



ASCOT VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL
No. 7606

Working with Children's Checks

Friday 9th December 2016

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As you may have read in our draft 'Child Safe Standards' documents, Ascot Vale Primary School will be asking parents and volunteers, who do specific roles at our school, to obtain a Working with Children Check (WWCC). Many parents, carers and other adults, volunteer their time in classrooms and around the school. We appreciate the help and support and our students enjoy having their parents and carers here too.

The introduction of Ministerial Order 870 – Child Safe Standards has meant that now most adults who are working with children, for example at schools or sporting clubs must have a WWCC. Ascot Vale PS must now also comply with the Order. Child Safe Standard 1 - STRATEGIES TO EMBED AN ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE OF CHILD SAFETY, states that *"All people engaged in child-related work, including parent volunteers, are required to hold a Working with Children Check and to provide evidence of this Check."* It goes on to say that you are exempt from a WWCC if you are either a) volunteering in an activity in which your child participates or normally participates in the classroom or b) If you are closely related to each child in your child-related work (spouse or domestic partner, step-parent, grandparent, uncle or aunt, brother or sister, including half siblings, step siblings, brother-in-law or sister-in-law).

From the start of 2017 if you are volunteering in child related work without your child or relation, or working with them but outside the classroom (eg attending excursions, helping out at sports days or working with small groups of children in the staffroom) **you must have a Working with Children Check.** We are asking that if you are planning to help out or volunteer in this capacity in 2017 to apply for a WWCC now at www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au We recommend that all parents who help out get one regardless.

The process is free for parents & volunteers; though you will need to supply a passport size photo. When you receive your WWCC card you will need to bring this to the office to be copied and kept on file. When helping out at our school you will need to have your WWCC card on you as well. Ascot Vale PS already have many WWCC from parents and volunteers. We are also in the process of updating our Visitors to Schools policy, where the new Child Safe Standards will be embedded.

Thank you for your anticipated support.

Michael Downing & Sue Osborne
Principal Team

Ascot Vale Primary School Child Safe Standards DRAFT (Recommended to approve at December School Council meeting) <http://www.avps.vic.edu.au/ChildSafeStandards.html>