



# BENTON JUNIOR COLLEGE

## VISITORS POLICY



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact the school office on phone 59 739100

### Rationale

Many visitors attend and assist the school on a daily basis. The school has a legal obligation to ensure that all visitors are suitably screened for the safety of students and staff.

### Aim

To provide a safe and secure learning and teaching environment for students and staff by establishing processes to monitor and manage visitors to Example School.

### Implementation

Benton Junior College is committed to implementing and following practices which protect the safety and wellbeing of children and our staff and volunteers. Benton Junior College recognises and welcomes the contribution of parents/carers and the members of the community into the school to assist and support classroom and/or school activities.

This policy outlines our school's arrangements for visitors who attend school grounds when the school is open for instruction between the hours of 9:00am to 3:15pm, and when the office is staffed to monitor/receive visitors at reception], including parents and contractors. Outside of these times, our front office is not staffed and this policy does not apply

Definitions:

*Child-related work:* As defined by the *Worker Screening Act 2020* (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 direct contact with children that is incidental to the work.

Benton Junior 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.

Benton Junior 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 *Statement of Values and School Philosophy, Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy, Child Safety Code of Conduct, Volunteers Policy*].

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 (e.g. Members of Parliament, local councillors)
- Persons conducting business e.g.: uniform suppliers, booksellers, official school photographers, commercial salespeople
- Tradespeople
- Children's services agencies
- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing workers
- Victoria Police
- Persons authorised to enter school premises (e.g. Worksafe inspectors, health officers etc)
- Other Department of Education and Training staff (including allied health staff, Student Support Services Officers, Regional DET staff or contractors
- NDIS therapists or other allied health or health practitioners

### **Sign in procedure**

All visitors to Benton junior College are required to report to the school office on arrival (see exceptions below in relation to parents/carers). Visitors must:

- Record their name, phone number, date and time of visit and purpose of visit in our school's electronic registry kiosk located in the school's front office.
- Provide proof of identification to office staff upon request
- Produce evidence of their valid Working with Children Clearance where required by this policy (see below)
- Wear a visitor's lanyard/name tag at all times identifying their registration as a visitor
- Follow instruction from school staff and abide by all relevant school policies relating to appropriate conduct on school grounds including our Child Safety Code of Conduct, our school's Statement of Values and School Philosophy as well as Department policies such as the [Sexual Harassment Policy](#) and [Workplace Bullying Policy](#)
- Return to the office upon departure, sign out and return visitor's lanyard/name tag
- Our school will ensure that our school's Child Safety Code of Conduct is available and visible to visitors when they sign in.

### **COVID-19 vaccination information**

Our school follows Department of Education and Training policy with respect to the requirements relating to attendance on school sites and COVID-19 vaccinations.

For further information, refer to:

- [COVID-19 Vaccinations – Visitors and Volunteers on School Sites](#)

### **Working with Children Clearance and other suitability check**

Victorian schools have the discretion to decide which visitors, if any, will be required to have a WWC Clearance above the legal minimum requirements set out in the *Worker Screening Act 2020 (Vic)*. This Act requires all people engaged in 'child-related' work (see definition on this template), to hold a WWC Clearance. The Department has a useful flowchart to assist schools in relation to making decisions about suitability checks-

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/principals/spag/community/WWCCflowchart.pdf>.

All visitors who are engaged in **child-related work** (see definition above) must have a valid WWC Clearance. Additional suitability checks may also be required such as reference, proof of identity, qualification and work history involving children checks.

In some circumstances, visitors to Benton Junior College who are **not** engaged in child-related work will also be required to produce a valid WWC Clearance depending on the particular circumstances of their visit. For example, Benton Junior College will require a valid WWC Clearance for:

- **visitors who will be working regularly with children** during the time they are visiting, even though direct contact with children is not a central part of their normal duties
- **visitors (e.g. contractors)**, who will regularly be performing unsupervised work at the school during school hours or any other time where children are present. Further background checks, including references, may also be requested at the discretion of the principal.

Visitors who will be working in areas away from students (e.g. a visiting auditor who will be located in the front office with administration staff) or who will be supervised and accompanied by a staff member during their visit (e.g. a Member of Parliament, a journalist/photographer, a prospective parent on a school tour) will not be required to have a WWC Clearance.

Sworn Victoria Police officers or sworn 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, Benton Junior 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, our school 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 for the range of views held by students and their families.

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 as outlined above.

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 handbook/manual
- Discussed in an annual staff briefing/meeting
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

## Communication

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## Related Policies and Resources

Benton Junior College policies:

*Statement of Values and School Philosophy, Volunteers Policy, Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy, Child Safety Code of Conduct*

Department policies:

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

## Policy Review and Approval

Policy last reviewed	21.6.2022
Consultation	Consulted and endorsed by School Council on 9 August 2022
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	22.6.2024