



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Administration.

### Purpose

To provide a safe and secure learning and teaching environment for students and staff by establishing processes to monitor and manage visitors to Serpell Primary School.

### Scope

This policy outlines our school's arrangements for visitors who attend school grounds when the school is open for instruction between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and when the office is staffed to receive visitors at reception, including parents, contractors, and other visitors. Outside of these times, our front office is not staffed, and this policy does not apply.

### 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

Serpell Primary School 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.

Serpell Primary School 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 and School Philosophy*, *Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy*, *Child Safety Code of Conduct* and *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 (e.g., Members of Parliament, local councillors).
- Persons conducting business e.g.: 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 (e.g., 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.



## Serpell Primary School Visitor Policy



### *Sign in procedure*

All visitors to Serpell Primary School are required to report to the school office on arrival (see exceptions below in relation to parents/carers). Visitors must:

- Record their name, purpose of visit, and other details on the Xuno kiosk.
- Provide proof of identification to office staff upon request.
- Produce their valid Working with Children Check where required by this policy (see below).
- Follow instruction from school staff and abide by all relevant school policies relating to appropriate conduct on school grounds including Child Safety Code of Conduct, Statement of Values and School Philosophy as well as Department policies such as the [Sexual Harassment Policy](#) and [Workplace Bullying Policy](#)
- Return to the office upon departure and sign out.

Serpell Primary School will ensure that our school's Child Safety Code of Conduct is available and visible to visitors when they sign in.

### *Working with Children Clearance and other suitability checks*

For Working with Children Clearance (WWCC) 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 Clearance. Additional suitability checks may also be required such as reference, proof of identity, qualification and work history involving children clearances.

In some circumstances, visitors to Serpell Primary School who are **not** engaged in child-related work will also be required to produce a valid WWC Clearance depending on the circumstances of their visit. For example, Serpell Primary School will require a valid WWC Clearance 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 Clearance.

Sworn Victoria Police officers or sworn Australian Federal Police officers are exempt from requiring a WWC Clearance but may be asked to verify that they are sworn officers by providing proof of identification.

### *Invited speakers and presenters*

On occasion, Serpell Primary School 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, Serpell Primary School 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



## Serpell Primary School Visitor Policy



- 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.

### *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**

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on school website.
- Included in our staff handbook/manual.
- Included in induction processes for relevant staff.
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request.

### **Related Policies and Resources**

Serpell Primary School policies:

- Statement of Values and School Philosophy
- Volunteers Policy
- Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
- Child Safety Code of Conduct

Department policies:

- [Child Safe Standards](#)
- [Visitors in Schools](#)
- [Contractor OHS Management](#)

### **Policy Review and Approval**

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|----------------------------|---|
| Policy last reviewed       | This policy was last updated on the 14 <sup>th</sup> of September 2023. |
| Approved by                | Principal   |
| Next scheduled review date | This policy is scheduled for review in September 2025.                  |