



POLICY: SCS 51	Issued: June 2019
REVIEW: June 2020	Approved: Sue Holmes Principal

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 Sherbrooke Community School.

RATIONALE

To ensure consistent procedures for the supervision and management of all visitors to our school.

AIMS

- To protect the safety and wellbeing of children and our staff and visitors.
- To establish protocols and procedures that effectively monitor and manage visitors without compromising the open and inclusive nature of the school.

IMPLEMENTATION

This policy applies to any visitors who may attend school grounds when the school is open for instruction between the hours of 8.30am and 4.30pm. 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 Performance Nights, or attending these events.

Sherbrooke Community 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.

Sherbrooke Community 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 *Vision and Values, Child Safe Policy, Statement of Commitment to Child Safety, Child Safe Code of Conduct, SWPB behaviour matrix*.

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
- 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 to Sherbrooke Community School are required to report to the school office on arrival (see exceptions below in relation to parents/carers). Visitors must:

- Record their name, signature, date and time of visit and purpose of visit in the Visitors' Book, located outside the front office.
- 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 policies relating to appropriate conduct on school grounds including eg: Child Safety Code of Conduct, Sexual Harassment Policy, Bullying Policy, school vision and values, Parent concerns and complaints policy, emergency management plan, privacy and photographing policy and personal property policy etc
- Return to the office upon departure and sign out returning visitors pack.

Requirements for visitors to produce a valid Working with Children Check card

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 in Volunteers Policy or attached WWCC Flowchart*) must have a valid WWC Check.

In some circumstances, visitors to Sherbrooke Community School 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, Sherbrooke Community School 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, Sherbrooke Community 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, Sherbrooke Community 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
 - 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 understand that there may occasionally be a reason why a parent or carer may want to speak to or see their child at school, during school hours.

If there is a particular pressing or unavoidable issue that cannot wait until the end of the school day, we ask that parents or carers call the school office to make the request to speak to or see their child during school hours.

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.

All parents or carers who visit our school during school hours, other than for the purposes of school pick ups and drop offs or for specific school events (eg parent teacher interviews, concerts, assemblies etc), are required to sign in as a visitor at the school office.

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.

EVALUATION

This policy was last ratified by School Council in and should be reviewed by

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Implementation will be reviewed annually by the Leadership Team.

Signed:School Council President Date

.....Principal Date