

## 3.13 Water Safety

### Policy Statement

Middle Park State School Outside School Hours Care acknowledges that water activities are a significant part of both our Queensland culture and typical leisure activities for children, therefore, to facilitate experiences for children that positively contribute to their wellbeing with fun and safety, the Approved Provider has developed the following procedures. Middle Park State School Outside School Hours Care recognises that the safety and supervision of children in and around water is of the highest priority. Children will be closely supervised at all times during water play experiences.

The scope of this policy includes swimming activities, water play and excursions near water.

The Approved Provider also recognises their duty to comply with *Education and Care Services National Regulations 168 (2)(a)(iii)*, 100-102

### Related Policies

- 2.3 – Educator Ratios
- 2.2 – Statement of Commitment to the Safety and Wellbeing of Children
- 2.11 – Support Additional Needs with Inclusive Practices
- 3.1 – Educational Program Planning
- 3.3 – Educator Practices
- 3.5 – Excursions
- 3.7 – Physical Activity
- 4.8 – Sun Safety
- 6.4 - Shared Facilities
- 6.8 – Maintenance of Facilities
- 9.3 – Communication with Families
- 10.9 – Risk Management and Compliance

### Auxiliary Documents

- Swimming Ability Form (3.13.1)
- Lease Agreement

### Roles and Responsibilities

Approved Provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure policy and procedures support the safety and wellbeing of children.</li><li>• Ensure ample administration time is considered to develop risk-assessments in accordance with Education and Care Services National Law Act, 2010 and Regulations 2011.</li><li>• Support the implementation of risk-assessments identifying and managing foreseeable hazards.</li></ul>
Nominated Supervisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide information and guidance to educators and families on the importance of children's safety in and around water.</li><li>• Ensure a comprehensive risk assessment has been conducted by the Leadership Team and approved by the Nominated Supervisor prior to any water activities taking place. The risk assessment will identify the educator to child ratios required to ensure children's safety.</li><li>• Support the Educational Leader to ensure parents are informed of the swimming details and risks involved. Parents will provide written consent for the activity.</li><li>• Support the Educational Leader to ensure all parents have indicated the swimming ability of their children before participating in the excursion</li><li>• Ensure educators hold relevant and current qualifications appropriate to the water play activity taking place.</li></ul>
Leadership Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conduct a comprehensive risk assessment prior to any water activities taking place. The risk assessment will identify the educator to child ratios required to ensure children's safety.</li></ul>
Educational Leader	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure parents are informed of the swimming details and risks involved. Parents will provide written consent for the activity.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure all parents have indicated the swimming ability of their children before participating in the excursion.</li> </ul>
All Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage children to play in or near water safely, giving appropriate instructions and guidance.</li> <li>• Understand and be willing to act in accordance with the relevant risk-assessment.</li> <li>• Sign off on relevant risk assessment prior to partaking in any water based activities</li> <li>• Communicate any impending changes to qualifications to management.</li> </ul>

## Procedures

All bodies of water present a significant risk to children therefore Middle Park State School Outside School Hours Care will ensure the following procedures are implemented:

- A comprehensive risk assessment of the venue and activity will be conducted to determine the required educator to child ratio, including a plan for supervision in and out of the water.
- Consideration will also be given to the capacity of educators to rescue children from water.
- Consideration will be given to any specialist skills (e.g. lifesaving) that may be required or beneficial.
- The choice of swimming location will be influenced by capacity to cater for Middle Park State School Outside School Hours Care's swimming activity safely.
- Parents/guardians must complete a 'Swimming Ability Form' (3.13.1) for each child attending the activity. Information gained through this form will identify children's swimming competence and assist educators to manage their safety while in the water:
  - The swimming ability form will direct the supervision, support and water depth that the children will access throughout the activity.
  - These items will be outlined and communicated to parents with excursion details.
- During the swimming activity educators will be positioned both in and out of the water to allow them to directly and actively supervise any child accessing the water.
- Risk assessments and Middle Park State School Outside School Hours Care's procedures ensure Middle Park State School Outside School Hours Care fulfils the *Regulations* for first-aid qualification and CPR qualification, anaphylaxis management and emergency asthma management training at all times.
- Middle Park State School Outside School Hours Care will ensure children requiring any additional support are considered. Middle Park State School Outside School Hours Care will collaborate with parents to address specific support plans, where relevant.
- Ensure Policy 4.8 *Sun Safety* is upheld during the activity and role-modeled by staff.

## School Pool Usage

When accessing the school's pool facilities, the procedures to risk-assess the environment and activity will be undertaken as outlined above.

Using the school pool will require expressed authorisation from the school and documented in a request or outlined in the occupancy agreement.

Any concerns relating to the safety or security of the school pool will be communicated to the school administration for actioning. The Approved Provider will be included in this communication.

## Relevant Laws and Provisions

- *Education and Care Services National Law Act, 2010 and Regulations 2011*
- *Child Protection Act 1999*
- *National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2 – Children's health and safety*

## ECEC Regulation Compliance

- *Education and Care Services National Regulations 168 (2)(j), and 155-156.*

<b>Policy Controls</b>			
Endorsed by:	Middle Park State School Parents & Citizens Association	Date Endorsed:	16/11/2021
Date implemented:	13/12/2021	Date families notified	29/11/2021
Version:	3.13-2021/1	Date of review	1/12/2022