

BUSH KINDER PROTECTIVE CLOTHING POLICY

Mandatory – Quality Area 2

PURPOSE

This policy aims to:

- Set out clear guidelines for parents and staff regarding appropriate clothing to be worn by children attending Bush Kinder sessions at Yarran Dheran in various weather conditions to ensure their safety and wellbeing (including a description of clothing which should not be worn)
- Provide clear guidelines regarding the change of clothes requirements for Bush Kinder participants
- Provide an appropriate mechanism for communication of the protective clothing requirements for Bush Kinder sessions to parents

POLICY STATEMENT

1. VALUES

Rangeview Pre-School is committed to:

- Providing a safe and healthy environment for children and staff participating in the Bush Kinder program
- Facilitating a Bush Kinder experience in a variety of (safe) weather conditions, including rain, to allow children to experience nature across as broad a spectrum as possible without compromising the safety of the participants
- Ensuring clothing worn by children in the program allows for maximum comfort, free movement and does not obstruct the children in their activities in the Bush Kinder setting
- Facilitating communication to parents to ensure compliance with this policy

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Certified Supervisor, educators, staff, students on placement, volunteers, parents/guardians, children and others attending the programs and activities of Rangeview Pre-School.

3. BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

Background

Rangeview Pre-School's Bush Kinder Program is intended to operate across a broad spectrum of weather conditions, allowing children to experience nature and its elements across the four seasons. Whatever the weather, children are encouraged to take the lead in playing, exploring and learning in a bush or natural environment.

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

Legislation and standards

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005* (Vic) (Part 2: Principles for Children)
- *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010*: Section 167
- *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*: including Regulations 100, 101, 113, 114, 168(2)(a)(ii)
- *National Quality Standard*, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety
 - Standard 2.3: Each child is protected
 - Element 2.3.2: Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury

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- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*

4. DEFINITIONS

The terms defined in this section relate specifically to this policy. For commonly used terms e.g. Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Regulatory Authority etc. refer to the *General Definitions* section of this manual.

Protective and appropriate clothing and footwear: It is important that Bush Kinder participants wear appropriate and protective clothing and footwear that:

- Allows children to move freely and undertake activities such as climbing, balancing, running and puddle jumping
- Keeps children warm and dry in cold/wet weather
- Protects children from the damaging effects of the sun, UV rays in warm weather and High UV conditions
- Prevents sunburn, bites, scratches and stings. Even in warm weather, long sleeve tops and long pants are required – this clothing should be light and loose fitting
- Where possible, clothing is to be made from natural fabrics which allow the body to breathe and is comfortable against the skin
- In the case of footwear, keeps feet and toes covered and has a flexible and gripped sole to allow children to climb and balance on uneven surfaces

The following table provides examples of recommended clothing, clothing that is not recommended and unacceptable clothing:

	Warm Weather	Cold Weather/Rain
Recommended clothing and footwear	Light loose fitting long sleeve tops and long pants, broad brimmed or legionnaires hat, closed toe shoes	Waterproof coat, long pants, long sleeved top, beanie, waterproof gloves, thermals in very cold weather. *Waterproofs
Not recommended	Short sleeved tops, long skirts or dresses, shorts	Skirts, dresses, short sleeves, shorts (incompatible with waterproofs)
Unacceptable clothing and footwear	Open toes shoes, sandals, thongs, Crocs, singlet tops	Non-waterproof clothing, (waterproofs on top of non-waterproof clothing is acceptable) Open toes shoes, sandals, thongs, Crocs, singlet tops

Change of Clothes: All children participating in Bush Kinder are required to bring a change of clothes and footwear as these may become wet and muddy. It is recommended that the spare clothing include:

- Spare top and bottoms of appropriate thickness/weight for the weather on the day
- Spare underpants (and singlet in winter if required)
- 2 pairs of socks
- 1 pair of gumboots (it is not recommended that gumboots are worn at all times due to the restriction of movement they impose)

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- The Bush Kinder on-site kit will contain some spare clothing

***Waterproofs:** The Pre-School provides waterproofs to be worn over clothing, which includes a jacket with a hood, and pants which zip up over clothing.

5. SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

Sources

- *Belonging, Being & Becoming – The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia:* <https://docs.education.gov.au/documents/belonging-being-becoming-early-years-learning-framework-australia>
- *Guide to the National Quality Standard, ACECQA:* www.acecqa.gov.au
- *Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework:* www.education.vic.gov.au
- SunSmart: www.sunsmart.com.au

Service policies

- Administration of First Aid Policy
- Excursions, Incursions and Special Events Policy
- Child Safe Environment Policy
- Curriculum Development Policy
- Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Policy
- Occupational Health and Safety Policy
- Sun Protection Policy
- Supervision of Children Policy
- Water Safety Policy
- Bush Kinder Delivery and Collection of Children Policy
- Bush Kinder Extreme Weather Policy
- Bush Kinder Emergency Evacuation Policy
- Bush Kinder Identification and Visibility Policy
- Bush Kinder Dog Awareness Policy
- Bush Kinder Snake Awareness Policy

PROCEDURES

The Approved Provider is responsible for:

- Implementing and maintaining a Protective Clothing Policy what 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 that 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 website, and made available upon request
- Supplying waterproofs
- 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



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- Bringing any relevant issues to attention of the Committee and/or Whitehorse Council in a timely manner

Approved Supervisor, Teachers and Educators 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:
 - Notify the parent/guardian dropping off the child which clothing is inappropriate and the reasons for it;
 - Determine if the change of clothing bought by the child is appropriate and request the parent to 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 available, inform the parent that the child is not able to attend the Bush Kinder session
- Assisting changing the child's clothing if the need arises
- 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
- Checking the contents of the Bush Kinder on-site kit and trolley prior to the next session to ensure it contains waterproofs and all supplies

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- Ensuring protective and appropriate clothing is worn to Bush Kinder by their child in line with this policy
- Placing a yellow identification wristband and hi-visibility vest on their child at the start of each Bush Kinder session
- Changing their child's clothing as instructed by staff to enable their child to participate in the Bush Kinder session if required
- Ensuring their child's change of clothes includes items as set out in this policy
- Changing children into and out of waterproofs at the start and end of each Bush Kinder session as required
- Reading and familiarising themselves with this policy
- Bringing any relevant issues to the attention of both Kinder staff and the committee
- Applying sunscreen/insect repellent before sessions. Taking their child to the toilet before entering Information/Visitor Centre.
- Placing a yellow identification wristband and hi-visibility vest on their child at the start of each Bush Kinder session.
- Notifying staff if your child will be absent from the Bush Kinder session.
- Reading and familiarising themselves with the Bush Kinder Risk Assessment Plan

Volunteers and students, while at the service, are responsible for following this policy and its procedures.



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EVALUATION

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

- Seek feedback regarding this policy and its implementation with parents/guardians of children participating in the Bush Kinder program. This can be facilitated through discussions, surveys and the Pre-School newsletter
- Ask staff to share their experiences and observations in relation to the effectiveness of this policy
- Review the first aid procedures following an incident to determine their effectiveness
- Regularly review the policy and Pre-School practices to ensure they are compliant with any new legislation, research or best practice procedures
- Revisit the policy and procedures in light of the above as part of the service's policy review cycle, or earlier if required
- Notifying parents/guardians at least 14 days before making any changes to the policy or its procedures (Regulation 172 of the National Regulations) unless a shorter period is necessary due to a perceived or actual risk.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Yarran Dheran (Bush Kinder) Map

AUTHORISATION

The policy was adopted by the Approved Provider of Rangeview Preschool on 7th October 2015.

REVIEW

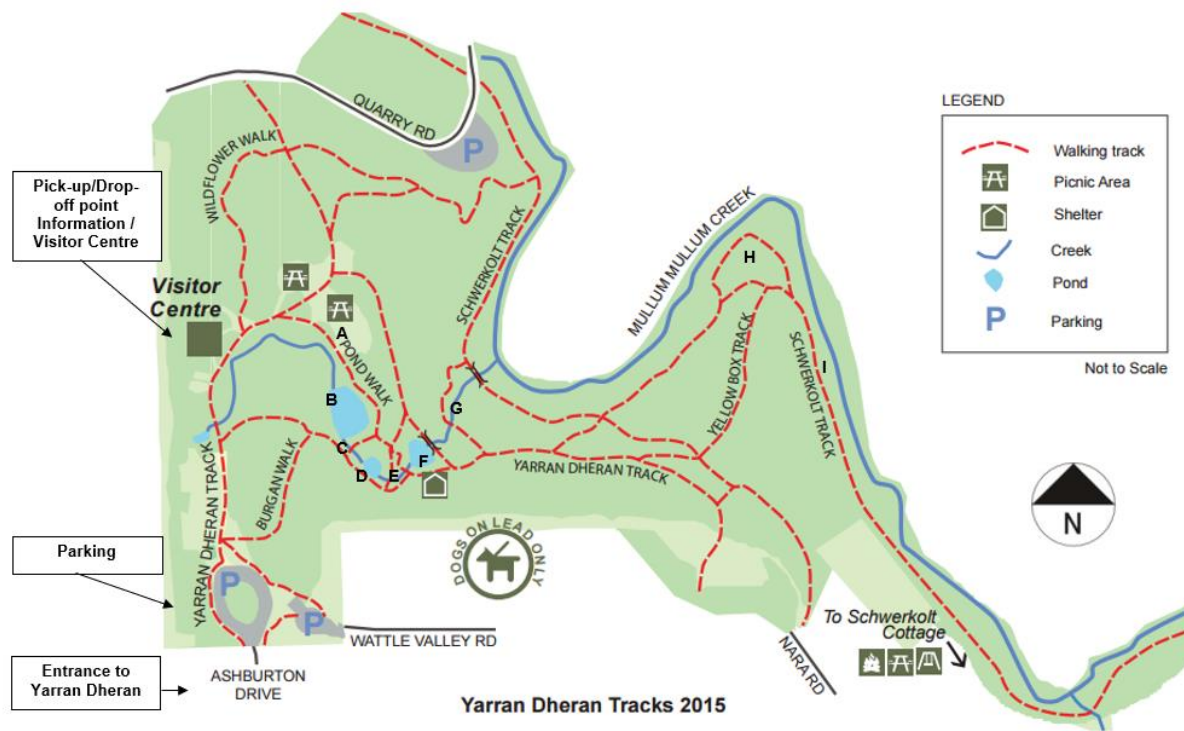
DATE	NEXT REVIEW DATE (2 YEARLY)
Apr 2020	Apr 2022
Sep 2022	Apr 2023
Oct 2023	Oct 2025

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ATTACHMENT 1

Yarran Dheran (Bush Kinder) Map



Water Hazards:

- A. Water run off into Duck Pond (Wet Weather Only)
- B. Duck Pond
- C. Water Over Flow / Rock drain (Wet Weather Only)
- D. Dragon Fly Pond

- E. Water over flow / Rock drain (wet weather only)
- F. Mushroom Pond
- G. Water Fall (Wet Weather only)
- H. Hug Tree – Creek
- I. Un-fenced Track to Magnet Bridge