



Working with Children and Suitability Checks

(Policy, overview and Procedure)

<p>Rationale</p>	<p>The Department of Education and Training and School Council has a responsibility to ensure the safety of all children and employees, and maintain the security of assets by requiring and maintaining high standards of professional conduct from employees and volunteers.</p> <p>In meeting these responsibilities, the Department and School Council must be satisfied that only those employees and volunteers who meet the highest standards of probity and suitability are employed. Verification of a criminal record is achieved by ensuring the employment of new school based employees proceeds in accordance with legislative obligations pursuant to the Working with Children Act 2005 (for non-teaching employees and volunteers), and to the Victorian Institute of Teaching Act 2001 (for principals and teachers).</p> <p>The school uses the Department's policy (which incorporates legal requirements under Ministerial Orders) that must be followed.</p> <p>The Minimum Standards for school registration require schools to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain a register of all staff with a Working with Children Check; and • have procedures for maintaining that register. • Anyone engaging with child related work in the school is required to have a Working with Children Check. • All contractors in the school during school hours are required to have a Working with Children Check.
<p>Broad Guidelines</p>	<p>The Working with Children Act 2005 is operational and includes a Working with Children Check (WWC Check), thereby creating minimum checking standards across Victoria for people who work or volunteer with children in certain capacities. The WWC Check will ensure that people who are unsuitable to engage in 'child-related work' do not do so.</p> <p>The Act defines 'child-related work' as work which usually involves (or is likely to involve) regular, direct contact with a child where that contact is not directly supervised, and in any of twenty child-related occupational fields listed in the Act. 'Child-related work' may be either paid or unpaid (voluntary).</p> <p>The Department has developed procedures for the conduct of criminal records checks for all school based and non-school based employees, including arrangements that allow for the acceptance of the criminal records check conducted by the Victorian Institute of Teaching and Working with Children Checks to meet the Department's pre-employment suitability for employment requirements.</p>

	<p>These procedures apply to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ persons employed under the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 ▪ persons employed under the Public Administration Act 2004 ▪ volunteers (in school and attending excursions/events as an official helper) ▪ casual employees including casual relief teachers ▪ student teachers and interns ▪ contractors <p>There are exemptions from the Act including: people under 18 years of age, sworn police officers, teachers currently registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT), and visiting workers who do not ordinarily reside and perform child-related work in Victoria.</p> <p>Further information relevant to a WWC Check can be found at the Department of Justice's internet site at www.justice.vic.gov.au/workingwithchildren</p>
Implementation	<p>Education Support Staff (ES)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ When appointed, an ES staff member must produce their WWC Check card and a copy is kept on their personnel file. <p>Classroom/School Volunteers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All volunteers must present their WWC Card to the Office. If the card has not yet been issued, the stamped application form from the Post Office must be presented until the card arrives. ▪ Office staff photocopies WWC Card for every volunteer and keep it on file in the office. ▪ A list of registered volunteers is created and updated by the office staff. A copy of the register is kept in the office and one on the Ultranet which can be accessed by authorised staff only. ▪ Teachers are responsible for checking the register for the volunteers in their classrooms. Only people on the register can be invited into the classroom or on excursions. ▪ When in the school, all volunteers must comply with the KCPS Visitors Policy. ▪ Expiry dates for all WWC Cards should be checked at the beginning of each school year by the volunteer and the school office staff. <p>Contractors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All contractors and trades people must report to the school On Site Service Assistant. The O SSA must sight the WWC Card before work can commence on the school site within school hours. ▪ Regular contractors in the school (eg. cleaners and regularly used trades people) must present their WWC Card at the office. Office staff will copy the card and keep it on file in the office. ▪ If a trade person does not have a WWC Card and is working on school grounds within school hours, the O SSA will supervise their work and escort them off-site once the job is complete. ▪ When in the school, all contractors/trades people must comply with the KCPS Visitors Policy.

<p>Register</p>	<p>The Working with Children register is maintained by the Business Manager and is available in the Office. The Office Administration Assistant also oversees the checks in relation to visitors and visiting staff and contractors as they enter the school.</p> <p>Staff Register</p> <p>The school maintains a register of staff holding a Working with Children Check (including names, registration numbers and expiry dates). This document is updated by the Business Manager.</p> <p>The school follows the guidelines listed in the DET Suitability for Employment Policy. VIT registered teachers are not required to have a Working with Children Check.</p> <p>Register Update</p> <p>The register is updated in February and June annually by the Business Manager. DET also provides a reminder of staff requiring updates through eduPay.</p> <p>Checks for Volunteers</p> <p>All volunteers are required to sign in at the Office on the COMPASS sign in. This will involve them agreeing to the School's Child Safe Standards. They are required to provide their Working with Children Card for recording by the Office team if working within the school. The school follows the guidelines listed in the DET Suitability Checks for Schools and Volunteers. (See Volunteers Policy)</p> <p>Visiting Speakers</p> <p>Grovedale West Primary School:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensures the content of presentations and addresses contributes to the development of students' knowledge and understanding • extends the invitation to external speakers to support its educational program, rather than allowing groups to use the school as a forum to advance their causes or beliefs, particularly if speaking on a controversial matter • briefs presenters about the nature of the school and its community • ensures that visitors do not present information or programs that may conflict with the Education and Training Reform Act 2006, policies of the Department and the school <p>respects the range of views held by students and their families.</p>
	<p>This policy was last updated on 10th August 2018 and is scheduled for review in August 2021</p>