

Policy & Procedures

Yard Duty & Supervision Policy



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact Anthony Keeble at anthony.keeble@education.vic.gov.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 Outdoor 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

Outdoor School's students are supervised by staff 24 hours per day while the students are on program.

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

The Program Coordinator is responsible for preparing and communicating the yard duty roster on a regular basis. At Outdoor School, school staff will be designated a specific yard duty area to supervise.

The designated yard duty areas for our school are:

Yard duty

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

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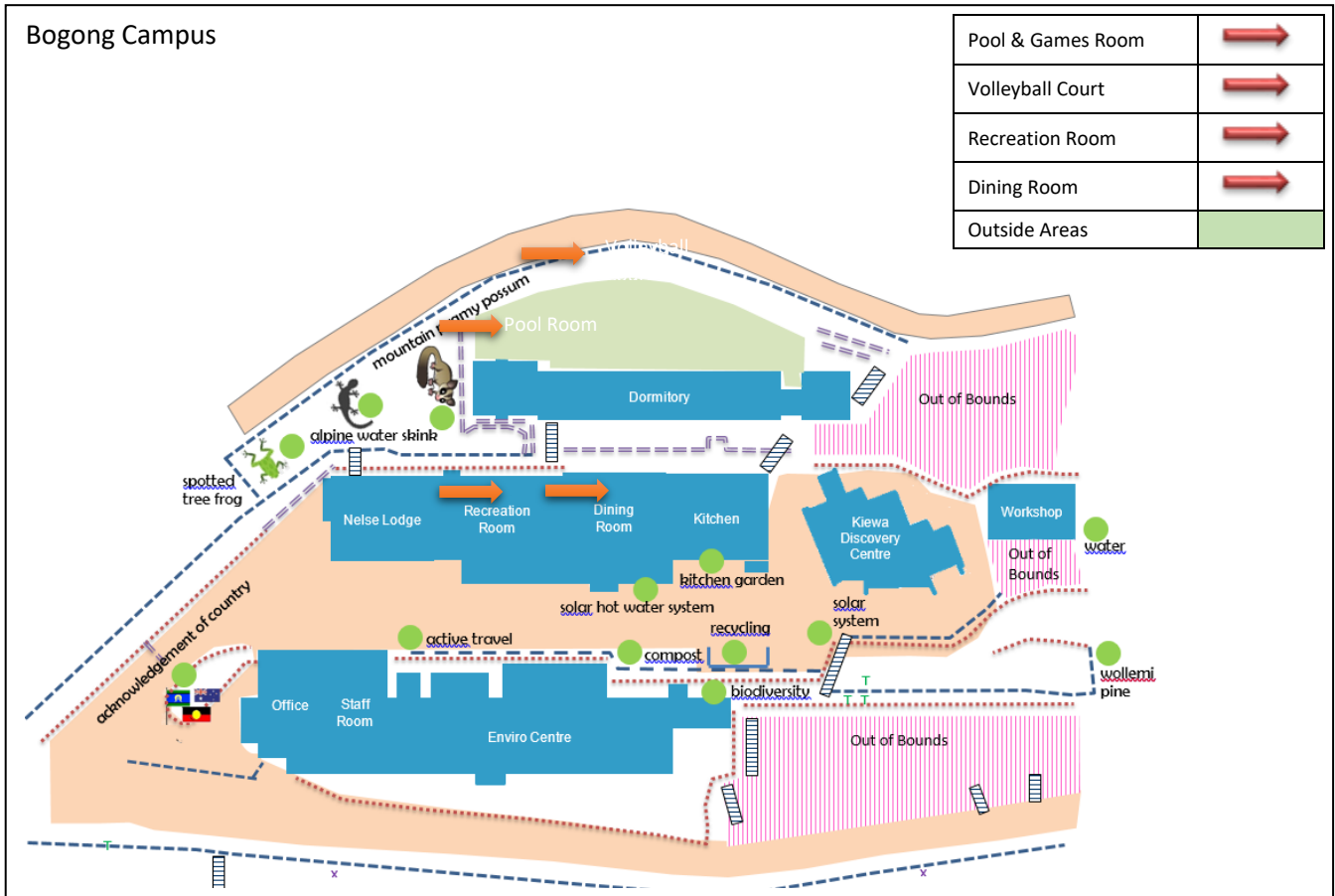
Yard duty zones

The designated yard duty areas for our school (as at 2022) are:

15 MILE CREEK CAMPUS	
Zone	Area
Zone 1	Oval
Zone 2	Recreation Shed
Zone 3	Mud Brick Room
Zone 4	Dining Room
Zone 5	Garden and Fire Pit
Zone 6	Classroom Area
Zone 7	Accommodation Area
BOGONG CAMPUS	
Zone	Area
Zone 1	Volleyball Court
Zone 2	Pool and Games Room
Zone 3	Assembly Room and Corridors
Zone 4	Recreation Room
Zone 5	Dining Room
Zone 6	Outside Areas

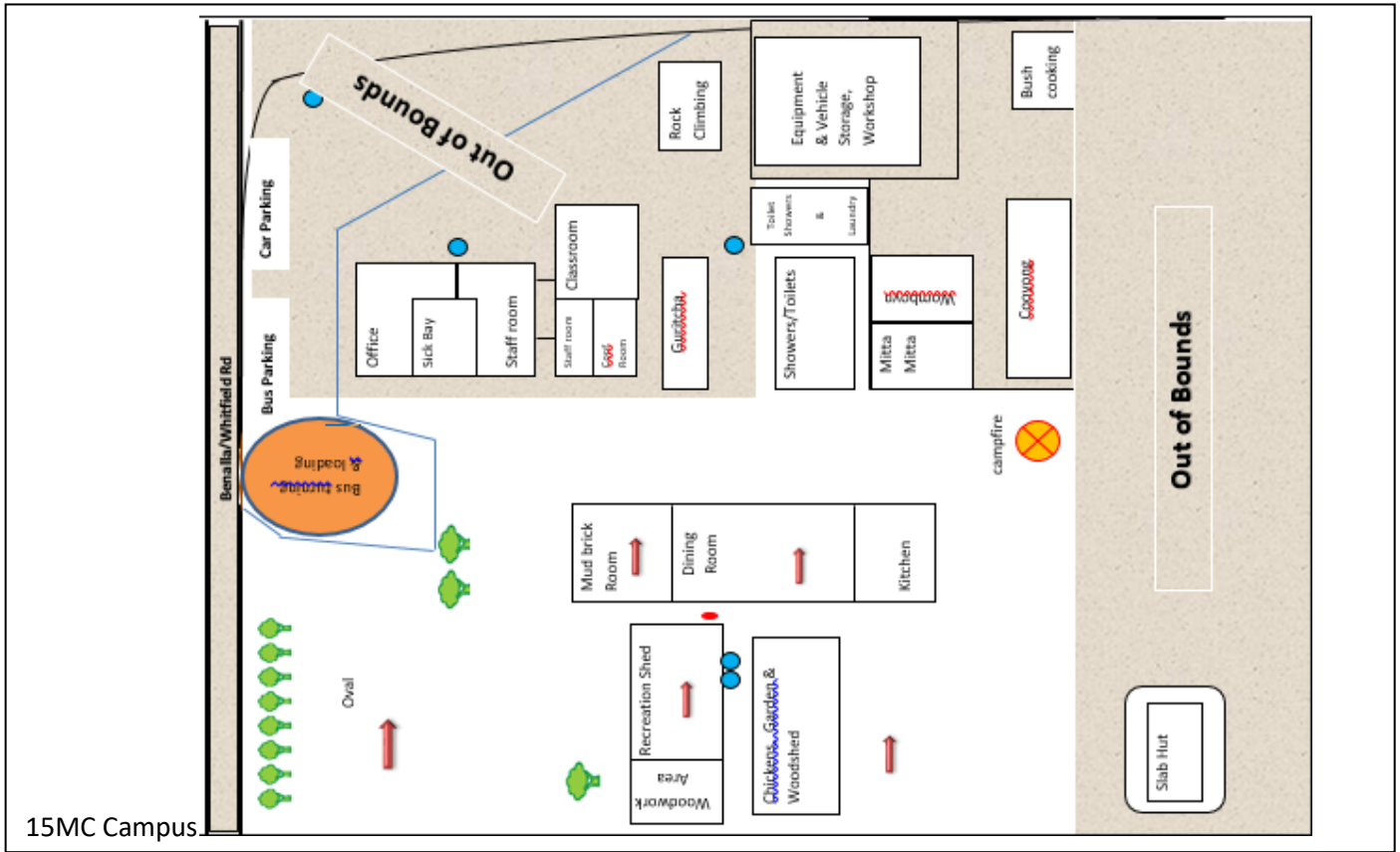
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15MC Campus

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Yard duty equipment

School staff must:

- Be familiar with the yard duty information and lesson plan in the staff handbook.

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
- 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
- ensure students remain in their designated year level zones
- 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 in the medical log or cumulus.

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 Campus Principal 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 Campus Principal 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/call Campus 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.

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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 Program Coordinator 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, and will follow the supervision requirements in the Department of Education and Training [Excursions Policy](#).

Digital devices and virtual classroom

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

Outdoor 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 within the site of their work.

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

- student attendance will be monitored while undertaking classes
- 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 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.

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](#)

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Independent Study

Independent study sessions may be timetabled as a formal study session where teacher supervision and support will be provided, and attendance will be recorded by the supervising teacher. Students will not be permitted to leave school grounds during these sessions.

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 the school administration upon request.

Information for parents and students on supervision before and after school is available on our school website at <http://www.outdoorschool.vic.edu.au/policies/3699/>

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](#)
 - [School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships](#)
 - [School Community Work](#)
 - [Structured Workplace Learning](#)
 - [Supervision of Students](#)
 - [Visitors in Schools](#)
 - [Work Experience](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	11/08/2022
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	31 st of July 2024

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