Glen Iris Primary School prides itself on involving parents, guardians, family and caregivers in the education of all the students. The school also places a high priority on maintaining a safe environment for all students. With these two objectives in mind, the School Council has decided to extend the requirement for Working with Children Checks for volunteers who support some of the activities within the school.

Workings with Children Checks were introduced into Victoria in 2006. The aim of the Checks is to help protect children from physical and sexual harm. Glen Iris Primary School already has robust systems and protocols in place to protect students and make sure that the school is a safe place for all our children. The extension of the requirement for Working with Children Checks is one further means of supporting the safe place for the students.

Whilst the Working with Children Act 2005 provides for a general exemption for parents/volunteers who are volunteering in an activity with their child, the school Council has determined that the priority of maintaining a safe environment for all students encumbers the school to expand the requirement for Working with Children Checks for volunteers who support some of the activities within the school.

The Working with Children Act 2005 emphasises the relevance of activities which require regular direct contact with a child or children and which contact is not (or may not be at all times) directly supervised. In determining how to extend the current Working with Children Check school policy the Council has applied this same emphasis.

Any volunteer (parent/guardian/community member) who attends any of the school camps is already required to have a current Working with Children Check. Commencing in 2013, Working with Children Checks will be required for all parent/family/community volunteers who volunteer for, at least, the following activities:

- classroom helper;
- playground supervisor;
- sports coach of a school team;
- parent supervisor on excursions;
- transporting students in a car to and/or from a school event; and
- travelling with students on buses to and from school events.

There will continue to be numerous volunteering opportunities that will not require a Working with Children Check including sports carnival helpers (timers, marshalls), book club, working bees, Father’s Day breakfast helper and Mother’s Day stall helper.

When you receive the Working with Children Check you will be issues with a card, much like a driver’s licence, it will include a unique identifying number for your check. You will be required to provide this number each time you volunteer for one of the specified volunteering opportunities.

The Post Office has the application form required to apply for a Working with Children Check. Some copies are also available at the School Office. You will need to attend an Australia Post outlet to complete and submit the forms. More information on the Working with Children Checks as well as the application form may be found online at:


Please note that the application is free for all volunteers.