

Bertram Hawker Kindergarten: Water Safety Procedure



Rationale

Children enjoy exploring their learning environments, including playing in, with, and around water play; however, they generally have little understanding of the danger that it can pose.

This policy provides instructions in relation to managing water safety, including during water-based activities, based on a completed risk assessment. This policy applies to all educators at this site and accompanies the site risk assessment on water play.

Water hazards

A water hazard is defined as anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth. Water hazards in a child's learning environment can include sinks, basins, fish tanks, fishbowls, frog ponds, baths, pooling water, water courses, ponds, sandpits, clam shells, water troughs, containers and buckets used for play, animal drinking containers.

Managing water hazards

Our educators regularly complete risk assessments to identify and assess risks associated with any water hazards and water-based activities. These risk assessments must address:

Active supervision – children are actively supervised at all times when there is a risk of access to any water hazard. Active supervision includes:

- Filling water troughs to a maximum of 5 cm and emptying prior to the end of each day.
- Monitoring the water collection bucket under the children's outdoor handwashing by emptying water when it is collected and storing upside down at the end of each day.
- Direct and constant monitoring of children.
- Careful and intentional positioning.
- Scanning and moving around the environment.
- Listening closely for sounds or the absence of noise.
- Observing play and anticipating behaviour.

Eliminating hazards – water will be emptied regularly and troughs and buckets etc will be stored in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use. All aspects of the environment are designed to ensure adequate drainage of water to avoid pooling.

Restricting access – compliant fencing/barriers and specific signage.

Water safety during excursions

Water safety and potential water hazards are considered when undertaking risk assessments for excursions, including routine excursions.

Frog Pond safety

The inclusion of our frog pond is an exciting outdoor learning space for children; however, the pond needs to be kept safe to minimise the drowning hazard for young children. Special considerations to be made include:

- The frog pond has a rigid metal grid covering it and is in a fenced garden that children cannot access without an adult.
- Large rocks are placed on the bottom layer (bed) of the pond to minimise the overall depth.
- Interaction with the fishpond is a planned, supervised activity.
- Risk assessments are discussed with the children to teach the rules about engaging with the pond.
- Close and constant adult supervision at all times is the key to water safety.
- The policy is reviewed at the beginning of the year when the water risk assessment is reviewed and any Work, Health and Safety (WHS), changes are made to ensure the ongoing safety of the pond for children.
- This hazard has been entered on the EDU Portal.

Approved & Reviewed June 2026