
Visitor Policy

Objective

To provide a safe and secure learning and teaching environment for students and staff by establishing processes to monitor and manage visitors to Cire Community School (CCS).

Scope

This policy outlines our school's arrangements for visitors who attend school grounds when the school is open for instruction between the hours of 8:30am to 4:00pm, and when the office is staffed to monitor/receive visitors at reception, including but not limited to parents, contractors and external agencies. Outside of these times, our front office is not staffed and this policy does not apply.

Policy

CCS 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.

CCS 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 *School Philosophy and Mission Statement*, *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.
- 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.: Cire Corporate Services staff, uniform suppliers, booksellers, official school photographers, commercial salespeople.
- Tradespeople.
- Children's services agencies.
- Talent scouts.
- 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) or contractors.
- NDIS therapists or other allied health or health practitioners.

Sign in procedure

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

- Record their name, signature, date and time of visit and purpose of visit in PassTab.
- 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).

- Follow instruction from school staff and abide by all relevant school policies relating to appropriate conduct on school grounds including Child Safety Code of Conduct, Parent Code of Conduct, Statement of Values and School Philosophy.
- Return to the office upon departure and sign out using PassTab.

Cire Community School will ensure that our school's Child Safety Code of Conduct is available and visible to visitors when they sign in.

Working with Children Clearance and other suitability checks

All visitors who are engaged in **child-related work** (see definition below) must have a valid Working with Children (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 CCS 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, CCS 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, 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, CCS may invite external speakers or providers to deliver incursions, presentations, workshops and special programs for our students. In this instance, CCS 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 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.

Parent visitors

We understand that there may occasionally be a reason why a parent or carer may want to speak to or see their child at school, during school hours.

If there is a particular pressing or unavoidable issue that cannot wait until the end of the school day, we ask that parents or carers call the school office to make the request to speak to or see their child during school hours.

We also ask that parents avoid arranging to visit their children at school wherever possible, as this can cause inappropriate disruptions to the school day.

All parents or carers who visit our school during school hours, other than for the purposes of school pickups and drop offs or for specific school events (e.g. parent teacher interviews, etc.), are required to sign in as a visitor at the school office.

Parents or carers who are prohibited from entering the school under a court order or direction of the Campus Principal are not permitted to visit the school. Our school maintains and provides office staff with a list of restricted parents/carers which may include identifying photographs and any other information as required depending on the level of risk posed.

Other visitors

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 outlined above.

Definitions

Parents and/or guardians: The person legally responsible for the care, welfare and development of the student including, but is/are not limited to, a parent or guardian or foster parent.

Child related work: The Worker Screening Act 2020 defines 'child-related work' as work which usually involves (or is likely to involve) direct contact with a child, irrespective of whether that contact is supervised or not, and in any of the child-related occupational fields listed in the Act.

The definition of direct contact includes oral, written or electronic communication as well as face-to-face and physical contact. 'Child-related work' may be either paid or unpaid (voluntary). There are exemptions from the Act including people under 18 years of age, parent volunteers whose child ordinarily participates in the activity, sworn police officers, teachers currently registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching, and visiting workers who do not ordinarily reside and perform child-related work in Victoria, among others.

Related Documents

- Volunteer Policy
- Parent Code of Conduct
- Child Safety Code of Conduct
- Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
- Cire Community School Philosophy and Mission Statement
- Cire Community School Values

Organisational Area

Cire Community School

Approved by

The Board

Signature:

Date:



November 2022

Operative Date

November 2022

Review Date

November 2024