



## VISITORS POLICY



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school on 9584 5805 or [kingston.heath.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:kingston.heath.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

### PURPOSE

To provide a safe and secure learning and teaching environment for students and staff by establishing processes to monitor and manage visitors to Kingston Heath 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-4:00pm, including parents and contractors. 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

Kingston Heath 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.

Kingston Heath 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 Safety 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
- 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.: stationery suppliers, uniform suppliers, booksellers, official school photographers, commercial salespeople
- Tradespeople
- Children's services agencies
- 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 staff (including allied health staff) or contractors
- NDIS therapists or other allied health or health practitioners

### Sign in procedure

Visitors to Kingston Heath Primary School are required to report to the school office on arrival (with the exception of when at the school exclusively for school drop-off between 8:45-9:00am and pick-up between 3:30-3:45pm. Visitors must:

- Present to the administration office
- Sign in at the Compass Kiosk
- Provide proof of identification to office staff upon request
- Produce evidence of their valid Working with Children Clearance where required by this policy
- Wear a visitor's lanyard at all times
- Follow instruction from school staff and abide by all relevant school policies relating to appropriate conduct on school grounds including 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

Kingston Heath 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 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.

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.

In some circumstances, visitors to Kingston Heath 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, Kingston Heath Primary School 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 or any other time 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, however this is at the discretion of the school principal.

Sworn Victoria Police officers or sworn Australian Federal Police officers are exempt from requiring a WWC Check, but may be asked to verify that they are sworn officers by providing proof of identification. Teachers accredited through the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) are exempt from requiring a WWC Check, but will be required to present their current VIT registration card and proof of identification.

### **Invited speakers and presenters**

On occasion, Kingston Heath 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, Kingston Heath 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 complies 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/carer visitors**

If there is a particular pressing or unavoidable issue for which parents/carers deem it necessary to communicate with their children during school hours, and 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 communicate with their child. In most instances, the office team will be able to ensure a message is given to your child (e.g. their after school pick-up arrangements have changed, they will need to go to after school hours care, their lunch will be dropped at the office, etc).

In rare instances where a two-way conversation is required, the school office will endeavour, where practical, to support this to occur in person at the office, and may seek support from a member of the leadership team. We however ask that parents avoid visiting 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 pick ups and drop offs or for specific school events (eg 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 maintains and provides office staff and leadership team 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.

Parents/carers wishing to drop-off or pick-up their children between the hours of 9:00am-3:30pm, must present to the school office. The office team will then arrange for your child to meet you at the school office as soon as practical. Parents/carers are NOT to attend the school’s learning centres or classrooms during school hours, unless via prior arrangement with the class teacher for a specific purpose (e.g. volunteering to support the learning program, as a guest speaker, etc). In these instances, the parent/carer is required to present to the school office to demonstrate proof of WWC Clearance and to sign in, in line with our Volunteers Policy.

### 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. Previous communication, including arranging a mutual agreed time for an appointment with the relevant personnel, is preferred.

## 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 induction and training manual for volunteers and visitors.
- Included in our staff handbook/manual.
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request.

## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Kingston Heath Primary School policies, available via the school website or on request to the school office:

- 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	May 2024
Consultation	School Council as the community representative body April 2024. School leadership team April 2024. Feedback sought via School Newsletter February 2024. Further feedback sought via School Newsletter May 2024.
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	May 2026