



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 Pakenham Secondary College.

SCOPE

This policy applies to any visitors who may attend school grounds when the school is open for instruction between the hours of 8am to 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.

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

Pakenham Secondary College 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.

Pakenham Secondary College 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 *Child Safe Policy, Statement of Commitment to Child Safety, Child Safe Code of Conduct*.

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 (Members of Parliament, local councillors)
- Persons conducting business (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 (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 Pakenham Secondary College are required to report to the school office on arrival. Visitors must

- Record their name, signature, date and time of visit and purpose of visit in the Visitors book
- Provide proof of identification to office staff upon request
- Produce their valid Working with Children Check.
- Wear a visitor's lanyard at all times
- Follow instruction from school staff and abide by all relevant policies relating to appropriate conduct on school grounds including Child Safety Code of Conduct, Sexual Harassment Policy, Workplace Bullying Policy, Respect for School Staff and Statement of Values.
- Return to the office upon departure, sign out and return visitor's lanyard.

Pakenham Secondary College will ensure that our school's Child Safety Code of Conduct/Child Safety Statement of Commitment are available and visible to visitors when they sign in.

REQUIREMENTS FOR VISITORS (INCLUDING VOLUNTEERS) TO PRODUCE A VALID WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK CARD

All visitors and volunteers must have a valid WWC Check, whether the work is child relate or not.

Further background checks, including references, may also be requested at the discretion of the principal.

Victoria Police officers or 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, the College 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, Pakenham Secondary College 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

The College welcomes parent visitors to the school. We will act to ensure it remains a safe place for students, staff and other members of our community. If a concern is raised, we will always listen and seek to address them in a calm and positive manner. Abusive, threatening or violent behaviour will not be tolerated in our school and any visitors behaving in this way are likely to be removed from the premises and prosecuted.

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 (parent teacher interviews, concerts, assemblies), 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.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Statement of Values & Philosophy, Statement of Commitment to Child Safety, Child Safety policy, Child Safety Code of Conduct

Ratified by College Council	Not Required
Review Date	March 2020
Review Cycle	2 Years
Review Date	March 2022