

WATER SAFETY POLICY

Policy Statement

Highgate School Outside School Hours Care (Highgate OSHC) recognises the risks posed by bodies of water and takes the safety of children and educators involved in water-based activities and around bodies of water seriously. Highgate OSHC will ensure that every precaution is taken so that children are able to enjoy water-based activities safely. Risk assessments will be carried out for programmed water-based activities and the outcomes will underpin the educator to child ratio for the activities.

Definitions

Body of water: in regards to this policy, this refers to any of the following locations: swimming pools, wading pools, lakes, ponds, ocean, creeks, dams and rivers. This also includes any equipment that could contain 5cm or more of water and could allow a child to submerge both nose and mouth at the same time.

Implementation

Highgate OSHC shall ensure the safety of children around bodies of water by:

- Undertaking a risk assessment that will determine the required educator to child ratio for the proposed activity.
- Demonstrating a preference for venues that provide additional supervision in the form of lifeguards.
- Ensuring educators are placed in positions that allow them to directly and actively supervise any child accessing a body of water.
- Avoiding any venue with a body of water where sufficient precautions cannot be taken to ensure the safety of children.

The Director is responsible for:

- Conducting a risk assessment on any venue Highgate OSHC plans to visit, to ensure that the service is able to provide appropriate levels of supervision and that the risk does not exceed the service's ability to maintain the safety of children.
- Ensuring a risk assessment is carried out on any activity programmed that allows children to access a body of water.
- Ensuring educators position themselves in the environment so that every child is within sight of an adult at all times and that supervision is direct and vigilant; and that educators rotate their position in the environment on a regular basis to allow for movement and to maintain vigilance.
- On a swimming excursion, having some educators designated to supervise children from within the body of water.

Approved by Highgate School Governing Council 26th October 2021

DATE OF EFFECT: 17th November 2021

REVIEWED: 4th November 2022

TO BE REVIEWED: 4th November 2023

Related Documents

<http://www.acecqa.gov.au/national-quality-framework/national-law-and-regulations/national-regulations>

Education & Care Services National Regulations (2011) – Regulations 101(2)(b), 168

National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care & School Age Care (2010) – Standards 2.3

<https://www.education.sa.gov.au/working-us/out-school-hours-care-oshc>

Water Safety Procedure for Preschools at <https://edi.sa.edu.au/operations-and-management/school/preschool-and-fdc-admin/preschool-and-early-childhood-management/water-safety-for-preschools>