



## POLICY STATEMENT

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TWOOSH will provide an environment that ensures the safety and wellbeing of the children, Educators, guardians and volunteers at all times ("My Time, Our Place" 1.1, 3.1). All children and Educators will be aware of, and practised in, emergency and evacuation procedures. In the event of an emergency, natural disaster or threats of violence, these procedures will be immediately implemented. When implementing the practise sessions of emergency procedures with children, Educators will encourage children to discuss possible scenarios where emergency procedures may be required and support children to come up with solutions and ideas for improving the procedures or discussing ways to avert emergency situations ("My Time, Our Place" 4.2). Opportunities for older children to access and use the written emergency procedures to orientate new children prior to an emergency drill will be provided by Educators on a regular basis prior to carrying out the emergency drill ("My Time, Our Place" 5.1 and 5.2).

## REFERENCES AND CONSIDERATIONS

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- Education and Care Services National Regulation 2011 (97)
- National Quality Framework: Quality area 2.3
- Thornleigh West Public School Emergency Procedures 2020
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011 No 10

## Related TWOOSH documents

- Policy B-3 – Excursions
- Policy D-9 – Providing a child safe environment
- Parent and visitor code of conduct

## PROCEDURES

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### Fire safety

- ◆ Fire extinguishers are installed and maintained by the school. Educators will be instructed in their operation. Our centre has 2 fire extinguishers in our service which are checked by the school.
- ◆ A fire blanket and smoke detectors are installed and checked regularly as per the manufacturer's instructions. The fire blanket is kept in the kitchen area. Smoke detectors are battery operated and batteries are changed when the device begins beeping.
- ◆ The school organises and documents a professional fire safety check of all equipment annually. This includes fire extinguisher, fire blanket, and fire alarms.
- ◆ Basic Fire Safety training may be carried out by Educators and noted in the training record if deemed necessary by Management.
- ◆ Educators will only attempt to extinguish fires if the fire is small, there is no threat to their personal safety and they feel confident to operate the extinguisher. Another Educator should evacuate the children from the room. All other fires should follow emergency evacuation procedure.

## Critical incidence and emergencies

- ◆ This emergency procedure will be reviewed annually and noted on the review schedule with all other policies.
- ◆ Emergency evacuation and lockdown procedures will be displayed at exits including the main and rear doors in the TWOOSH building, and in the Senior space AV room and Senior space.
- ◆ A floor plan showing evacuation routes and location of TWOOSH fire extinguishers and blankets will also be displayed in the same areas. These procedures will be consistent with school emergency procedures as much as is practicable.
- ◆ An emergency procedure drill will be practised by Educators and children at least once per term, over the year, covering all types of care, before school, after school and during Vacation Care. Other Educators will be asked to run drills so they are aware of procedures if they were the responsible person on duty in the event of an emergency.
- ◆ All emergency drills will be recorded with date, time and length of time it took to leave the building on an 'Evaluation of Emergency Drills' form. This will be filed in the emergency evacuation folder.
- ◆ All Educators on duty will be asked to give written feedback as part of the 'Evaluation of Emergency Drills' form after each drill. These will be discussed in Educator meetings, if necessary.
- ◆ Drills will be conducted more regularly when there are new children and at the start of a new school year.
- ◆ All Educators and relief Educators will be informed of the procedures and their specific duties identified in their orientation to the centre. Educators will make arrangements to cover duties of any absent Educators.
- ◆ Guardians will be informed of the procedure and assembly points in the Family Information Booklet.
- ◆ Risk assessments are written and kept in the TWOOSH office in relation to chemical spills in the local area, heatwaves, power failure, thunderstorms, bushfires, winds and falling branches, etc. These will be reviewed annually and signed off by centre Educators.

## Harassment and threats of violence

- ◆ If a person/s known or unknown to the service harasses or makes threats to children or Educators at the centre, or on an excursion, Educators will:
  - move the children away and commence lock down procedures; if appropriate, Educators will calmly move the children to a location where the children cannot see or hear the person.
  - calmly and politely ask the person to leave the centre or the vicinity of the children.
  - be firm and clear and remember the primary duty is to the children in TWOOSH care.
- ◆ If they refuse to leave, explain that it may be necessary to call the police to remove them.
- ◆ If they still do not leave, call the police.
- ◆ If the Responsible Person on duty is unable to make the call another Educator should be directed to do so.
- ◆ No Educator is to try to physically remove the unwelcome person, but try to remain calm and keep the person calm as far as possible and wait for the police.
- ◆ Be aware of any unfamiliar person on the premises and find out what they want as quickly as possible and try to contain them outside the centre.
- ◆ For guardians or other authorised persons, in the event they harass, threaten, or use violence, they will need to read, sign, and return the Parent and visitor code of conduct. Failure to do so will result in exclusion of the family from TWOOSH until this is complete. If the incident was physically harmful, the land act will be enforced and they will be unable to access school grounds.

- ◆ If guardians are in breach of Parent and visitors code of conduct, they may be excluded for a period agreed upon by management in consultation with the school.

## Excursion emergency

- ◆ Educators and children are to follow the procedures set by each excursion provider/location. Risk assessments will be completed before the excursion and any facility specific emergency procedures will be attached.
- ◆ In the event of an emergency, if the Director is not present, they need to be notified as soon as practicable. Contact lists will be used to contact guardians in the event they are needed.
- ◆ For outdoor locations such as park, Educators are to set meeting points in the event of any emergency.

## Emergency phone numbers

- ◆ An emergency checklist will be displayed near the phone and located within evacuation bags to assist with contacting emergency personnel.
- ◆ Educator's mobile phones can be used in emergencies.

## PROTOCOLS

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### Emergency procedures – general

#### During school hours

School emergency evacuation procedures are to be followed. All Educators on premises must evacuate with the school.

If the emergency bell is alarmed during transition times between TWOOSH and school, Educators and children are to commence school procedures and evacuate, or lock down in the nearest indoor space regardless of whether it is a TWOOSH room or classroom, or with TWOOSH or non-TWOOSH children.

#### Outside normal school hours

TWOOSH emergency evacuation and lockdown procedures are to be followed (details in following pages):

- ◆ Lockdown – 1 whistle blow
- ◆ Evacuation – 2 whistle blows
- ◆ Storms and extreme weather – walkie talkie communication
- ◆ Serious incident

The Director/Responsible Person is responsible for activating the emergency procedure in a drill situation.

## Lockdown procedure – 1 whistle blow

Lockdown secures children and Educators in nearest rooms or indoor spaces, where everyone must remain until the situation is declared safe.

This procedure is to be used for potential threats, toxic spills, presence of a dangerous animal, or sighting in the area of armed, dangerous or aggressive persons.

### Director/Responsible Person

If it is a drill, time the procedure with a stopwatch/phone and ensure appropriate documentation is completed.

- ◆ Delegate Educator to lock all doors and windows and pull down blinds. Keep all children inside room towards the middle. Do not answer any door knocks.
- ◆ Ensure Educators have checked the toilets.
- ◆ Call the roll using the KIOSK tablets, accounting for Educators as well. Communicate with the library, hall, E Block, and other spaces and take note of which children are in these areas.
- ◆ Contact Police giving them as much information as possible.
- ◆ Ensure all Educators and children are kept calm. A quiet game may be helpful.
- ◆ Arrange for any appropriate medical attention for any injured person.
- ◆ Liaise with any emergency personnel.
- ◆ Contact guardians and inform them of the situation.
- ◆ Assess the situation and give the all clear announcement to end lockdown.
- ◆ Inform the Director (if not already involved), School Principal and Committee President of the circumstances.

### Educators

- ◆ Educators will be responsible for checking that all the children in their area of responsibility are rounded up and brought directly to the nearest inside space.
- ◆ Upon hearing one long loud whistle, Educators in rooms away from the main building are to keep all children in their care with them in the room where they are and to await further instructions from the Director/Responsible Person.
- ◆ Educators in all areas need to close and lock windows, pull down blinds, turn off lights (lamps can stay on) and keep children quiet, and in the middle of the room or underneath tables.
- ◆ Educators in E Block need to move to the senior space; an Educator will need to lock all the access doors in the building and remain there until further notice.
- ◆ Educators in the hall need to lock all the doors and windows, including sport storage, and move children to the stage area behind the curtains where they cannot be seen from the glass doors.
- ◆ Educators will need to assist with roll call in their areas and keeping children calm and quiet throughout this process. Children not marked on rolls will be addressed over walkie talkies to locate them in other spaces. Educators need to inform the Director of anyone who is missing or injured.
- ◆ Educators will assist the Director/Responsible Person as directed.
- ◆ Educators will keep children calm and occupied until the Director/Responsible Person gives the all clear notice.

**No children, Educators, guardians or visitors are to leave the lockdown area for any reason until the danger has been brought under control and the all clear given.**

## Evacuation procedure (emergency/fire) – 2 whistle blows

This procedure is to be used for any situation where Educators feel any building is no longer a safe place for the children to be in.

The first Educator to become aware of a problem which requires evacuation is to blow a whistle (hanging on cupboard in the Director's office area, behind the entry/exit doors, in the senior cupboard, and in outdoor first aid kit), with **two bursts** on the verandah. This procedure is to be repeated into walkie talkies and around outside areas and hall if necessary. Use mobile phone or walkie talkies to alert persons using E Block, library, hall and other spaces, and ensure the message has been received.

### Director/Responsible Person

If it is a drill, time the procedure with a stopwatch/phone and ensure appropriate documentation is completed.

- ◆ Call Emergency Services (phone numbers are on wall beside Director's desk).
- ◆ Ensure Educators pick up the KIOSK tablets and internet dongle, extra activities list, mobile phone and the portable first aid kit containing emergency contact list, emergency Epipen and asthma kit.
- ◆ Assist with execution of evacuation.
- ◆ When the emergency service arrives inform the officer in charge of the nature and location of the emergency and if there is anyone missing.
- ◆ Call guardians of remaining children to inform them of the evacuation, and notify families via SchoolStream APP.
- ◆ Liaise with Emergency Personnel and inform Educators when the all clear is given to return to TWOOSH areas.
- ◆ Inform the Director (if not already involved), School Principal and Committee President of the circumstances.
- ◆ The Director and the Management Committee will complete any forms required by ACECQA along with and drill surveys, incident reports, etc.

### Educators

- ◆ Evacuate immediately to Oakleigh Oval by route marked on evacuation map. If the nominated route passes by the danger area, please be guided by common sense and move safely by alternate route to Oakleigh Oval.
- ◆ Educators are responsible for the children in their supervision area and surrounding areas.
- ◆ Front-of-building and extra activities Educators must ensure they check bathroom/hall area for children.
- ◆ Mark rolls, identify any missing children or Educators and report this to the Director/Responsible Person.
- ◆ If safe to do so send other Educators to check toilets and other rooms in use if needed.
- ◆ Ensure children are kept calm and occupied. Play a quiet game. Form afternoon tea groups to do this, if appropriate.
- ◆ Liaise with guardians if they arrive to collect children.
- ◆ No one should re-enter the building until the officer in charge has said it is safe to do so.
- ◆ Indoor supervision Educators need to pick up the KIOSK tablets and internet dongle, extra activities list, mobile phone and the portable first aid kit containing emergency contact list, emergency Epipen and asthma kit.

**No children, Educators, guardians or visitors are to leave the evacuation area for any reason until the danger has been brought under control and the all clear given.**

## Storms and extreme weather procedure – walkie talkie communication

During a storm DO NOT go to Oakleigh Oval. Everyone is to assemble in the school hall as indicated on the Storm Emergency Map.

- ◆ Keep windows open slightly so pressure doesn't build up. Keep children and Educators towards middle of hall or on the stage.
- ◆ Call emergency services for guidance and assistance.
- ◆ Contact guardians as necessary.
- ◆ Director/Responsible person to inform Director (if not already involved), School Principal and Committee President of the circumstances.

**No children, Educators, guardians or or visitors are to leave the hall area for any reason until the danger has been brought under control and the all clear given.**

## Serious incident procedure

Assess seriousness of incident.

If incident is minor:

- ◆ Follow appropriate policies and procedures eg, First Aid Policy, Evacuation procedure or Lockdown procedure, Behaviour Management Policy
- ◆ Contact school principal as appropriate.

If incident is serious:

- ◆ Responsible Person to call:
  - 000 for ambulance, fire etc
  - Hornsby Police on 9476 9799
- ◆ Director/Responsible Person is responsible for care of the children. Ensure all children are accounted for and occupied to reduce anxiety levels of children. All Educators are to actively assist as required.
- ◆ Inform Director (if not already involved), School Principal and Committee President of the circumstances within 24 hours.

## Revisions

**Date of next review: Apr/May 2021**

Date	Reviewer	Approved by
07.08.17		TWOOSH Management Committee
06.08.18		TWOOSH Management Committee
03.06.19		TWOOSH Management Committee
22.06.20	SR, MK	TWOOSH Management Committee