

<b>Bundoora Primary School Policy</b>	<b>MANAGEMENT POLICY Volunteers</b>	<b>Ratified by School Council May 2019</b>
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*If further information is required, please refer to the DET Policy Guidelines.*

## **1.0 VISION**

- 1.1 To outline the processes that Bundoora Primary School will follow to recruit, screen, supervise and manage volunteers to provide a child safe environment, and to explain the legal rights of volunteers.
- 1.2 To enable the effective and varied utilisation of volunteers, for the benefit of students. Volunteers add significantly to the human resources available to the school, and are encouraged, effectively managed, supported and recognised.
- 1.3 To ensure Bundoora Primary School is complying with legislation by ensuring that all volunteers who work with children in the school have a current Working With Children Check.

## **2.0 DEFINITION**

*Child-related work:* 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.

*Closely related family member:* parent, carer, parent/carer's spouse or domestic partner, stepparent, parent/carer's mother or father in-law, grandparent, uncle or aunt, brother or sister, including step or half siblings.

*Volunteer worker:* a person who voluntarily engages in school work or approved community work without payment or reward.

*School work:* includes:

- Carrying out the functions of a School Council
- Any activity carried out for the welfare of a school, by the School Council, any parents' club or association or any other body organised to promote the welfare of the school
- Any activity carried out for the welfare of the school at the request of the Principal or School Council
- Providing assistance in the work of any school or kindergarten
- Attending meetings in relation to government schools convened by any organisation which receives government financial support

This is a broad definition and means that volunteers who participate in school community activities, such as fundraising and assisting with excursions, are legally protected (i.e.

indemnified) from action by others in the event of an injury or accident whilst they are performing volunteer school work in good faith.

### **3.0 ACTION**

Bundoora Primary School is committed to implementing and following practices which protect the safety and wellbeing of children and our staff and volunteers.

The procedures set out below are designed to ensure that Bundoora Primary School's volunteers are suitable to work with children and are well-placed to make a positive contribution to our school community.

#### **3.1 Becoming a volunteer**

3.1.1 The Principal of the school, the School Council or staff may seek volunteers formally through the school newsletter, written invitations and personal approaches, as well as informally through conversations.

3.1.2 Concerns by staff or parents regarding the work of a volunteer should be raised with the Principal or Assistant Principal immediately. Such concerns will be discussed promptly with the volunteer concerned and appropriate action taken.

3.1.3 Volunteers will be required to register as volunteers and sign in at the office upon arrival. On occasion volunteers will be called upon to assist with special events, however if a parent would like to volunteer at any time they are encouraged to do so via the school office.

3.1.4 Before applying to be involved in our school on a voluntary basis, all parents and possible volunteers must obtain a Working with Children Check to access their suitability to work with the students within our school.

#### **3.2 Suitability checks including Working with Children Checks**

##### ***Working with students***

Bundoora Primary School values the many volunteers that assist with our classrooms/sports events/camps/excursions/school concerts/other events and programs. To ensure compliance with legal obligations under the *Working With Children Act 2005* (Vic) and the Child Safe Standards, Bundoora Primary School is required to undertake suitability checks which may include a Working With Children (WWC) Check, proof of identity, work history involving children and/or reference checks.

Considering our legal obligations, and our commitment to ensuring that Bundoora Primary School is a child safe environment, volunteers are required to obtain a WWC Check and produce their valid card for verification in the following circumstances:

- **Volunteers who are not parent/family members** of any student at the school are required to have a WWC Check if they are engaged in child-related work regardless of whether they are being supervised.
- **Parent/family volunteers** who are assisting with any classroom or school activities involving direct contact with children.
- **Parent/family volunteers** who assist with incursions or excursions (including swimming), camps and similar events, regardless of whether their own child is participating or not.
- **Parent/family volunteers** who assist in school activities, regardless of whether their own child is participating or not.
- **Parent/community School Council members** sitting on School Council with student School Council members, regardless of whether their own child is a student member or not
- In addition, depending on the nature of the volunteer work, our school may ask the volunteer to provide other suitability checks at its discretion (for example, references, work history involving children and/or qualifications). Proof of identity may also be required in some circumstances.

### ***Non child-related work***

On some occasions, parents and other members of the school community may volunteer to do work that is not child-related. For example, volunteering on the weekend for gardening, maintenance, working bees, Parents and Friends coordination, School Council, participating in sub-committees of School Council, fete coordination, other fundraising groups that meet in the evenings, during which children will not be, or would not reasonably be expected to be, present.

At Bundoora Primary School, volunteers for this type of work will still be required to provide a valid WWC Check.

School Council members and volunteers on any sub-committee of School Council will be asked to provide a valid WWC Check. Whilst we acknowledge that these volunteers will not be engaging in child-related work as part of their role, even when there is a student sitting on the School Council, we believe that it is important that our volunteers who are involved in making important decisions about our school which will have an impact on students do have a valid WWC Check.

### **3.3 Management and supervision**

Volunteer workers will be expected to comply with any reasonable direction of the Principal (or their nominee). This will include the requirement to follow our school's policies, including,

but not limited to our Child Safety Policy / Statement of Commitment to Child Safety, our Child Safety Code of Conduct and our Statement of Values and School Philosophy. Volunteer workers will also be expected to act consistently with Department of Education and Training policies, to the extent that they apply to volunteer workers, including the Department's policies relating to Equal Opportunity and Anti-Discrimination, Sexual Harassment and Workplace Bullying.

The Principal has the discretion to make a decision about the ongoing suitability of a volunteer worker and may determine at any time whether or not a person is suitable to volunteer at Bundoora Primary School.

Bundoora Primary School will provide any appropriate induction and/or training for all volunteer workers. The Principal (or their nominee) will determine what induction and/or training is necessary depending on what type of work the volunteer will be engaged in.

All volunteers will be provided induction in relation to Bundoora Primary School's child safety practices, including reporting obligations and procedures. The Principal (or their nominee) will determine what supervision, if any, of volunteers is required for the type of work being performed.

### **3.4 Compensation**

#### *Personal injury*

Volunteer workers are covered by the Department of Education and Training's Workers Compensation Policy if they suffer personal injury in the course of engaging in school work.

#### *Property damage*

If a volunteer worker suffers damage to their property in the course of carrying out school work, the Minister (or delegate) may authorise such compensation as they consider reasonable in the circumstances. Claims of this nature should be directed to the Principal who will direct them to the Department's Legal Division.

#### *Public liability insurance*

The Department of Education and Training's public liability insurance policy applies when a volunteer worker engaged in school work is legally liable for:

- a claim for bodily injury to a third party
- damage to or the destruction of a third party's property.

### **4.0 REVIEW**

The *Volunteers Policy* will be reviewed regularly, as part of the school's policy review process.