

J.S. GREY KINDERGARTEN ASSOCIATION, INC. Nature Explorers Bush Kinder - Protective Clothing Policy

Mandatory – Quality Area 2

Policy statement

Our Values

J S Grey Kindergarten is committed to providing children with access to an educational program which is aimed at ensuring the safe delivery and collection of children participating in Bush Kinder. In accordance with our duty of care and regulatory compliance, the learning community which consists of, parents, staff, committee members, authorised persons, volunteers and students on placement working at J S Grey Kindergarten, must adhere and fully participate in the implementation of such policies.

Scope

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Persons with Management or Control, Nominated Supervisor, Persons in day-to-day Charge, staff, students on placement, volunteers and parents/guardians of J.S Grey Kindergarten.

Background

The Bush Kinder program is based on the premise that weather is not a limitation to children's play. Instead, the program will continue to take place unless deemed a high risk as stipulated in the risk management plan.

For this reason, there are particular clothing requirements in the Bush Kinder setting that may differ from requirements in a centre-based environment.

Clothing such as:

In summer - Sun hats, long sleeved light weight, light coloured linen shirts and trousers in order to protect skin from contact with branches, sticks and sun.

In winter - wet weather gear including gum boots and waterproofs, as well as warm layers, to protect from the harsher elements.

Governing legislation

Relevant legislation may include but is not limited to:

- Education and Care Services National Law 2010
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- National Quality Standard

- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007

The most current amendments to listed legislation can be found at:

- Victorian Legislation – Victorian Law Today: <http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/>
- Commonwealth Legislation – ComLaw: <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/>

Related kindergarten policies

The Kindergarten policies have been formed to ensure best practice and the delivery of a quality educational program.

- Excursion & Regular Outing Policy
- Nature Explorers Delivery & Collection of Children Policy (Bush Kinder Specific)
- Nature Explorers Extreme Weather Policy (Bush Kinder Specific)
- Nature Explorers Identification and Visibility Policy (Bush Kinder Specific)
- Nature Explorers Emergency Evacuation Policy (Bush Kinder Specific)
- Nature Explorers Dog Awareness Policy (Bush Kinder Specific)
- Occupational Health & Safety Policy
- Incident, Illness, Trauma & Illness Policy
- Clothing Policy
- Sun Protection Policy
- Water Safety Policy
- Supervision of Children Policy
- Child Safe Environment Policy

Definitions

Appropriate clothing - clothing should allow children to move and play freely, explore and engage in activities such as climbing and running.

Long sleeves and pants are recommended even in warmer weather to reduce sunburn, bites, scratches and stings. Natural fibres are preferable for their ability to breathe and minimise irritation on the skin.

| | Warm weather | Cold Weather |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Recommended | Sturdy, closed toe shoes Light, loose fitting long sleeve top Long pants Lightweight jumper/jacket Broad brimmed or Legionnaires hat | Sturdy, closed toe shoes/gumboots Long pants Long sleeve t-shirt Waterproof outer layer (jacket, rain pants, poncho, overalls etc.) Jacket Beanie Gloves |
| Not | Short sleeve tops | Thongs or sandals |

| | | |
|---------------------|---|--|
| recommended | Long skirts Dresses Shorts | Dresses or skirts (incompatible with waterproof clothing) Shorts Singlets Scarf |
| Unacceptable | Open toe shoes, sandals or thongs Singlet tops | Non-waterproof clothing (acceptable is worn underneath a waterproof outer layer). |

Duty of Care - A common law concept that refers to the responsibilities of organisations to provide people with an adequate level of protection against harm and all reasonable foreseeable risk of injury.

Spare clothing - All children are required to have a complete change of clothes in their bag in case they become wet or muddy, including multiple pairs of spare underwear and socks. A waterproof bag is also recommended to store soiled clothes. If wearing gumboots, it is recommended to bring a spare pair of shoes, as gumboots can restrict movement.

Waterproofs - Wet weather clothing that will protect and cover body extremities, such as arms and legs, while outdoors. Lightweight, functional and practical clothing that helps to keep the children dry during the session.

Procedures

The Committee is responsible for:

- Implementing and maintaining a Protective Clothing Policy which provides clarity to parents and staff as to the appropriate clothing children are required to wear to Bush Kinder in various weather conditions to ensure their safety and wellbeing (including a description of clothing which should not be worn)
- All parents being aware of this policy and are provided access to the policy at orientation sessions, in written Bush Kinder material and on the Bush Kinder website, and made available upon request.
- Ensuring staff are appropriately educated on procedures in the event that children are not wearing compliant clothing
- Ensuring the Bush Kinder 'on-site kit' contains waterproofs

Staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring all children being dropped off to Bush Kinder are wearing appropriate clothing in line with this policy. If inappropriate clothing is worn, staff are to:
 - Highlight to the parent dropping off the child which clothing is inappropriate and the reasons for it;
 - Determine if the change of clothing brought by that child is appropriate and request the parent change the clothes on the child if need be;
 - If the clothing has the potential to put the child's safety and wellbeing at risk and there is no suitable alternative clothing, inform parent that the child is not able to attend Bush Kinder
- Assisting changing the child's change of clothing if need be

- Encouraging children to tell a staff member if they need help with clothing or feel uncomfortable.
- During orientation sessions, advising parents of the clothing requirements for Bush Kinder and providing a list of available places to source wet weather clothing (**Attachment 1**).
- During term 1 – Ensuring the contents of the Bush Kinder 'on site kit' are stocked prior to the next weeks session to ensure it contains waterproofs and spare clothes. After term 1 the responsibility to provide spare clothes falls to families.
- Provide families updates of weather which may be classified as unsuitable or potentially hazardous via procedures as set in the *Nature Explorers Extreme Weather Policy*.

Parents are responsible for:

- Ensuring protective and appropriate clothing is worn to Bush Kinder by their child in line with this policy
- Changing their child's clothing as instructed by the teacher to enable their child to participate in the Bush Kinder session if required.
- Ensuring their child has adequate change of clothes including such items as set out in this policy
- Reading and being familiar with the policy
- Bringing relevant issues to the attention of both staff and committee
- Changing children into and out of the waterproofs at the start and end of each session if required.

Evaluation

In order to assess whether the policy has achieved the values and purposes the Committee, in association with all stakeholders will aim to:

- Seek feedback regarding this policy and its implementation with the families of the children participating in the Bush Kinder program. This can be facilitated through discussions and annual reviews.
- Professional assessment, critical evaluation and reflection of staff observations and documentation.
- Regularly review the policy and centre practices to ensure they are compliant with new legislation, research or best practice procedures.

ATTACHMENTS

- **Attachment 1:** List of places to purchase waterproofs

AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the Approved Provider of J. S. Grey Kindergarten on 7th March 2022.

REVIEW DATE: 03/02/2022

NEXT REVIEW DATE: 03/02/2023

ATTACHMENT 1:

List of Places to Purchase Waterproofs

1. H&M – (look in both sections – often there is none in one but some in the other)
https://www2.hm.com/en_au/kids/boys/outerwear.html?sort=stock&image-size=small&image=stillLife&offset=0&page-size=72

https://www2.hm.com/en_au/kids/girls/outerwear.html?sort=stock&image-size=small&image=stillLife&offset=0&page-size=72
2. MOUNTAIN WAREHOUSE -
<https://www.mountainwarehouse.com/au/kids/jackets/>
3. WELLIES ONLINE -
https://www.wellies.com.au/products/splasher-blue-waterproof-overalls?currency=AUD&variant=39269035835457&utm_medium=cpc&utm_source=google&utm_campaign=Google%20Shopping&gclid=CjwKCAjwmv-DBhAMEiwA7xYrd4pnUoSgu2mNSeqZ_EfPxlO1x_Scv23-Oy4O7BiaLfw71dAXuxlCIBoCpo0QAvD_BwE
4. WISH -
https://www.wish.com/product/5d877aca9b88fc26c54072ec?hide_login_modal=true&from_ad=google_shopping&display_country_code=AU&force_currency_code=AUD&pid=googleadwords_int&c=%7BcampaignId%7D&ad_cid=5d877aca9b88fc26c54072ec&ad_cc=AU&ad_curr=AUD&ad_price=21.00&campaign_id=8687539381&exclude_install=true&gclid=CjwKCAjwmv-DBhAMEiwA7xYrd2BO5KIGKxRCM2qUaggHonwmSEAMv06dBOdRCUuguB0k0O_2wEMpqhoCP6cQAvD_BwE&share=web
5. AUSSIE DISPOSALS -
<https://www.aussiedisposals.com.au/clothing/kid-s-clothing/pants.html>

<https://www.aussiedisposals.com.au/clothing/kid-s-clothing/t-shirts-jackets.html>
6. RAINKOAT -
<https://www.raincoat.com.au/collections/kid>
7. MUDDLARKS -
<https://www.muddlarks.com.au/store>
8. APPLECARD KIDS -
<https://www.applecardkids.com.au/11-kids-waterproof>
9. NATURE PLAY SA -
<https://natureplaysa.org.au/product/onesies/>
10. PUDDLEBUG -
<https://www.puddlebug.com.au/collections/all>
11. MINIMUDS-
<https://minimuds.com/collections>
12. MK NORDIKA-
<https://www.mknordika.com/au/shop/kids/>