

Yard duty supervision policy (2025)

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

This policy applies to all teaching and non-teaching staff at Westall Secondary College, 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.

Before and after school

Westall Secondary College's grounds are supervised by school staff from 8.40am until 3.30pm. Outside of these hours, school staff will not be available to supervise students.

Students are only permitted to attend school for an approved activity outside of these hours, reporting directly to the staff member leading the activity. Approved activities will usually appear on Compass as 'events', which may or may not require parental consent.

Yard duty

All staff at Westall Secondary College are expected to assist with yard duty supervision and will be included in the semesterly roster.

The Timetabler is responsible for preparing and communicating the yard duty roster on a regular basis. At Westall Secondary College, a staff member's yard duty/duties will appear on their Compass schedule.

Similar to classes needing to be covered in the event of staff absence, any 'extra' yard duty will be communicated via the Daily Organiser.

Yard duty zones

[See Appendix 1 – Yard duty map](#)

Yard duty equipment

School staff must:

- wear a provided safety/hi-vis vest whilst on yard duty. Safety/hi-vis vests will be stored in each sub school office.
- Carry their mobile phone with them at all times.

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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 to ensure maximum visibility of the area and to be visible to students. This is to ensure that all areas are within line of sight to at least one yard duty teacher at a time. You will need to consider the specific needs of your student population, and size and terrain of your school grounds when considering the most appropriate protocols for yard duty supervision for your school.
- 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, student behavioural issues or near misses as appropriate on Compass Chronicle or on an incident form.

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 Daily Organiser 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 Daily Organiser or a member of the Principal team 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 relieving staff member (if known), send a message to the front office or call a member of the Principal team 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.

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 front office 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.

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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.

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.

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](#)

Independent Study

When Year 11 and 12 students do not have timetabled lessons led by a teacher, they are expected to attend study hall and work independently. Students will not be permitted to leave school grounds during these sessions; however Year 11 and 12 students are permitted to arrive at school at the beginning of period 2 if they do not have a period 1 class, and depart school at the end of period 3 if they do not have a period 4 class.

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
- Staff handbook
- In hard copy in the Daily Organisation Office

Information for parents and students on supervision before and after school is available on our school website and parent reminders are sent at the beginning of each term in our school newsletter.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

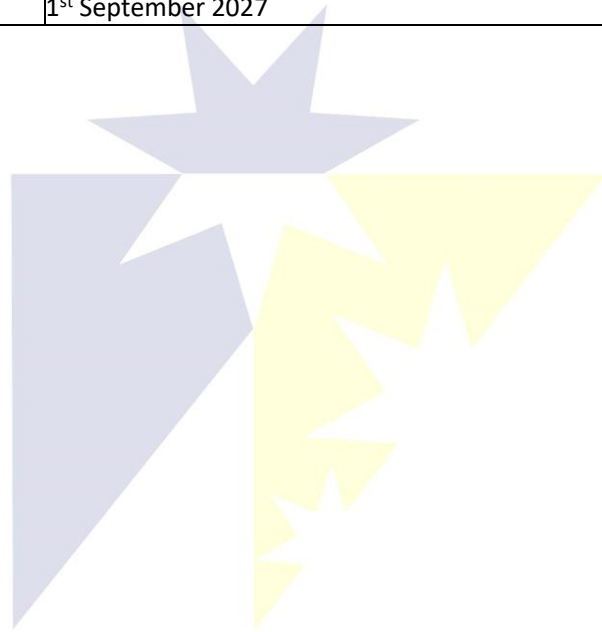
- the Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):
 - [Child Safe Standards](#)
 - [Cybersafety and Responsible Use of Technologies](#)
 - [Duty of Care](#)
 - [Excursions](#)
 - [School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships](#)

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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	1 st September 2024
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	1 st September 2027



WESTALL
Secondary College

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Appendix 1 – Yard Duty Map

