

St Arnaud Primary School

Yard Duty & Supervision

POLICY

PURPOSE

To ensure school staff understand their supervision and yard duty responsibilities.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all teaching and non-teaching staff at St Arnaud Primary School, including education support staff, casual relief teachers and visiting teachers.

POLICY

Appropriate supervision is an important strategy to monitor student behaviour and enables staff to identify and respond to possible risks at school as they arise. It also plays a vital role in helping schools to discharge their duty of care to students.

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that there is a well organised and responsive system of supervision and yard duty in place during school hours, before and after school, and on school excursions and camps and other school activities.

School staff are responsible for following reasonable and lawful instructions from the Principal, including instructions to provide supervision to students at specific dates, times and places. Supervision should be undertaken in a way that identifies and mitigates risks to child safety.

Before and after school

St Arnaud Primary School's grounds are supervised by school staff from 8:40am until 3:15pm. Outside of these hours, school staff will not be available to supervise students.

Supervision between 8:40am and 8.55am will be supervised by Educational Support staff, with the remaining supervision to be split fairly between the teaching staff between the hours of 9am and 3.15pm as per the documented roster distributed by the principal.

Parents and carers will be advised through information detailed on the school website and within the school newsletter that they should not allow their children to attend St Arnaud Primary School outside of these hours. Families will be encouraged to contact the school office on 03) 5495 1028 for more information about the before and after school care facilities available to our school community.

If a student arrives at school before supervision commences at the beginning of the day, the Principal or nominee staff member will, as soon as practicable, follow up with the parent/carer to:

- advise of the supervision arrangements before school
- request that the parent/carer make alternate arrangements.

If a student is not collected before supervision finishes at the end of the day, the Principal or nominee staff member will consider whether it is appropriate to:

- attempt to contact the parents/carers
- attempt to contact the emergency contacts
- place the student in an out of school hours care program (if available and the parent consents)

- contact Victoria Police and/or Child Protection to arrange for the supervision, care and protection of the student.

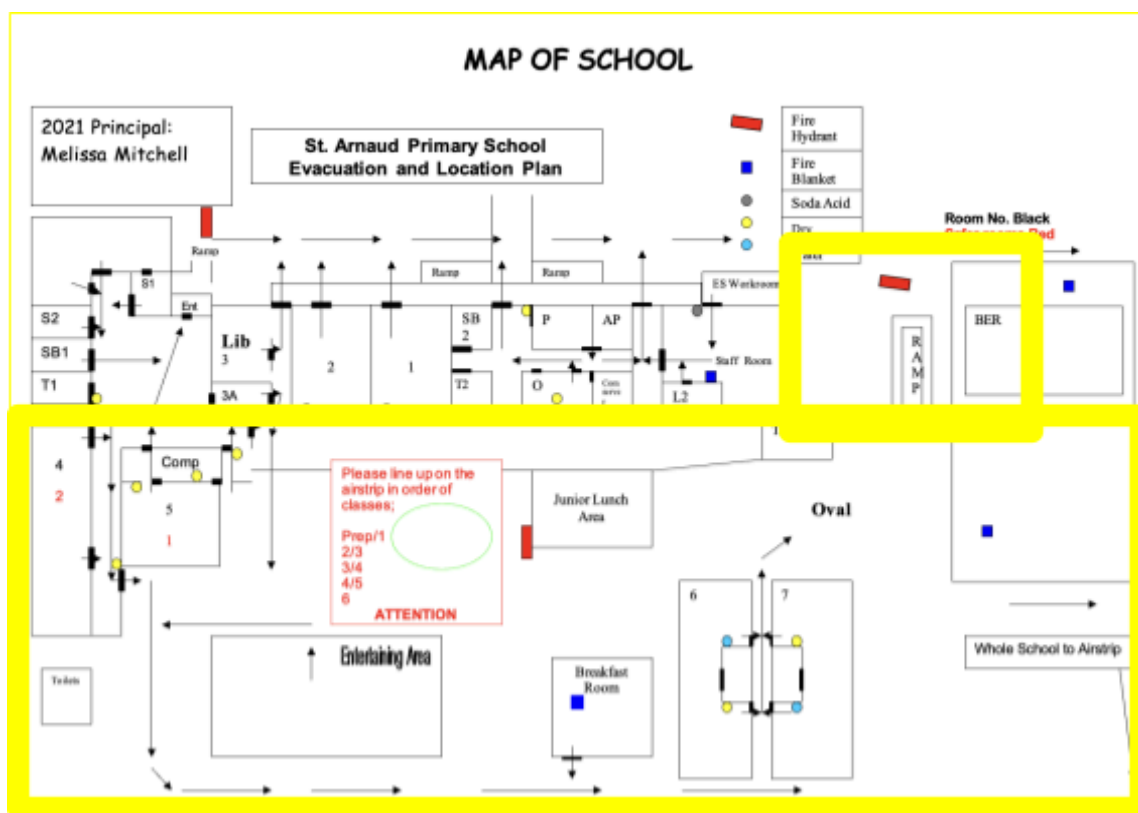
Yard duty

All staff at St Arnaud Primary School are expected to assist with yard duty supervision and will be included in the weekly roster.

The Principal is responsible for preparing and communicating the yard duty roster on a regular basis. At St Arnaud Primary School, school staff will be responsible for supervision of the entire yard.

Yard duty zones

There are no specific zones at St Arnaud Primary School. Below, highlighted in yellow are the areas of the yard where students are allowed to play. Not available on the map are the playgrounds and basketball courts to the west of room 2.



Yard duty equipment

School staff must:

- wear a provided safety/hi-vis vest whilst on yard duty. Safety/hi-vis vests will be distributed to all staff at the beginning of the year. Spare vests will be found in the Education Support office.
- carry the yard duty first aid bag at all times during supervision. The yard duty first aid bag will be distributed to all staff at the beginning of the year. Spare bags will be found in the Education Support office.
- staff must wear a sun smart hat and clothing (sleeves/collars) from Sept 1st-April 30th

Yard duty equipment must be returned after the period of supervision or stored in teachers' own classrooms.

Yard duty responsibilities

Staff who are rostered for yard duty must remain in the designated area until they are replaced by a relieving staff member.

During yard duty, supervising school staff must:

- methodically move around the yard, to ensure that all areas are within line of sight over the course of their time supervising and that they are clearly visible to students.
- ensure students remain in their designated year level zones during eating times.
- be alert and vigilant
- intervene immediately if potentially dangerous or inappropriate behaviour is observed in the yard
- enforce behavioural standards and implement appropriate consequences for breaches of safety rules, in accordance with any relevant disciplinary measures set out in the school's [Student Engagement policy](#)
- ensure that students who require first aid assistance receive it as soon as practicable
- log any incidents or near misses as appropriate on Compass

If being relieved of their yard duty shift by another staff member (for example, where the shift is 'split' into 2 consecutive time periods), the staff member must ensure that a brief but adequate verbal 'handover' is given to the relieving staff member in relation to any issues which may have arisen during the first shift.

If the supervising staff member is unable to conduct yard duty at the designated time, they should contact the Principal with as much notice as possible prior to the relevant yard duty shift to ensure that alternative arrangements are made.

If the supervising staff member needs to leave yard duty during the allocated time, they should contact the Principal but should not leave the designated area until the relieving staff member has arrived in the designated area.

If the relieving staff member does not arrive for yard duty, the staff member currently on duty should contact the school office or send a message via a responsible student to the staff room, and not leave the designated area until a relieving staff member has arrived. Students will be encouraged to speak to the supervising yard duty staff member if they require assistance during recess or lunchtime.

Classroom

The classroom teacher is responsible for the supervision of all students in their care during class.

If a teacher needs to leave the classroom unattended at any time during a lesson, they should first contact their neighbouring classroom, or the front office for assistance. The teacher should then wait until a replacement staff member has arrived at the classroom before leaving.

School activities, camps and excursions

The Principal and leadership team are responsible for ensuring that students are appropriately supervised during all school activities, camps and excursions, including when external providers are engaged to conduct part or all of the activity. Appropriate supervision will be planned for school activities, camps and excursions on an individual basis, depending on the activities to be undertaken and the level of potential risk involved.

Digital devices and virtual classroom

St Arnaud Primary School follows the Department's [Cybersafety and Responsible Use of Technologies Policy](#) with respect to supervision of students using digital devices.

St Arnaud Primary School will also ensure appropriate supervision of students participating in remote and flexible learning environments while on school site. In these cases, students will be supervised in a specific area. The exact location will be determined at the time, according to the the number of students attending.

If, in the occurrence we were to return to remote and flexible learning parents are responsible for the appropriate supervision of students accessing virtual classrooms from home:

- student attendance will be monitored daily via Webex sessions
- any wellbeing or safety concerns for the student will be managed in accordance with our usual processes – refer to our [Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy](#) and our [Child Safety Responding and Reporting Policy](#) and Procedures for further information.

Students requiring additional supervision support

Sometimes students will require additional supervision, such as students with disabilities or other additional needs. In these cases, the Principal or delegate will ensure arrangements are made to roster additional staff as required. This may include on yard duty, in the classroom or during school activities.

Supervision of student in emergency operating environments

In emergency circumstances our school will follow our Emergency Management Plan, including with respect to supervision.

In the event of any mandatory period of remote or flexible learning our School will follow the operations guidance issued by the Department.

Other areas requiring supervision

Moving between different areas of the school

When students are moving from classrooms to different areas of the school they are to be supervised by the class or Specialist teacher. Students are to walk in an orderly manner between classes

Students going to the bathroom

Students will be encouraged to use the music at the end of recess and lunch as a reminder to use the bathroom. Students needing to use the bathrooms during class time should go in pairs for safety and security, and use the closest facilities to their classroom. Teachers should try to ensure no more than two pairs are out of the classroom at one time. Where necessary, class teachers or specialists will make a 'toilet stop' when moving to or from specialist lessons to ensure large groups of students are adequately supervised.

Students delivering notes, messages or lunch orders

Students needing to leave the room to deliver notes, messages or lunch orders should go in pairs for safety and security.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Included in staff induction processes
- Discussed at staff briefings or meetings, as required
- Included in our staff handbook
- Included on the school website in the policies page

Information for parents and students on supervision before and after school is available on our school website and parent reminders are sent at the beginning of each term in our school newsletter.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- the Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):
 - [Child Safe Standards](#)
 - [Cybersafety and Responsible Use of Technologies](#)
 - [Duty of Care](#)
 - [Excursions](#)
 - [Supervision of Students](#)
 - [Visitors in Schools](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	June 2025
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	June 2027

This policy will also be updated if significant changes are made to school grounds that require a revision of St Arnaud Primary School's yard duty and supervision arrangements.