

# Yard Duty & Supervision Policy



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the school 9387 6133 or [brunswick.sc@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:brunswick.sc@education.vic.gov.au)

## Purpose

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

## Scope

This policy applies to all teaching and non-teaching staff at Brunswick Secondary College, 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. Yard duty interactions are also an opportunity to interact positively with students and build relationships.

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.

School staff are responsible for following reasonable and lawful instructions from the 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

Brunswick Secondary College grounds are supervised by school staff from 8:30 am until 3:50 pm. Outside of these hours, school staff will not be available to supervise students on school grounds and as they enter and exit the school.

Before and after school, school staff will supervise the Fallon Street school crossing to ensure students are crossing safely and ensure cars are not parking in the no standing areas and posing a risk to students.

Students who may wish to attend school outside of these hours are encouraged to attend the library which is open between 8:30 am and 4:00pm or report to co-curricular program (CCP) activities. Refer to the CCP Handbook on Compass Favourites (under the star icon) for programs on offer.

## Yard Duty

All teachers at Brunswick Secondary College are expected to assist with yard duty supervision and will be included in the weekly roster. The Daily Organiser is responsible for preparing and communicating the yard duty roster on a regular basis. At Brunswick Secondary College school staff will be designated a specific yard duty area to supervise, as reflected on their Compass schedule.

## Opportunities

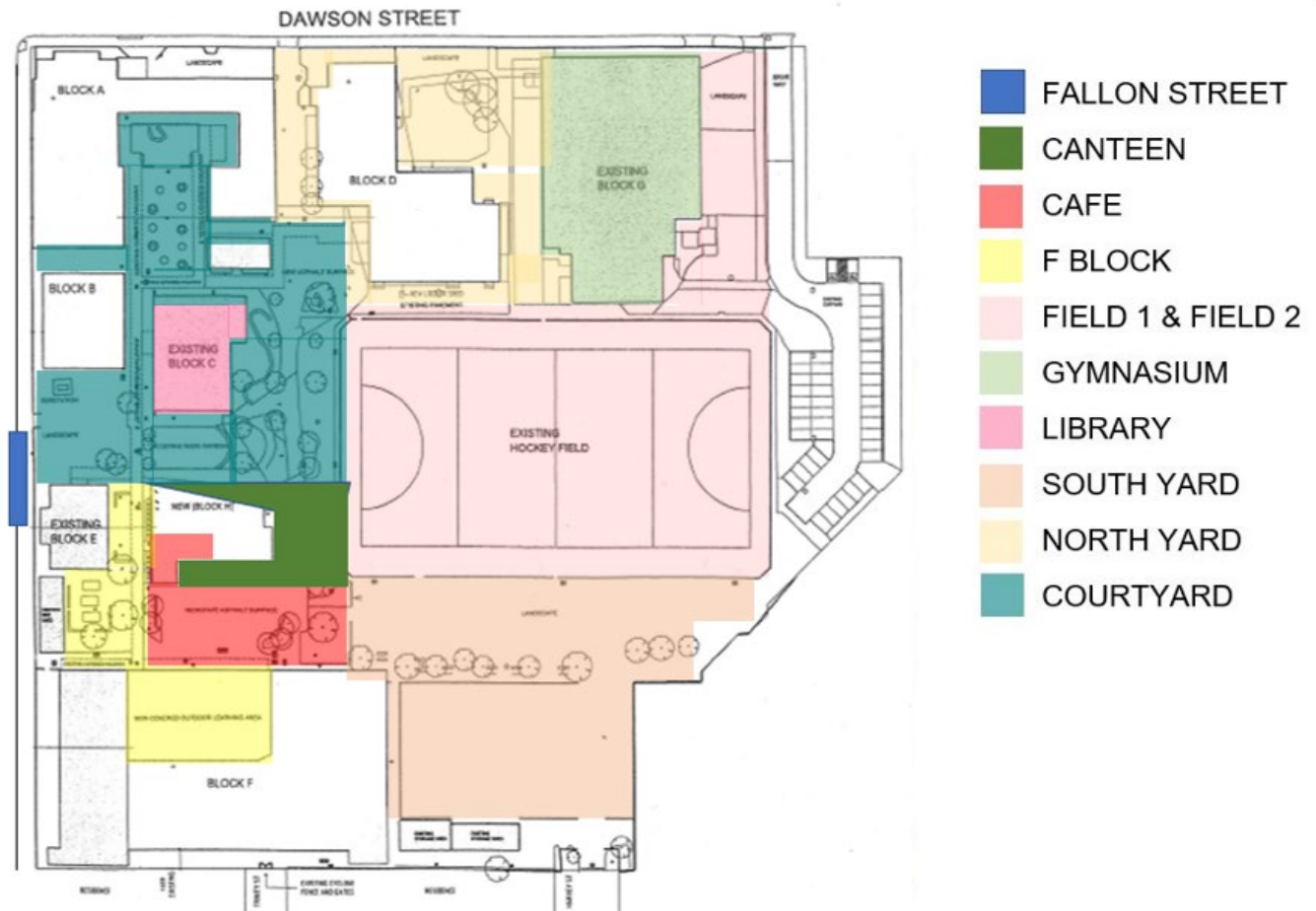
Yard Duty provides an opportunity to interact positively with students and build relationships. Staff are encouraged to:

- Greet students or student groups on your first lap of the area
- Briefly and positively interact with students not contingent on good – or poor - behaviour. E.g. *“How did your team go on the weekend?/ Did you know there is a cake stall in the courtyard?”*
- Positively and explicitly provide reinforcement to students who are meeting expectations. E.g. *“Good on you for throwing the ball back to that group of Year 7 students.”*
- Positively correct students who are not meeting expectations. E.g. *“This area is covered in rubbish. Can you help me pick up these papers so it looks nicer here?”*

The best interactions are brief (5-10 seconds), involve groups, are not contingent on good or poor behaviour, and are helpful or friendly.

## Yard Duty zones

The designated yard duty areas for our school (as of Term 3 2019) are illustrated here:



## Yard duty equipment

School staff must:

- wear a provided safety/hi-vis vest whilst on yard duty. Safety/hi-vis vests are provided to each staff member
- carry the yard duty first aid bag at all times during supervision. The yard duty first aid bag will be stored in A Block and F Block.
- Yard duty equipment must be returned after the period of supervision or handed to the relieving staff member.

## 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:

- methodically move around the designated zone ensuring the active supervision of all students
- where safe to do so, approach any unknown visitor who is observed on school grounds without a clear legitimate purpose, and ensure they have a visitor pass and have signed in (excluding drop off and collection periods)
- ensure students remain in their designated year level zones
- be alert and vigilant
- 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 Wellbeing and Engagement policy
- ensure that students who require first aid assistance receive it as soon as practicable
- log any incidents or near misses on Compass

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

If the supervising staff member is unable to conduct yard duty at the designated time, they should contact the daily Organiser 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 Office 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 contact the Office 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.

### Classroom

The classroom teacher is responsible for the supervision of all students in their care during class. If a student leaves the classroom, the teacher enters an Out of Class entry on Compass and monitors the absence until their return.

If a teacher needs to leave the classroom unattended at any time during a lesson, they should first contact the front office or nearby staff member for assistance. The teacher should then wait until another staff member has arrived at the classroom to supervise the class prior to 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

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

### 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 delegate will ensure arrangements are made to roster additional staff as required. This may include on yard duty, in the classroom or during school activities.

### Workplace learning programs

When students are participating in workplace learning programs, such as work experience, school-based apprenticeships and traineeships, and structured workplace learning, the safety and welfare of the student is paramount. Organising staff are required to follow all applicable Department of Education and Training policies and guidelines in relation to off-site learning, including policy and guidelines on the safety and wellbeing of students. Refer to:

- [Structure Workplace Learning](#)
- [School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships](#)
- [Work Experience](#)
- [School Community Work](#)

### Independent Study

Year 12 students only will have one study block of three sessions per week. This will be timetabled as a formal 'study period' where teacher supervision and support will be provided, and attendance will be recorded by the supervising teacher. Students will not be permitted to leave school grounds during these sessions.

### Supervision of student in emergency operating environments

In emergency circumstances our school will follow our Emergency Management Plan, including with respect to supervision.

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

## REFERENCES

School Policy and Advisory Guide – Student Safety

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/safety/Pages/safety.aspx>

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

## COMMUNICATION

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

- Provided to staff at induction and included in staff handbook/manual

- Discussed at staff meetings/briefings as required
- Made available publicly on our school website
- Included as annual reference in school newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

## 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](#)
  - [School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships](#)
  - [School Community Work](#)
  - [Structured Workplace Learning](#)
  - [Supervision of Students](#)
  - [Visitors in Schools](#)
  - [Work Experience](#)

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	April 2025
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	April 2027