

PARTICIPATION OF VOLUNTEERS AND STUDENTS POLICY

QUALITY AREA 4 |



PURPOSE

This policy will provide guidelines for the engagement and participation of volunteers and students at North Brighton Kindergarten, while ensuring that children's health, safety and wellbeing is protected at all times.



POLICY STATEMENT

VALUES

North Brighton Kindergarten is committed to:

- supporting connections with educational institutions to provide opportunities for students to undertake practicum placements as part of their studies
- building relationships with community members and providing suitable opportunities to engage volunteers to contribute to the programs and activities of the service
- ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of each child at the service through consistent compliance with this policy and procedures when engaging volunteers and students.

SCOPE

This policy applies to the approved provider, persons with management or control, nominated supervisor, persons in day-to-day charge, early childhood teachers, educators, staff, students, volunteers, parents/guardians, children, and others attending the programs and activities of North Brighton Kindergarten, including during off site excursions and activities.

RESPONSIBILITIES	Approved provider and persons with management or control	Nominated supervisor and persons in day-to-day charge	Early childhood teacher, educators and all other staff	Parents / guardians	Contractors, volunteers and students
R indicates legislation requirement, and should not be deleted					
Developing guidelines for accepting applications from volunteers and students to work at the service in consultation with the nominated supervisor, ECT and educators and which are aligned with the <i>Child Safe Environment Policy</i>	√	√	√		
Accepting or rejecting a potential volunteer or student based on the circumstances of the service at the time, in consultation with the nominated supervisor	√	√			
Obtaining a valid WWC Check (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) and providing details to the service prior to commencement					√
Checking the status of the Working with Children (WWC) Clearance (<i>refer to Definitions</i>) of volunteers and students where required, and ensuring that the details are recorded in the staff record	R	√			
Ensuring that the staff record contains the name, address and date of birth of volunteers and students attending the service (<i>Regulations 145, 149(1)</i>)	R	√			
Keeping a record for each day on which each student or volunteer participates with the date and the hours of participation (<i>Regulation 149(2)</i>)	R	√			
Ensuring that volunteers, students and parents/guardians are adequately supervised at all times, and that the health, safety and wellbeing of children at the service is protected	R	√	√		
Following the directions of staff at the service at all times to ensure that the health, safety and wellbeing of children is protected.				√	√
Ensuring volunteers and students on placement at the service are not affected by alcohol or drugs (including prescription medication) that would impair their capacity to supervise or provide education and care to children (<i>Regulation 83</i>) (<i>refer to Tobacco, Alcohol and other Drugs Policy</i>)	R	√	√	√	√

Providing volunteers, students and parents/guardians with access to all service policies and procedures (<i>Regulation 171</i>), and access to the <i>Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011</i> and <i>Education and Care Services National Law (Regulation 185)</i>	R	✓			
Ensuring that volunteers, students and parents/guardians comply with the <i>Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011</i> and all service policies and procedures (<i>Regulations 170</i>)	R	✓	✓	✓	✓
Complying with the requirements of the <i>Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011</i> , <i>Education and Care Services National Law (Regulation 185)</i> and with all service policies and procedures, including the <i>Code of Conduct Policy</i> , <i>Child Safe Environment</i> and <i>Privacy and Confidentiality Policy</i> while attending the service				✓	✓
Ensuring that volunteers, students and parents/guardians are aware of how to comply with child protection law and Child Safe Standards obligations	R	✓		✓	
Identifying children with medical conditions, the child's medical management plan and the location of the child's medication (<i>Regulations 90, 168(2)(d)</i>)	R	✓	✓		
Informing volunteers, students and parents/guardians of the services emergency and evacuation procedures (<i>Regulations 97, 168 (2)(e)</i>)	R	✓	✓		
Developing an induction checklist for volunteers and students attending the service (<i>refer to Attachment 1</i>) in consultation with the nominated supervisor and educators.	R	✓	✓		
Ensuring that volunteers and students have completed the induction checklist (<i>refer to Attachment 1</i>) and have been provided with a copy of the staff handbook, if applicable.	R	✓	✓		✓
Developing a range of strategies to enable and encourage the participation and involvement of parents/guardians at the service	✓	✓			

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BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

BACKGROUND

Students may participate in programs and activities at the service from time to time including observing and experiencing the provision of centre-based education and care. This will be encouraged and facilitated by North Brighton Kindergarten wherever appropriate and possible.

North Brighton Kindergarten values the participation of parents/guardians and other family members, and the voluntary contribution they make to the education and care of their own and other children. “In genuine partnerships families and educators value each other’s knowledge and roles, communicate freely and respectfully and engage in shared decision making” (Early Years Learning Framework – *refer to Sources*).

North Brighton Kindergarten aims to provide a range of opportunities for family members, volunteers and students to participate in programs and activities while adhering to clear guidelines regarding appropriate interactions and communication with staff, and other adults and children at the service (*refer to Code of Conduct Policy*).

The role that volunteers and students play in education and care services varies and can include working with groups of children, preparing materials or food, assisting with administrative tasks or working one-on-one with individual children. The service is responsible for ensuring that volunteers and students are suitable to work with children, and that children’s health, safety and wellbeing is protected at all times.

Volunteers should only be engaged to complement, not replace, the work of paid staff. Accordingly, services should not engage volunteers to fill the place of an employee who is ill or on leave, or to fill a vacant budgeted position.

Volunteers must not be asked to perform tasks:

- that they are untrained, unqualified or too inexperienced to undertake
- that put the children or themselves in a vulnerable or potentially unsafe situation
- where there is a conflict of interest.

Prior to participation at the service, a volunteer or student (aged 18 years or over) must be in possession of a Working with Children (WWC) Clearance (*refer to Definitions*).

In line with Child Safe Standard 4 and the *Child Safe Environment Policy*, prior to engaging a volunteer or student an assessment should be undertaken of the nature of the responsibility to determine whether a position description is required and based on that whether an interview and referee checks are required.

LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- Child Safe Standards
 - Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010
 - Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
 - Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic)
 - Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth)
 - National Quality Standard, Quality Area 4: Staffing Arrangements
 - Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Vic)
 - Worker Screening Act 2020 (Vic)
 - Worker Screening Regulation 2021 (Vic)
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DEFINITIONS

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy. For regularly used terms e.g. Approved provider, Nominated supervisor, Notifiable complaints, Serious incidents, Duty of care, etc. refer to the Definitions file of the PolicyWorks catalogue.

Child-related work: In relation to the WWC Check (*refer to Definitions*), child-related work includes work with children which may involve physical contact, face-to-face contact, oral, written or electronic communication.

Conflict of interest: (In relation to this policy) refers to an interest that may affect, or may appear reasonably likely to affect, the judgement or conduct of the volunteer, or may impair their independence or loyalty to the service. A conflict of interest can arise from avoiding personal losses as well as gaining personal advantage, whether financial or otherwise, and may not only involve the volunteer, but also their relatives, friends or business associates

Student: A person undertaking a practicum placement as part of a recognised early childhood qualification. This student will be supported by an educational institution in the completion of their placement.

Volunteer: A person or parent (who's child attends the service) who willingly undertakes defined activities to support the education and care programs at a service in an unpaid or honorary capacity. These activities may include child-related work (*refer to Definitions*), administrative tasks, or preparing materials or food.

SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES



SOURCES

- Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA): www.acecqa.gov.au
- *The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia: Belonging, Being, Becoming:* www.acecqa.gov.au
- A Guide for Creating a Child Safe Organisation (The Commission for Children and Young People) www.ccyp.vic.gov.au
- Working with Children Check unit, Department of Justice & Regulation – provides details of how to obtain a WWC Check: www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au

RELATED POLICIES

- Child Safe Environment and Wellbeing
- Code of Conduct
- Compliments and Complaints
- Delivery and Collection of Children
- Determining Responsible Person
- Inclusion and Equity
- Interactions with Children
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Privacy and Confidentiality
- Staffing
- Supervision of Children



EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, the approved provider will:

- check staff records on a regular basis to ensure details of students, volunteers and where appropriate parents/guardians are maintained in line with all legislative requirements as outlined in the policy
- regularly seek feedback from everyone affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required
- notifying all stakeholders affected by this policy at least 14 days before making any significant changes to this policy or its procedures, unless a lesser period is necessary due to risk (*Regulation 172 (2)*).



ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: Sample induction checklist for volunteers and students



AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the approved provider of North Brighton Kindergarten on .

REVIEW DATE: [DAY]/[MONTH]/[YEAR]

Version 2.1

ATTACHMENT 1: INDUCTION CHECKLIST FOR VOLUNTEERS AND STUDENTS

North Brighton Kindergarten Induction information and checklist for students and volunteers

Welcome to North Brighton Kindergarten! Please read the following information, which will give you an insight into how the kindergarten operates and help to ensure continuity of care for the children and families.

Introduction

Our Philosophy is located in the office on the wall, please take a moment to familiarise yourself with it so you can get a feel for what is important at the kindergarten. All our policies and procedures are available to you on our website. Our class times and the details of teachers and educators are also inside the office on the wall.

Medical Conditions & Allergies

Children diagnosed as at risk of anaphylaxis or asthma/allergies are clearly displayed on the wall of the classroom and in the office. Please familiarise yourself with the children, their medical management and risk minimisation plans and the location of their medication. Please notify staff immediately and follow their direction if you see a child that needs assistance. This also applies to any first aid required.

Safety procedures

Each day the Teacher & Educator complete the safety checklist hanging in the children's bathroom for both inside and outside at the kindergarten. Please notify permanent staff if you see any potential hazards or accidents. Please wash your hands frequently and wear gloves if necessary.

Emergency Procedures

Please familiarise yourself with all fire exits and fire extinguishers. The Emergency Management Plan is located near the children's medication kits.

Evacuation/Lockdown Procedures

Teacher blows whistle (found on hook next to the blue storeroom door)

If Evacuation: Teacher to lead children outside to the car park via the back door and back gate, or, lead children to Monkanii guide hall via the front door, out the gate and to the right (whichever is the safest route)

If Lockdown: Teacher to lead children to the storeroom next to the toilets

Educator to call 000 then locate evacuation pack (in storeroom, just behind the door on the right hand side), sign in/out book & children's medication and rejoins group.

Permanent staff member to communicate via WhatsApp to the Emergency Management team who will alert parents. If no permanent staff member working at the time, call or text Kylie Stanley (office staff member) on who will communicate to parents.

Please ensure you have provided a copy of your First Aid qualifications, Working With Children Check, and any relevant qualifications to a permanent staff member.

Also, don't forget to fill in your timesheet (in the folder next to the office phone).

If you have any questions, please ask staff.

Thank you; enjoy your time at North Brighton Kindergarten!

Induction checklist for volunteers and students

Name: _____ Date: _____

State Date: _____ Expected Finish Date: _____

To be completed by all volunteers and students participating at North Brighton Kindergarten with their supervising teacher and returned to the nominated supervisor prior to commencing at the service.

Checklist	Please tick
1. Welcome volunteer & sign them in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce to colleagues and show work area • Explain security access, show exit points • Show toilets, office, kitchen facilities • Location of closest first aid kit 	
2. Explain work hours and lunch break arrangements and work tasks if relevant	
3. Take a copy of WWCC and relevant qualifications if not already on file	
4. Show Policy and procedure manual and give copy of summaries of relevant policies	
5. Complete Staff Record for Volunteers and students if relevant.	
6. Show them allergy and anaphylaxis list and action plans for the children at North Brighton Kindergarten	
7. I have been notified of where to find policies and procedures and have read summaries and/or policies and/or been run through the procedures of the following, I understand that as a student/volunteer I remain under the supervision of the paid staff;	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • code of conduct 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emergency, evacuation, fire and safety, including locations of fire extinguishers and emergency exits (<i>Emergency and Evacuation Policy</i>) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accidents at the service (<i>Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy</i>) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dealing with medical conditions (<i>Dealing with Medical Conditions Policy, Asthma Policy, Anaphylaxis Policy, Diabetes Policy, Epilepsy Policy and Administration of Medication Policy</i>) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • good hygiene practices (<i>Hygiene Policy</i>) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dealing with infectious diseases (<i>Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy</i>) 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> first aid arrangements for children and adults, including the location of the nearest first aid kit (<i>Administration of First Aid Policy</i>) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> daily routines 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the importance of OHS and following safe work practices (<i>Occupational Health and Safety Policy</i>) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> interacting appropriately with children (<i>Interactions with Children Policy and covered in the code of conduct</i>) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> reporting of serious incidents and notifiable incidents at the service (<i>Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy, Complaints and Grievances Policy and Occupational Health and Safety Policy</i>) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> reporting hazards in the workplace (<i>Occupational Health and Safety Policy</i>) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> handling complaints and grievances (<i>Complaints and Grievances Policy</i>) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> child safety and wellbeing and child protection including how to respond to concerns (<i>Child Safe Environment Policy</i>) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> privacy and confidentiality of information (<i>Privacy and Confidentiality Policy</i>) 	
9. I am aware of the non-smoking policy of the service	
10. The expectations of my placement/engagement, my role and responsibilities (including attending to the requirements of children with additional needs) have been clearly explained to me by my supervisor	
11. I am aware that I am expected to participate in general tasks, including maintaining the environment in a clean, safe and tidy condition	

Volunteer or student name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Nominated Supervisor or Person in day-to-day charge name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____