

Working with Children Checks

POLICY

Rationale:

As of the 1 January 2008, all schools are required to comply with the Working with Children Act 2005, and ensure that all persons involved in school sanctioned child related work must have current Working with Children approval. Teaching staff are required to maintain Victorian Institute of Teaching registration which includes a National Criminal History Check.

Aims:

- To ensure children under our care are protected from being exposed to inappropriate people.
- To ensure all people engaged in 'child related work' with our students and who 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 'child related work' must complete a satisfactory Working with Children checks prior to commencing work.
- You are considered to be performing 'child related work' if you:
 - work or volunteer at a school or school related activities
 - volunteer or do this work on a regular basis, and you
 - have direct contact with children under 18yrs of age which is unsupervised
 - do not qualify for an exemption.
- 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 (e.g. classroom reading) are 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 have on their person at all practicable times when a volunteer is working or volunteering at the school or during school related activities.
- The school 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

12th May 2015