

# ST JOSEPH'S PRESCHOOL



ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
WEST HINDMARSH

## POLICY DOCUMENT

### WATER SAFETY



# WATER SAFETY

## Rationale

At St Joseph's Preschool we believe that water play is soothing and stimulating and can provide opportunities for experimentation and exploration in which children play and learn alone or alongside others. Water play helps children to learn and explore new skills and promotes sensory development as well as scientific and mathematical concepts.

Water activities are a significant part of Australian life and provide children with opportunities to access a variety of activities for experience, learning and fun. However, all bodies of water present a significant hazard and require educators to ensure increased vigilance around them to ensure the safety of children. It is acknowledged that children can drown in as little as 5cm of water.

## Aims

To ensure that the Preschool will prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to water hazards, children's safety and wellbeing will:

- be protected in and around water through supervision and prevention;
- be promoted through the availability of clean, hygienic water for play and drinking.

***To prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to watercourse, water troughs and other water hazards the Principal will:***

- provide guidance and education to educators, staff and families on the importance of children's safety in and around water.
- ensure work, health and safety practices incorporate approaches to safe storage of water and play.

**To prevent child accidents and illnesses relating to watercourse, water troughs and other water hazards, the Preschool staff will:**

- Not install a swimming pool or wading pool on the premises
- Closely supervise children near any water at all times
- Teach children about staying safe in and around water
- Ensure water troughs or containers for water play are filled to a safe level. Do not leave buckets, water play trough or any other water hazards unsupervised in the Preschool premises and empty after use.
- Store equipment to prevent collection of water. Check garden after watering or rain and empty water that has collected in holes or containers.
- Provide clean drinking water at all times for children who do not bring their own drink bottle or need to refill their drink bottle.
- A risk assessment will be conducted prior to any excursion taking place. Particular attention will be focused upon water safety where the excursion is near a body of water.
- All staff members must hold a current approved first aid qualification.

## **Evaluation**

- Supervision and access to water within the service is managed effectively by staff to ensure children remain safe and healthy.



**Chairperson**  
*Richard Ellerman*

**Dated:** 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2020



**Principal**  
*Maria D'Aloia*

**Dated:** 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2020