

## Visitors in Schools Policy

*Rossbourne School takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse and is fully committed to ensuring that its strategies, policies, procedures and practices meet all Child Safety Standards as specified in Ministerial Order No. 1359*

### **PURPOSE**

To provide a safe and secure learning and teaching environment for students and staff by establishing processes to monitor and manage visitors to Rossbourne School.

### **SCOPE**

This policy applies to any visitors who may attend school grounds when the school is open for instruction. Outside of these times the only visitors who are permitted on school grounds are parents/carers or their delegates who are dropping off or picking up students, for school events such as parent teacher interviews, concerts, sport or other school activities, and community and other groups who have entered into contracts or agreements with the school to use school premises outside of school hours.

### **DEFINITIONS**

Child-related work: As defined by the Working with Children Act 2005 (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 contact with children that is incidental to the work.

### **POLICY**

Rossbourne 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.

Rossbourne 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 and sign off on the school's Child Safe Code of Conduct.

From time to time, different members of the public may visit our school. Visitors may include, but are not limited to:

- Parents
- Volunteers
- Prospective parents, students and employees
- Invited speakers, consultants, 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
- DHHS workers
- Victoria Police
- Persons authorised to enter school premises (e.g. Worksafe inspectors, health officers etc)
- DET staff (including allied health staff) or contractors
- NDIS therapists or other allied health or health practitioners

### **Sign in procedure**

All visitors to Rossbourne 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, person visiting, date and time of visit in the visitors book
- Provide proof of identification to office staff upon request
- Produce their valid Working with Children Check where required by this policy
- Carry visitor's documentation to be presented on request.
- Follow instruction from school staff and abide by all relevant policies relating to appropriate conduct on school grounds including Child Safe Code of Conduct
- Return to the office upon departure, sign out.

Rossbourne School will ensure that our school's Child Safety Code of Conduct is available and visible to visitors to read and sign when they sign in.

### **Requirements for visitors to produce a valid Working with Children Check card**

For Working with Children Checks (WWC Check) and other suitability check requirements relating to parents/carers and other volunteers working with students see Rossbourne's Volunteers in School Policy.

All visitors who are engaged in child-related work (see definition above) must have a valid WWC Check.

In some circumstances, visitors to Rossbourne School who are not engaged in child-related work will also be required to produce a valid WWC Check depending on the particular circumstances of their visit. For example, Rossbourne School will require a valid WWC Check 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 work at the school and in circumstances where they will be performing their work in an area where they will be unsupervised and around children.

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 Check.

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.

### **Invited speakers and presenters**

On occasion, Rossbourne School may invite external speakers or providers to deliver incursions, presentations, workshops and special programs for our students and 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 is done so 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**

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.

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 (e.g. parent teacher interviews, concerts, assemblies etc), are required to sign in as a visitor at the school office.

### **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.

***See Rossbourne School policies and procedures including Statement of Values, Child Safe including Child Safe Code of Conduct***

***This policy will be reviewed as part of the Rossbourne School review cycle.***

***Ratified by Rossbourne School Council: 11 November 2020***