work** (see definition above) must have a valid WWC Clearance. Additional suitability checks may also be required such as reference, proof of identity,

qualification and work history involving children checks.

[note that the following text is a sample only and is not compulsory.] It is **at the discretion of the principal** as to whether to require a WWCC for those not engaged in child-related work, noting that the Department **recommends** that visitors have a WWCC if they will be **regularly present at the school and/or children can reasonably be expected to be present.**

In some circumstances, visitors to our 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, we will require a valid WWC clearance 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 unsupervised work at the school during school hours where children are present.
- 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 WWC Clearance.

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

Invited speakers and presenters

On occasion, Meredith 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, we 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 (apart from the provision of Special Religious Instruction) [delete this if your school does not offer SRI] 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 the range of views held by students and their families.

Parent visitors

[this section on parent visitors is optional. Principals may want to adopt if disruptive/inappropriate visits by parents are an issue at your school]

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 school 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 pickups 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 direction of the principal are not permitted to visit the school. Our school [insert the school's procedures for managing parents/carers restricted from attending the school e.g.] maintains and provides office staff with a list of restricted 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 Communication section is not mandatory and can be deleted. However for consistency with your other policies you may wish to retain it and/or include it in a spreadsheet listing all your school's policies and outlining the communication method your school uses next to each policy. You can adapt our consolidated spreadsheet of all policies for this purpose – refer to [Communicating our Policies](#)]

Note: There are no expressly stated requirements relating to how schools must communicate this policy but to ensure student safety and wellbeing it is important to give careful consideration as to the most effective method of ensuring your school community are aware of and understand the requirements under this policy.]

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways: [please delete the options below in yellow if you do not intend to use these methods. Note that the first two methods are strongly recommended]

- 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

Meredith Primary School policies:

- [Insert links to related local policies, including *Statement of Values and School Philosophy*, *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	[insert date]
Consultation	[Consultation with school council is recommended for this policy – please insert date of school council consultation]
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	Before [month, year – noting that the mandatory minimum review cycle for this policy is 2 years]

PURPOSE

To provide a safe and secure learning and teaching environment for students and staff by establishing processes to monitor and manage visitors to Meredith 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 [insert hours where children are likely to be present at your school, including before and after school eg 8:30am to 4:00pm, and when the office is staffed to monitor/receive visitors at reception], including parents, contractors, and any other visitors [insert any other visitors. that are common visitors at your school]. Outside of these times, our front office is not staffed, and this policy does not apply.

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From time to time, different members of the public may visit our school. Visitors may include, but are not limited to: **[please add or amend to suit your school community]**

- 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 (e.g. Members of Parliament, local councillors)
- Persons conducting business e.g.: uniform suppliers, booksellers, official school photographers, commercial salespeople
- Instructors providing Special Religious Instruction (SRI) **[delete if you do not have SRI]**
- Tradespeople
- Children's services agencies
- Talent scouts
- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing 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

[This section should be amended to meet the specific requirements of your school. Department policy requires that all schools, at a minimum, maintain a register of visitors who enter and exit school grounds. The text below is included as a **sample only. For schools that have more than one campus, please ensure you include procedures for all campuses, or if they differ, you can choose to have a separate policy or procedure for each campus.]**

All visitors to our School are required to report to the school office on arrival (see exceptions below in relation to parents/carers). Visitors must **[choose which apply to your school, excluding the first point which is required in all schools]**:

- Record their name, signature, date and time of visit and purpose of visit in **[include details, i.e. visitors 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 [lanyard/name tag] at all times **[delete if not applicable]**
- Follow instruction from school staff and abide by all relevant school policies relating to appropriate conduct on school grounds including [insert relevant policies eg: Child Safety Code of Conduct, Respect for School Staff, Statement of Values and School Philosophy etc] as well as Department policies such as the [Sexual Harassment Policy](#) and [Workplace Bullying Policy](#)
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