



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the school office on 9481 5577.

Purpose

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

Scope

This policy applies to all teaching and non-teaching staff at Westgarth 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. This also includes a designated inclement weather timetable.

School staff are responsible for following reasonable and lawful instructions from the Principal, or Assistant 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

Westgarth Primary School's grounds are supervised by school staff from 8.45am until 3.45pm. Outside of these hours, school staff will not be available to supervise students. Restricted areas include the front and rear Clarke Street ovals which are utilised by our before and after school care program (OSHC).

Students on the school grounds outside these times will not be supervised (unless they are attending a before or after care program or a supervised extra-curricular activity)

Parents and carers will be advised through, regular reminders in our newsletter that they should not allow their children to attend Westgarth Primary School outside of these hours. Families will be encouraged to contact OSHC on 9482 3323 or refer to the school website for more information about the before and after school care facilities available to our school community.

Approval date:	Approved by:	Next Review:	Page:
May 2026	Principal	May 2028	1 of 6

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:

- child will be directed to wait in the office foyer
- 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 Westgarth Primary School are expected to assist with yard duty supervision and will be included in the weekly roster.

The Principal or /Assistant Principal is responsible for preparing and communicating the yard duty roster on a regular basis. At Westgarth Primary School staff will be designated a specific yard duty area to supervise.

Yard duty zones

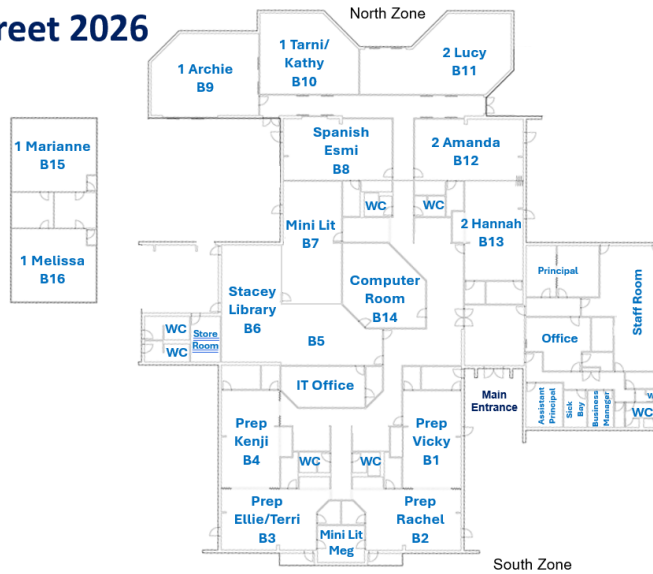
The designated yard duty areas for our school as at Term 2, 2022

Playground	Area
Brooke Street	North zone circulating
Brooke Street	South zone circulating
Clarke Street	North zone circulating
Clarke Street	South zone circulating
Clarke Street	Lunch Club – Web building

Approval date:	Approved by:	Next Review:	Page:
May 2026	Principal	May 2028	2 of 6

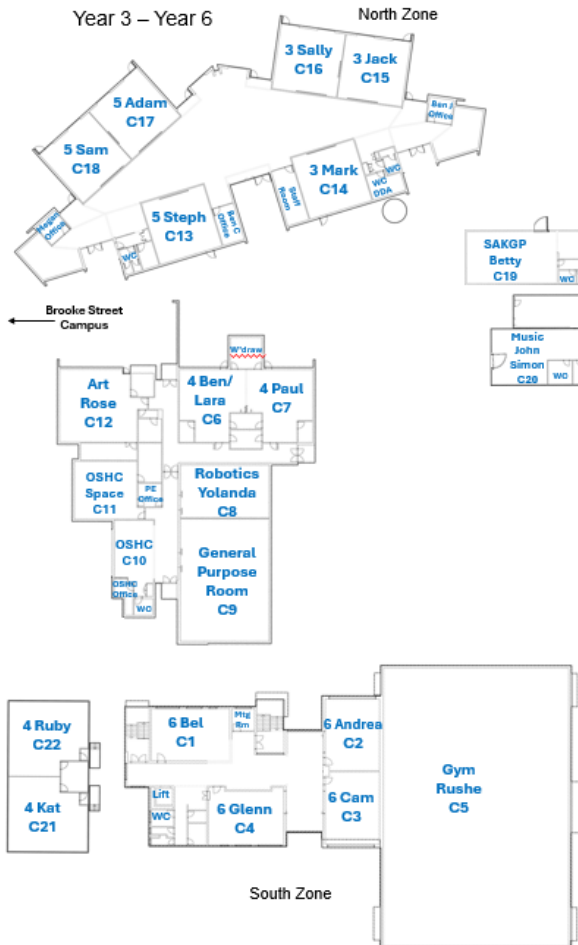
Brooke Street 2026

Prep – Year 2



Clarke Street 2026

Year 3 – Year 6



Approval date:	Approved by:	Next Review:	Page:
May 2026	Principal	May 2028	3 of 6

Yard duty equipment

School staff must:

- wear a provided safety/hi-vis vest whilst on yard duty with an attached whistle.
- wear a SunSmart hat as required
- be familiar with the location of student EpiPens.

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:

- staff are required methodically move around the designated zone including checking the student toilet areas
- be alert and vigilant, in line with Child Safety Policy
- 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 and Wellbeing 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 or EduSafe Plus.

If being relieved of their yard duty shift by another staff member (for example, where the shift is 'split' into 3 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 their duty shift.

If the supervising staff member is unable to conduct yard duty at the designated time, they should contact the Assistant 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 Assistant 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 send a message to the office/call Assistant Principal or send a message 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.

Approval date:	Approved by:	Next Review:	Page:
May 2026	Principal	May 2028	4 of 6

Classroom

The classroom teacher or specialist 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 buddy grade for assistance or contact the Assistant Principal. 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, and will follow the supervision requirements in the Department of Education and Training [Excursions Policy](#).

Digital devices and virtual classroom

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

Westgarth 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. Westgarth Primary School will use the Prep - 1 site during remote learning with student working in the rear three classrooms on the Brooke Street site

While parents are responsible for the appropriate supervision of students accessing virtual classrooms from home:

- student attendance will be monitored via the classroom teacher determining student attendance at morning circle meetings
- 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 disability or other additional needs. In these cases, the Principal or Assistant Principal, or Disability and Inclusion Coordinator, 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.

Approval date:	Approved by:	Next Review:	Page:
May 2026	Principal	May 2028	5 of 6

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

Transitions requiring supervision

Students are required to move between teaching and learning spaces in a specific safety line as designated by the classroom teacher, while is in single file. Students are required to stop at the crossing prior to crossing as a group. Students from Clarke Street in grades 3-6 will cross to Brooke Street in a group of 3 students and a group of 4 students if bringing a student across to the first aid room. Students in the Prep-2 classes will always cross to Clarke Street under the supervision of a staff member. The Library or Art teacher will supervise any students who are attending their designated lunchtime activities. Students are also expected to go to the toilet in pairs if using the external facilities.

Communication

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

- Available publicly on our school's website. [Click here](#) to view.
- Included in staff induction processes
- Discussed at staff briefings or meetings, as required
- Included in our staff handbook
- Included as a reference in our school newsletter each term
- Made available in paper copy from school administration upon request

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 and Camps](#)
 - [Supervision of Students](#)
 - [Visitors in Schools](#)

Policy review and approval

Policy last reviewed	May 2026
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	May 2028

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

Approval date:	Approved by:	Next Review:	Page:
May 2026	Principal	May 2028	6 of 6