Wangala
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Outside School Hours Care Policy
Water Safety

Purpose

This policy provides clear guidelines, expectations and commitments to the all staff and parents/guardians regarding child water safety. The policy details Wangala Primary School Outside School Hours Care's goals for water safety for all children and staff; commits to safe water practices and children playing safely in and around water.

Wangala Primary School Outside School Hours Care recognises that activities involving water pose particular risks. We also acknowledge that becoming a confident and competent swimmer is essential to children's' safety. Furthermore, swimming increases children's' opportunities for fun in leisure and sporting participation.

Wangala Primary School Outside School Hours Care will generally not have opportunities which could be classified as 'Water-based activities but identifies 'Water-based activities' as activities that engage children in an environment where they are in and/or near water. These may include:

- Surfing
- Canoeing
- Tubing
- Snorkelling
- Raft building
- Kayaking
- Fishing
- Beach games
- Rock pooling

Wangala Primary School Outside School Hours Care is committed to exercising extra caution where any water-based activity or water-based excursion is delivered.

Water Safety Procedures

To prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to swimming and wading pools and other water hazards, the Wangala Primary School Outside School Hours Care and staff will;

- Closely supervise children near any water at all times, never leave children alone near any water.
- Teach children about staying safe in and around water.
- Buckets of water used during cleaning after craft or throughout the day are to be filled immediately before use, supervised by an adult while in use, and emptied immediately and cleaned thoroughly after use.
- Provide clean drinking water at all times. The water will be supervised to ensure that it is safe and hygienic for consuming. Water containers will be securely sealed. At the end of each day the water container will be emptied and cleaned thoroughly.
- Hot water accessible to children will be maintained at the temperature of 43.5° C. Thermostatic valves to be tested and serviced annually by a plumber.
- Adults will not carry and consume hot drinks in the service area with children in attendance.
- A risk assessment will be conducted prior to any excursion taking place. Particular attention will be focused upon water safety where the excursion is near a body of water.

- At all times, when children are present, there must be at least one staff member with a current approved first aid qualification, on the premises. It is best practice for all contact staff to hold current approved First Aid Certificates. All contact staff are required to keep first aid qualifications up to date. The school will cover the costs of this staff training.

Resources

ACECQA National Quality Framework Resource Kit (2012)
Quality Area 2 – Children's health and safety
Education and Care Services National Regulations (2011) R 25(1)(c) for venues with pools.
Education and Care Services National Law Act (2010) S 165, S 167

Review Cycle

This policy was last updated in October 2024 and is scheduled for review in October 2027.
The recommended minimum review cycle for this policy is 3 years.