

# Water Safety Policy

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## Policy Statement

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This policy outlines the procedures that apply to managing water safety during any water-based activities at South Newman Primary School.

South Newman Primary School is committed to:

- providing opportunities for children to explore their natural environment including through water play
- ensuring that children are protected from the risks associated with drowning or non-fatal drowning experiences
- ensuring that curriculum planning incorporates water safety awareness
- providing information to educators, staff, parents/guardians, volunteers at the school about water safety

## Legislation and Government Requirements

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2012, Chapter 4, Part 4.3 Physical environment.

National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety

Standard 2.2: Safety

2.2.1 Supervision: At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.

Duty of Care Policy

Early Childhood (K-2) Operational Handbook

Early Years Learning Framework

Kindergarten Curriculum Guidelines of Western Australia

## Background

The supervision and safety of children with and around water is of paramount importance.

Learning spaces and environments should offer an array of possibilities and connect children with natural materials. Water is one experience that offers children sensory-rich, open ended experiences that engage children's curiosity and imagination. These experiences, especially those conducted with and near water, will be carefully supervised ensuring the safety of children and adults.

Water safety relates to access to water in the buildings and the playgrounds.

It is imperative that educators remain vigilant in their supervision of children in and around water, and are alert to potential risks in everyday practice in the learning environment.

Small bodies of water, including water troughs, buckets and bins and poor drainage which allow water to collect can present as drowning hazards for children. Children can drown in as little as a few centimetres of water.

## Strategies for Policy Implementation

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- Water troughs/buckets/bins that contain water are not left unattended. If the water trough has a lid attached, the water may be left unattended during recess, but will need to be tipped out after lunch time.
- Water troughs/buckets/bins that contain water will be emptied when not in use. This includes after both recess and lunch times.
- Water troughs/buckets/bins and water play containers are stored in a manner that prevents the collection of water when not in use.
- A staff member will be stationed at or near the water experience at all times.
- Approved first aid qualification: A list of staff with their first aid is located near each Block's telephones.

## Sources and Related Policies

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### Sources

- Kidsafe – water Safety Fact Sheet: [Resources | Kidsafe WA](#)
- Royal Life Saving Society – Western Australia: <https://royallifesavingwa.com.au/>
- Royal Life Saving Australia: [Royal Life Saving Society - Australia](#)

### Related Policies

- Duty of Care for Students – Education Department Western Australia
- Occupational Safety and Health – Education Department Western Australia
- SNPS Student Health Care and First Aid Policy

Policy Version History	
2019	Version 1.1 – amended.
2022	Version 1.2 – updated Sources web links.