

Working with Children Checks

POLICY

Rationale:

As of the 1 August 2017, all schools are required to comply with the changes to Working with Children 2005 Act, and ensure that any person unsuitable to be involved in 'child related work' does not do so.

Aims:

- To ensure children under our care are protected from being exposed to inappropriate people.
- To ensure all people engaged in direct contact and child related work with our students are required to have Working with Children Checks, do so
- To ensure that our school complies with the relevant Acts and laws.
- To provide an environment that is safe.

Implementation:

- All workers or volunteers related in direct contact must undergo Working with Children checks prior to commencing work.
- The definition of 'direct contact' with children has been expanded to include oral, written or electronic communication as well as face-to-face and physical contact.
- You are considered to be performing 'child related work' if you work or volunteer at a school or school related activities, and you volunteer or do this work on a regular basis, and you have direct contact with children under 18yrs of age which is unsupervised.
- A WWC Check is now required for anyone engaging in 'child-related work' regardless of whether contact with a child is supervised by another person or not. This means that a volunteer or visitor who is supervised by a teacher must have a WWC Check if they engage in 'child related work'.
- All teaching staff members are registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching, and undergo ongoing monitoring that satisfies Working with Children check requirements, and are therefore exempt. Police officers are also exempt.
- Parents who volunteer in relation to an activity in which his or her child ordinarily participates (eg: classroom reading) is also exempt. If the same parent volunteers in a class or activity that his or her child does not ordinarily participate in, then a check is required.
- School Council does not pay for Working with Children checks. WWC Checks last for 5 years.
- All people required to have Working with Children checks are issued a WWC Check Card which School Council expects them to display on their person at all practicable times when working or volunteering at the school or during school related activities.
- School Council will maintain a record of volunteers with up to date WWC Checks.
- School Council requires that all volunteers directly involved in school camps, excursions, sleep-overs, teaching of swimming lessons, transport of students without staff members present, extra-curricular activities such as school sporting teams etc all have Working with Children Checks.
- School Council will consider other activities such as incursions on a case-by-case basis.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle, or as required due to changes in relevant Acts, Laws or should situations arise that require earlier consideration.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on....

1st September 2017