

2022 Bush/Beach Kinder Identification & Visibility Policy

NQS: Quality Area 2

Purpose

This policy aims to clearly define:

- Ways in which Bush/Beach Kinder participants are clearly visible to staff and volunteers, and clearly identifiable to other members of the public to protect the safety of all participants
- Communication to onlookers and users of the park/beach regarding the Bush/Beach Kinder program.

Policy Statement

1. Values

Parkdale Preschool is committed to:

- Providing a safe and healthy environment for children, staff and volunteers participating in the Bush/Beach Kinder program
- Being respectful of the community space that the Bush/Beach Kinder site offers, while ensuring the safety of participants at all times in response to external influences and risks
- Being respectful that members of the public may be interested in the Bush/Beach Kinder program, but ensuring that the program is not interrupted by other park users.

2. Scope

This policy applies to children, parents, staff, committee members, authorised persons, volunteers and students on placement working at Parkdale Preschool.

3. Background and legislation

Parkdale Preschool's Bush/Beach Kinder program is conducted in community parkland and beaches which are enjoyed by members of the public and allows dogs to be walked off lead in designated areas. It is important that children, staff and volunteers participating in the Bush/Beach Kinder program are easily identified to each other and parkland users as a discrete group. It is also critical that children participating in the program are clearly visible to all staff and volunteers.

Relevant legislation may include but is not limited to:

- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- Education and Care Services National Law 2010
- National Quality Standards, including Quality Area 2 – Children's health and safety and Quality Area 3 – Physical environment
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007

4. Sources and related policies

Kindergarten policies

- Bush/Beach Kinder Delivery & Collection of Children Policy (Bush Kinder Specific)
- Bush/Beach Kinder Extreme Weather Policy (Bush Kinder Specific)
- Bush/Beach Kinder Protective Clothing Policy (Bush Kinder Specific)
- Bush/Beach Kinder Emergency Evacuation Policy (Bush Kinder Specific)
- Bush/Beach Kinder Snake Awareness Policy (Bush Kinder Specific)
- Bush/Beach Kinder Dog Awareness Policy (Bush Kinder Specific)

Procedures

General

The Committee is responsible for:

- Providing high visibility vests for both staff and children to wear during the session
- Ensuring staff are appropriately trained in procedures for dealing with onlookers, dogs etc.

Staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring all children have the Preschool high visibility vests on at all times for the duration of the session and until we return back to Parkdale Preschool
- Requesting in as diplomatic a fashion as possible that interested onlookers move on so as not to disturb the education program underway, if necessary.
- Identifying owners of dogs off lead and encourage the owner to put the dog on a lead. Where the dog on lead comes into the Bush/Beach Kinder area, activating the procedures in the dog awareness policy.

Parents are responsible for:

- Ensuring and assisting their child in putting on a high visibility vest prior to the commencement of the session
- Reading and being familiar with the policy
- Bringing relevant issues to the attention of both staff and committee.

Evaluation

In order to assess whether the policy has achieved the values and purposes the committee will:

- Seek feedback regarding this policy and its implementation with parents of children participating in the Bush/Beach Kinder program. This can be facilitated through discussions.
- Ask staff to share their experiences and observations in relation to the effectiveness of this policy.



- Regularly review the policy and centre practices to ensure they are compliant with any new legislation, research or best practice procedures.

Authorisation

Endorsed by the Parkdale Preschool Committee of Management in March 2022.

Review Date: February 2023

Parkdale Preschool would like to acknowledge Westgarth Kindergarten for their support in reviewing this policy.