

## Purpose

Watsonia North Primary School recognises that the quality of the workforce is the major factor driving quality in schools. The school takes all reasonable steps to employ skilled people to work with children.

The conditions of employment for Teaching Service employees are set out in Part 2.4 of the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*, Regulations and Ministerial Order 1388 made under that Act and the Victorian Government Schools Agreement 2022.

## Aims

- To create a contemporary workplace and to build a culture of leadership, learning and renewal.
- To ensure, through school recruitment processes the best available applicants are attracted, recruited, and supported to do their jobs as effectively as possible.
- To ensure Watsonia North Primary School complies with DET Human Resources Workforce Management policy and guidelines.
- To ensure the school creates a child safe culture consistent with Child Safe Standard 2 (Child Safe Policy) and Standard 6.

## Implementation

Employees in the principal class, teacher class and paraprofessional class are employed pursuant to the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* and are required to have valid and current registration with the [Victorian Institute of Teaching](#) as a condition of employment.

Education support class employees must demonstrate their suitability for employment by providing evidence of a WWC Check and Assessment Notice.

The Principal has the delegated authority and responsibility within the context of a legislative framework to manage the recruitment of staff as vacancies arise.

The Department's *Recruitment in Schools Guide* brings together the key aspects of recruitment policy and other Human Resources policies to assist our school in the recruitment, transfer and promotion of staff to meet both the short and long term needs, and the professional learning needs and career aspirations of staff. These policy and procedures outlined apply to all Teaching Service positions other than Principal positions.

The *Recruitment in School Guide*, which provides comprehensive policy and information concerning recruitment in schools including the following:

- Preferred staffing profile
- Vacancy management
- Advertising vacancies
- Staff with priority status
- Selection
- Qualifications
- Employment, promotion or transfer
- Review/grievance processes

## Child Safe Standards

The safety and wellbeing of child at the school is our highest priority. Our school will ensure that recruitment, induction and ongoing professional learning practices are rigorous in line with Child Safe Standard 6.

Our school will ensure that a number of mandatory requirements outlined in legislation, orders made under that legislation, and industrial instruments will be cross referenced where relevant.

We will develop selection criteria and advertisements which clearly demonstrate a strong commitment to child safety and an awareness of our social and legislative responsibilities.

Our school will actively encourage applications from Aboriginal people, people from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and people with a disability.

All staff must hold or apply for a Working with Children Check and to provide evidence of this check. The Principal may request a criminal records check.

The school will meet the consultative requirements under both the Victorian Government Schools Agreement 2022 in relation to matters involving the long-term planning and operation of the school including the development of workforce plans and the composition of selection panels.

Unless otherwise agreed between the Principal and a teacher, a teacher will be in attendance for a minimum of seven hours daily commencing no less than ten minutes before the morning pupil instructional session.

Unless otherwise agreed through the consultative arrangements, a schedule of meetings will be drawn up for the school year, using the consultative arrangements, which may require teachers to attend meetings of up to two hours per week in addition to the minimum of seven hours daily attendance, provided that where the meeting is a staff meeting it will be held adjacent to the normal school day and normally will be no longer than one hour.

When scheduling meetings and other duties, the Principal will be cognisant of the workload implications.

Teaching staff will have access to four professional practice days (one per term).

A teacher may be required to carry out other duties for up to one hour in addition to the attendance requirements set out above subject to prior consultation and mutual agreement as to the time, date and type of duties to be undertaken.

Within the daily hours of attendance, a teacher is entitled to a paid lunch period of not less than thirty minutes free from assigned duties.

An employee may request a flexible work arrangement to assist them to balance their work and life/family commitments. Requests will be assessed by the Principal on a case-by-case basis taking into account legislative requirements and the needs of both the employee and the workplace.

The school will support the induction of new teachers by being explicit about the values and expectations that inform and reflect the behaviours and practices of staff within this school.

## Further Information and Resources

- DET Recruitment in School Guidelines
- DET Victorian Government Schools Agreement 2022
- WNPS Child Safe Standards
- WNPS School Values and Philosophy Statement
- WNPS Equal Opportunity Policy

## Evaluation and Review

Evaluation of the *Employment Policy* will occur every three years as stipulated in the *Watsonia North PS Policy Review Cycle* document.

This policy was updated in October 2022 and is scheduled for review in 2025.