

VISITORS POLICY



PURPOSE

To provide a safe and secure learning and teaching environment for students and staff by establishing processes to monitor and manage visitors to Glen Waverley Secondary College.

SCOPE

This policy applies to any visitors who may attend school grounds when the school is open for instruction between the hours of 8:00am to 4:00pm, and when the office is staffed to monitor/receive visitors at reception. Outside of these times, our front office is not staffed and the only visitors who are permitted on school grounds are parents/carers or their delegates who are dropping off or picking up students from 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

Glen Waverley Secondary College 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.

Glen Waverley Secondary College 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 with our school's *Statement of Values, Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy, Statement of Commitment to Child Safety, Child Safety Code of Conduct, and the Volunteers Policy.*

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

- Parents

- Volunteers – see our school’s Volunteers Policy for more information
- Prospective parents, students and employees
- Invited speakers, sessional instructors and others addressing learning and development
- Public officials (eg Members of Parliament, local councillors)
- Persons conducting business eg: uniform suppliers, booksellers, official school photographers, commercial salespeople
- Tradespeople
- Children’s services agencies
- Talent scouts
- Department of Health and Human Services workers
- Victoria Police
- Persons authorised to enter school premises (eg Worksafe inspectors, health officers etc)
- Other Department of Education and Training staff (including allied health staff) or contractors
- NDIS therapists or other allied health or health practitioners

Sign in procedure

All visitors and volunteers to Glen Waverley Secondary College are required to report to the school office on arrival (see exceptions within the Visitors Policy and Volunteers Policy).

Visitors and volunteers must:

- Record their name, signature, date and time of visit, registration number and purpose of visit in the visitor iPad sign in system (VMC Visitor Manager)
- Provide proof of identification to office staff upon request (e.g drivers license)
- Produce their valid Working with Children Clearance where required (or other valid form of evidence such as VIT card, see Visitors policy)
- Follow instruction from school staff and abide by all relevant policies relating to appropriate conduct on school grounds including Child Safety Code of Conduct.
- Return to the office upon departure, sign out
- Glen Waverley Secondary College will ensure that our school’s Child Safety Code of Conduct/Child Safety Statement of Commitment are available and visible to visitors when they sign in.
- Admin staff will alert their direct report as soon as it becomes evident that a visitor or volunteer seeking entrance to the school does not have a valid Working with children check (or appropriate alternative e.g. VIT registration.)

Glen Waverley Secondary College will ensure that our school’s Child Safety Code of Conduct/Child Safety Statement of Commitment are available and visible to visitors when they sign in.

Working with Children Clearance and other Suitability Checks

For Working with Children Check (WWC Check) and other suitability check requirements relating to parents/carers and other volunteers working with students please see our Volunteers Policy.

All visitors who are engaged in **child-related work** (see definition above) must have a valid WWC Check. Additional suitability checks may also be required such as reference, proof of identity, qualification and work history involving children checks.

In some circumstances, visitors to Glen Waverley Secondary College 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, Glen Waverley Secondary College 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, Glen Waverley Secondary College may invite external speakers or providers to deliver incursions, presentations, workshops and special programs for our students. Consistent with Department of Education and Training requirements, Glen Waverley Secondary College 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 complies with the requirement that education in Victorian government schools is secular and is consistent with the values of public education, Department policies and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* (Vic). In particular, programs delivered by visitors are to be delivered 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 also ask that parents avoid arranging to visit their children at school wherever possible, as this can cause inappropriate disruptions to the school day. If there is a particularly pressing issue that cannot wait until the end of the school day, we ask that parents or carers call the school office.

Parents or carers who are prohibited from entering the school under a court order are not permitted to visit the school. Our school maintains detailed records of all restricted parents and carers depending on the level of risk posed.

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.

COMMUNICATION

Available on the College Website

Included in the Induction process for all relevant staff

Reminders sent to parents and students to access this policy via Compass Newsfeed

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Statement of Values, Volunteers Policy

Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Child Safety policy

Child Safety Code of Conduct

REVIEW PERIOD

Policy Last Reviewed	June 2022
Consultation	School Council
Approved By	Joanne Wastle- College Principal
Next Scheduled Review Date	June 2024