



# South Gippsland Specialist School

## YARD DUTY and SUPERVISION POLICY

### **Purpose:**

To ensure school staff understand their supervision and yard duty responsibilities.

### **Scope:**

The principal is responsible for ensuring that there is a well-organised and responsive system of supervision in place during school hours, before and after school, and on school excursions and camps.

This policy applies to all teaching and non-teaching staff at South Gippsland Specialist School, including education support staff, casual relief teachers and visiting teachers.

School staff are responsible for following reasonable and lawful instructions from the principal, including instructions to provide supervision to students at specific dates, time and places.

### **Policy:**

#### **Before and after school**

South Gippsland Specialist School grounds are supervised by school staff from 9am until 3.00pm. Outside of these hours, school staff will not be available to supervise students. Parents and carers should not allow their children to attend South Gippsland Specialist School outside of these hours.

Office staff are not in the front foyer until 8.50am so there is no guarantee, children in the foyer will be supervised. The school briefing time is 8.45 to 9am and this is a vital time for the day's organisation and communication of the day's activities.

If a student is not collected before supervision finishes at the end of the day, the principal or nominee staff member will consider whether it is appropriate to:

- attempt to contact the parents/carers
- attempt to contact the emergency contacts
- contact Victoria Police and/or the Department of Health and Human Services (Child Protection) to arrange for the supervision, care and protection of the student

All school staff are rostered on for supervision of students during bus arrivals and departures.

## **Yard duty**

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

The assistant principal is responsible for preparing and communicating the yard duty roster on a regular basis. At South Gippsland Specialist School, staff will be designated a specific yard duty area to supervise.

The designated yard duty areas for our school

Staff who are rostered for yard duty must remain in the designated area until they are replaced by a relieving teacher.

During yard duty, supervising staff must:

- methodically move around the designated zone practicing Active Supervision.
- 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 and Wellbeing* policy
- ensure that students who require first aid assistance receive it as soon as practicable
- log any incidents or near misses as appropriate
- if being relieved of their yard duty shift by another staff member (for example, where the shift is 'split' into 2 consecutive time periods), ensure that a brief but adequate verbal 'handover' is given to the next 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 Assistant 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 Assistant Principal but should not leave the designated area until the relieving staff member has arrived in the designated area.

If a relieving or next staff member does not arrive for yard duty, the staff member currently on duty should contact the Assistant Principal and not leave the designated area until a replacement staff member has arrived.

Should students require assistance during recess or lunchtime, they are encouraged to speak to the supervising yard duty staff member.

## **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 nearest staff member. The teacher should then wait until another staff member has arrived at the classroom to supervise the class prior to 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. Appropriate supervision will be planned for special school activities, camps and excursions on an individual basis, depending on the activities to be undertaken and the level of potential risk involved.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

- School Policy and Advisory Guide:
  - Supervision
  - Duty of Care
  - Child Safe Standards
  - Visitors in Schools

## **Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last updated on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 and is scheduled for review on June 2025. This policy will also be updated if significant changes are made to school grounds that require a revision of South Gippsland Specialist School Yard Duty and Supervision Policy.