

Heathcote Primary School

YARD DUTY AND SUPERVISION POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Heathcote Primary School

PURPOSE

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

SCOPE

This policy applies to all teaching and non-teaching staff at Heathcote 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.

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

Heathcote Primary School grounds are supervised by school staff from 8.45am until 3.15pm. Outside of these hours, school staff will not be available to supervise students. Before school (8:45am to 9am), a staff member will supervise the basketball court, astro turf areas and the end of the oval closest to classrooms. The far end of the oval, the area extending beyond the basketball court and bike track are unsupervised and therefore 'out of bounds' for students. This is communicated to students each morning at 8:45am, reinforced at whole school assemblies and included in the start up program each year. The front garden area is also unsupervised before school. After school, staff provide supervision for the school crossing and bus area. The main playground area is unsupervised.

Parents and carers will be advised through the newsletter regarding yard duty supervision times and should not allow their children to attend Heathcote Primary School outside of these hours. Families will be encouraged to contact Trinity Academy, Heathcote regarding information about after school care facilities available to our school community.

If a student consistently 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 student will be taken to the office area. The principal or nominee staff member will consider whether it is appropriate to:

- attempt to contact the parents/carers
- attempt to contact the emergency contacts
- contact Victoria Police and/or Child Protection to arrange for the supervision, care and protection of the student.

Yard duty

All staff at Heathcote Primary School are expected to assist with yard duty supervision and will be included in the weekly roster. The principal is responsible for preparing and communicating the yard duty roster on a regular basis. At Heathcote Primary School, staff will be designated a specific yard duty area to supervise.

Yard duty zones

The yard duty roster identifies designated yard duty areas/zones for allocated duties. These areas are reviewed, and if needed, revised, throughout the year. They may be adjusted according to needs identified through student incident data, level of use/popularity, student attendance on a specific day/week. For example, in winter time, the oval may become its own designated yard duty area due to the increase in popularity of football. In summer time, the oval is often used less by students and is therefore incorporated into another area. On excursion days, areas may be combined due to some students being offsite.

Designated yard duty areas for Heathcote Primary School are shown below.

Plan A

Area 1: Turf, oval, concrete, senior playground

Area 2: Basketball court, junior playground, bike shed



When increased supervision is required, the yard is zoned into additional areas as shown below.

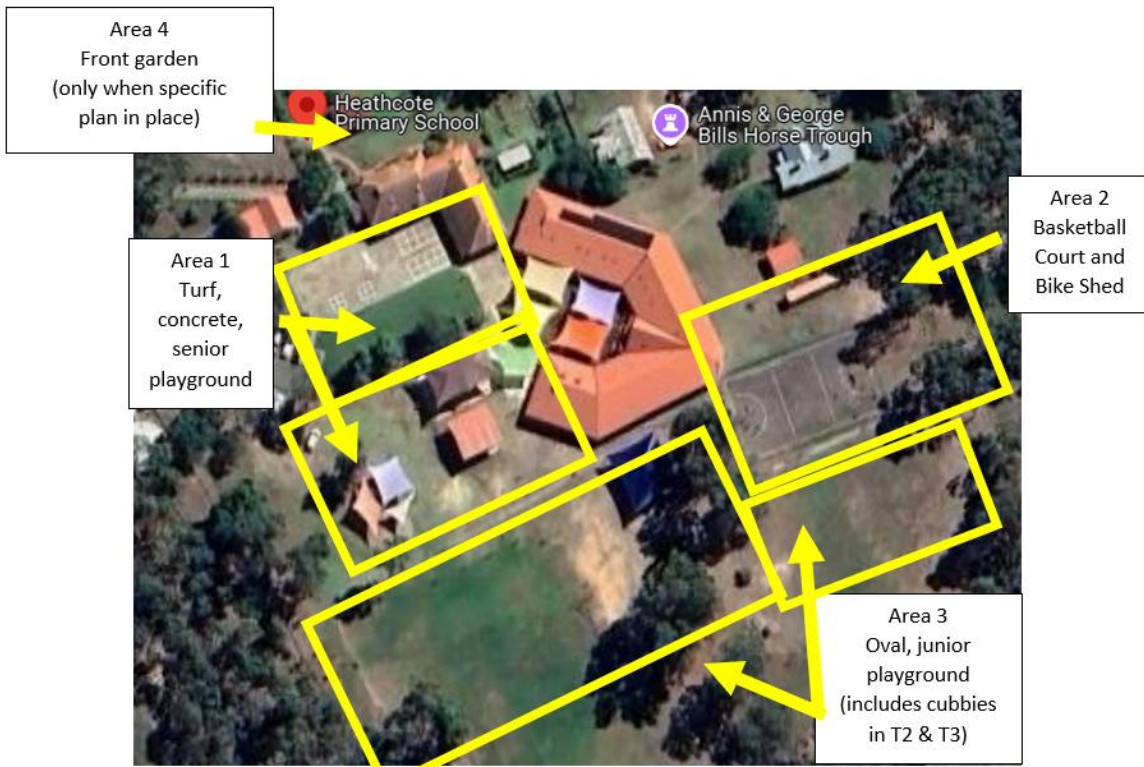
Plan B

Area 1: Turf, concrete, senior playground

Area 3: Oval and junior playgrounds

Area 2: Basketball court and bike shed

Area 4: Front garden (when needed)



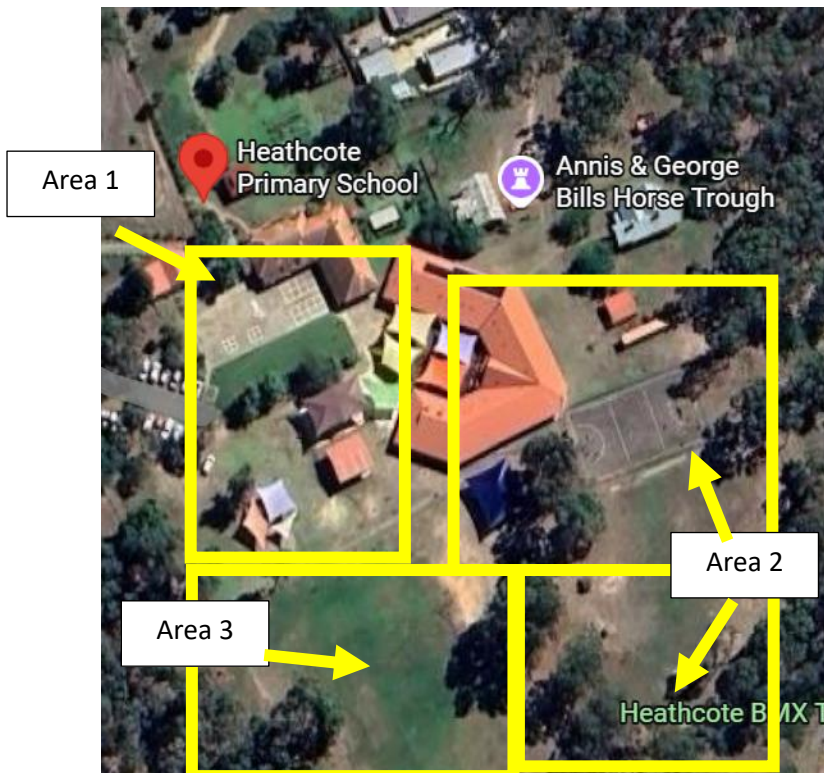
Plan C

Area 1: Turf, concrete, senior playground

Area 3: Oval

Area 2: Basketball court, junior playgrounds, bike shed

Area 4: Front garden (when needed)



Yard duty equipment

School staff must:

- wear a provided safety/hi-vis vest whilst on yard duty. Safety/hi-vis vests will be stored with individual staff members in their classrooms. Spare vests are available to borrow from the office storeroom.
- carry their yard duty pouch/bag with them along with their mobile phone during duty
- Education Support staff will be rostered on to provide intensive 1:1 supervision for students requiring additional support at break times.
- be familiar with student information regarding health and safety information, individual yard plans, behaviour support plans.

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. A frog sound is played over the PA system to signal halfway time (and yard duty swap time).

During yard duty, supervising school staff must:

- move around the designated zone ensuring 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 refer them to the Principal/Office.
- 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 Engagement policy
- ensure that students who require first aid assistance receive it as soon as practicable (office staff will provide first aid at the office)
- log any incidents or near misses as appropriate as a Chronicle in Compass.
- Ensure that head bumps are followed up with a courtesy call home (and the need for a call is communicated to the office).

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 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 another member of staff 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 principal/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 break time.

Classroom

The classroom 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 the office for assistance. 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 plans are in place for all students to be 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

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

Heathcote 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 in a common area. For example, students participating in a high ability program, Girls in STEM, virtual language school.

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.

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.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Included in staff induction processes
- Discussed at staff briefings or meetings, as required
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request
- Referenced in the school newsletter with a link to the policies page of the school website

Information for parents and students on supervision before and after school is available on our school website and parent reminders included in the school newsletter.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

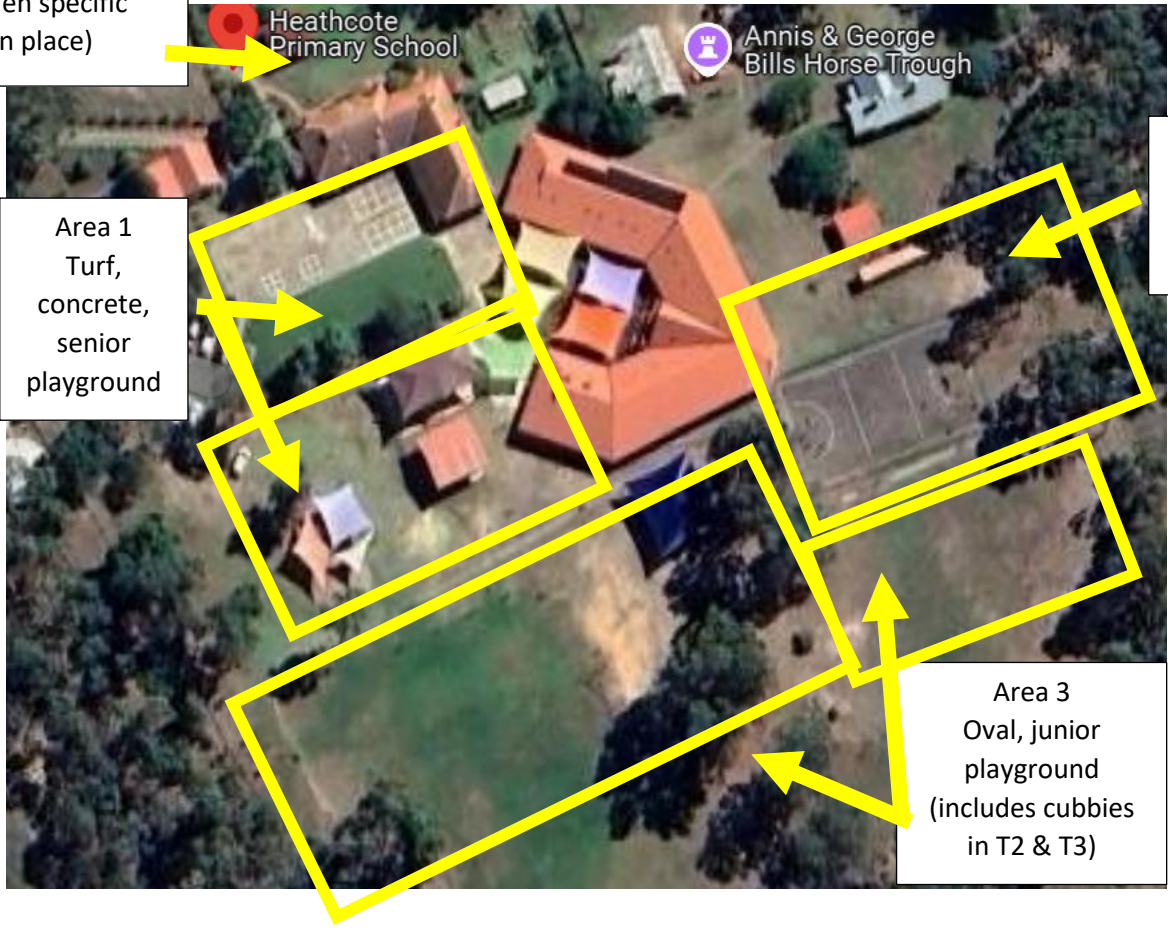
- the Department’s Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):
 - [Child Safe Standards](#)
 - [Cybersafety and Responsible Use of Technologies](#)
 - [Duty of Care](#)
 - [Excursions](#)
 - [Visitors in Schools](#)
 - [Supervision of Students](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	January 2026
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	January 2028 - noting that the mandatory minimum review cycle for this policy is 2 years.

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

Area 4
Front garden
(only when specific
plan in place)



Heathcote
Primary School

Annis & George
Bills Horse Trough

Area 2
Basketball
Court and
Bike Shed

Area 1
Turf,
concrete,
senior
playground

Area 3
Oval, junior
playground
(includes cubbies
in T2 & T3)