

Supervision Policy – St Mary’s Thornbury

On and off-site, external providers, camps and excursions



Purpose

St. Mary’s, Thornbury is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS), where formation and education are based on the principles of Catholic doctrine, and where the teachers are outstanding in true doctrine and uprightness of life.

Consistent with St. Mary’s, Thornbury’s vision of the education programs, we aim to empower students to encounter the future with respect, courage and kindness, enriched by life-giving relationships and inspired to bring the Gospel to life.

St. Mary’s, Thornbury and all teachers have a duty of care to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students by ensuring appropriate supervision at all times. At St. Mary’s Thornbury, the adequate supervision of students is the responsibility of all staff. This policy requires all staff to take such measures that are reasonable in the circumstances to protect students from the risk of harm that could reasonably have been foreseen.

Aims

To provide adequate and appropriate supervision of students in the school, including:

- all indoor and outdoor activities
- activities that occur off site
- activities involving external providers
- school sponsored activities that occur outside school hours.

Policy

Supervision will be provided to students that takes into account the degree of care needed for the protection of students and having regard to:

- their age, skill and experience
- any physical and/or intellectual impairments
- medical conditions
- known behavioural characteristics
- the nature of activities being undertaken and hazards.

Supervising staff will receive first aid training and the school will ensure adequate first aid facilities are available with regard to the nature of the activities being undertaken (refer to First Aid Policy).

Accidents and incidents will be dealt with promptly through appropriate treatment and/or intervention.

Accidents and incidents will be recorded in the Accident and Incident Register and follow up and remedial actions undertaken as appropriate to the particular situation and in accordance with relevant policies.

Indoor and outdoor activities on school site

The following requirements will be followed in regard to indoor and outdoor activities on the school site:

- Teachers are responsible for supervising the students in their class at all times while they are in charge of their class.
- Students will be supervised in all activities that are undertaken as part of the classroom routine, as well as for activities that are not part of the regular routine.
- Adequate age appropriate supervision in class, including consideration of the nature activities being undertaken to ensure proper use of plant and equipment, proper handling of any hazardous substances and use of relevant protective equipment.
- If teachers need to leave their class for any reason, they must ensure that their class is being supervised by another authorised teacher.
- School officers, trainee teachers or visiting teachers are not authorised to be responsible for a class in the absence of a designated class teacher.
- Teachers must exercise due diligence in designing activities that take safety and care into consideration for all students with even greater care for younger students or students at risk.
- Trainee teachers, school officers, parent helpers and visiting teachers may work with one or more students in small group work, but only under the supervision and direction of the classroom teacher.
- Classroom rules are designed at the start of each year to highlight expectations, set appropriate boundaries and assist the smooth conduct of the class.

Yard duty

A yard duty roster showing designated areas is used for supervision of the school yard before school, during school breaks and after school.

- Teachers are to be visible and active during yard duty.
- Teachers are to wear high-vis vests and carry First Aid bags provided to them on all duties.
- Casual Relief Teachers will take vest and bag from the Staff Room.
- The First Aid bag should contain important student information and must be restocked when appropriate. It is the responsibility of the teachers to inform / restock bags when required.
- Teachers are to remain on duty in the designated area until they are replaced by the next teacher.
- Teachers on duty are to constantly roam the yard, checking all areas including out of bounds areas and toilets.
- Teachers will ensure that student are not accessing the building (except for toilets) without permission.

Off-site activities including camps, excursions and local functions

The following requirements will be followed in regard to off-site activities including camps, excursions and local functions:

- For each offsite activity, there is a designated teacher-in charge.
- For all offsite activities, student supervision ratios as per Catholic Schools Operational Guide, Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) / Supervision of Students on Camps,

Excursions, Outdoor Activities and Tours (CEO) July 2010 documents must be addressed.

- All teachers and assistants must refer to the teacher-in-charge for decision-making, changes in direction or programs, or issues of concern.
- All teachers are responsible for all of the students in the activity.
- Helpers in the activity are there to support teachers, but are not authorised to make decisions for the group.
- Teachers must exercise due diligence in designing activities that take safety and care into consideration for all students, with even greater care for younger students.
- Teachers need to use a method of accounting for all students at any given point during the activity.
- If students need to use public toilets, they should be accompanied to the toilet block by an adult so as to monitor their safety at all times.
- A record of the activity, excursion or camp will be completed by the Teacher-in-charge of the activity, and given to the principal, for approval, prior to the activity. This includes a risk assessment for the activity proposed.
- An itinerary of the activities must be given to the school office.
- Any accompanying or assisting non-teaching adult is required to have a current Working with Children Check (WWCC).

Activities involving external providers – on site or off-site

The following requirements will be followed in regard to activities involving external providers, either on the school site or off-site:

- The school is responsible for students at all times, and this responsibility cannot be delegated to others.
- The classroom teacher, or teacher in charge of the group is responsible for the group at all times.
- When an external provider is involved in working with a class or group of students a teacher will be present throughout the activity. E.g. Swimming, camp activities, guest speaker on site.
- External providers are required to sign in at the school office, and wear a Visitor's Identification Card.
- External Providers must have a WWCC. The WWCC Number must be recorded by the teacher organising the activity.
- A record of the activity, excursion or camp will be completed by the teacher-in-charge of the activity, and given to the principal, for approval, prior to the activity.
- If external providers are working with students 1:1, they will be within the supervision and line of sight of other teachers in the school, e.g. music lessons, NDIS providers.
- If external providers, such as psychologists are providing 1:1 testing, the schedule is monitored by office staff or a school leader.

Before and after school supervision

The school yard will be unlocked and supervised for 8:30am until 9:00am before the start of school and for 3:30pm until 3:45pm after the end of school classes. A school leader will supervise the Kiss and Drop on Mansfield street during these times and another staff member will supervise the school yard. No ball games or use of the play equipment is permitted before school. No ball games are permitted after school, and use of the playground is contingent on the supervision of parents. School gates will be locked at 9:00am and 3:45pm promptly.

Students who remain in the school grounds after 3.45pm will be taken to the school office to await collection by their parents. A phone call will be made to the parents or the emergency contact if the parents cannot be contacted.

The school is committed to ensuring student safety however parental co-operation is essential to managing safety issues immediately before and immediately after school.

As applicable, school activities (such as sport) arranged before or after school, will have appropriate supervision in place for attending students depending on the time and location of the activity.

Parents will be informed of the school's supervision arrangements and no students will be permitted on the school grounds outside established supervision times, as they will not be supervised and may not receive the care that is normal during the school day.

This policy will be implemented in conjunction with related policies. All supervising staff, including part-time teachers, replacement teachers and casual relief teachers are required to familiarise themselves with policies relating to the supervision of students.

Any queries or points of clarification should be referred to the Principal or the Deputy Principal.

Implementation

This policy will be implemented through a combination of:

- staff training
- effective communication and incident notification procedures
- effective record keeping procedures
- initiation of corrective actions where necessary.

Related School Policies

- Student Behaviour Policy
- Child Safe Policy
- Child safe risk assessment
- Child Protection -Code of Conduct
- Duty of Care Policy
- Excursion/Camps Risk Management Guidelines
- First Aid policy
- Off-Site Supervision of Students Policy
- Anti- Bullying Policy

Related System Documents

Catholic Schools Operational Guide, Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV)

Supervision of Students on Camps, Excursions, Outdoor Activities and Tours (CEO) July 2010