



GLADESVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL No 5066 TRESPASS POLICY

Rationale:

The school will deal with trespassers in a manner consistent with Section 9 of the Summary Offences Act 1996 and the Department of Education Executive Memorandum 97/041, in order to provide a safer environment for its students, staff and community.

Aims:

- A trespasser is any person who enters onto school grounds (including into any buildings) -
 - (a) without authority (unless for a legitimate purpose), or
 - (b) without a lawful excuse (unless for a legitimate purpose) or
 - (c) in a manner likely to cause a breach of the peace.
- Persons have a legitimate purpose to enter the school grounds and/or buildings if they are students, parents, staff, siblings of students (with legitimate reason to enter the grounds), delivery people, officers of emergency services, gas and electricity meter readers, persons invited to the school by someone with the authority to invite persons or persons authorised to enter school grounds by legislation or regulation.
- Persons who ordinarily have a legitimate purpose to enter school premises may cease to have a legitimate purpose under certain circumstances. This includes, for example, pupils who are on suspension (unless they return to collect work or books, or have some other legitimate reason for returning) or a person who has engaged in threatening or abusive behaviour.
- The Principal has the power to –
 - (a) Warn a trespasser to leave the school premises.
 - (b) Warn a person not to enter the school premises.
 - (c) Erect signs warning persons not to enter the school premises.
 - (d) Request the police to lay a charge under Section 9 of the *Summary Offences Act 1996* when a person fails to comply with an above warning.
 - (e) Delegate the powers listed in 1.4 (a) to (d) to appropriate persons within the school community.

Implementation:

- There is no general right to the public at large to be at the school either within or outside school hours. However, the school recognises that its community should have access to its grounds and facilities and general environment outside school hours and that, in general, this provides something of a safeguard against undesirable intruders, vandals etc.
- Persons suspected of being trespassers should be approached, in general, with caution and with a view to ascertaining whether or not a legitimate purpose exists for the person's presence on the school premises. This may be established by the sighting of a visitor's pass or by questioning the person by saying words to the effect of, "What is your reason for being on the school premises?" This question would not need to be asked if the person obviously has no legitimate reason for being on the school premises.

Evaluation:

This policy will be evaluated in line with School Council cyclical review of policy documents and school and DEECD priorities.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in March 2013.