

Working With Children Clearance Procedure and Register



HELP FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Portarlington Primary School on 03 5259 2572 or portarlington.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

PURPOSE

To ensure compliance with the requirements of the *Worker Screening Act 2020*, Portarlington Primary maintains registers of all staff and volunteers' Working with Children (WWC) Clearance details. The register includes each staff member or volunteer's:

- name
- clearance number
- expiry date

SCOPE

This procedure outlines how our school maintains this register.

PROCEDURE

For staff, our school maintains the WWC register in eduPay. Staff have a responsibility to ensure that they have up-to-date WWC clearance or Victorian Institute of Teaching registration information entered into eduPay in line with the [Update Victorian Institute of Teaching and Working With Children Check card details](#) quick reference guide.

For volunteers, our school maintains the WWC register in the [WWC Status Checker](#) saved on our local network file. Any employee or volunteer who does not have a current satisfactory Working with Children clearance will be removed from their duties until such time as they provide satisfactory evidence of their clearance.

Teachers registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) are exempt from holding a Working with Children clearance, unless they've been given a Negative Notice. This is because registration with VIT is only granted to people who are appropriately qualified and assessed by VIT as 'suitable to teach'. More information, including notification requirements for volunteers, is available on the [Working with Children website](#).

Adding new volunteers to the register

Upon appointment of a new volunteer the Business Manager is responsible for ensuring the school's Volunteer policy is being followed, including child safety reference checks and collection of WWC clearance information, where required, as outlined below:

1. Record the relevant clearance details in the [WWC Status Checker](#), entering the volunteer's first name in the personnel number column
2. Click "Start status check" to ensure the information provided is valid
3. Request that the volunteer access their [MyCheck account](#), updating their details to include the name of the school
4. Retain a copy of the letter of confirmation provided by the Department of Justice and Community Safety, along with the child safety reference check, in the volunteer's file

Ongoing maintenance of the volunteer register

1. At the beginning of each term the Business Manager accesses the [WWC Status Checker](#) noting where clearances expire during the term

2. Where the check is expiring during the term the business manager will contact each volunteer reminding them that the check is due to expire and requesting updated information once it has been renewed
3. When the updated information is provided the information is entered into the [WWC Status Checker](#) and by clicking “Start status check” to ensure the information provided is valid

Ensuring staff have valid WWC clearance information

Upon engagement of a new staff member the Business Manager will access eduPay to check that valid WWC clearance information has been entered by the staff member.

At the beginning of each term the business manager will check eduPay for any clearances expiring that term. Where the check is expiring during the term the business manager will contact the staff member reminding them that the check is due to expire and requesting updated information be entered into eduPay.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways: Available publicly on our school’s website:

- Included in induction processes for relevant staff
- Included in our staff crew handbook/manual
- Discussed in an annual staff briefing/meeting
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Example School policies:

- Visitors Policy
- Statement of Values
- Volunteers Policy
- Child Safety policy
- Child Safety Code of Conduct

Department policies:

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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	October 2024
Consultation	School Council -22 nd October 2024 Compass - 23 rd October 2024
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	Before December 2027