(13) CHILD HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

The Beehive Montessori School Inc. is committed to the promotion of a healthy lifestyle, healthy eating habits, sun protection and physical education. All children enrolled must be immunized.

The School is committed to asthma care, food allergy care, and protection against head lice, and other communicable diseases or conditions. The School takes responsibility for administering medicines under certain circumstances and is committed to dental access and School nurse assessments.

To promote a healthy lifestyle by promoting and encouraging:
- Healthy eating habits.
- Physical activity and education.
- Preventative and protective health education.
- To comply with all relevant regulatory and statutory healthcare requirements and guidelines.
- Recognition of individual health issues.
- Prevention of possible exposure of children and staff to health risks.

Rationale

- Fundamental obligation to children, staff and parents to continue both the long term and day to day management of health issues.
- Unwell children often are sent to School.
- Teachers are often in a position to detect the early onset of a child’s illness.

Objectives

- That all children attending the School are physically healthy.
- That all children understand and are capable of adequately managing personal health issues and taking responsibility for them.
- To prevent and minimise children’s exposure to allergies and disease through the management of day to day health issues and creating a healthy School environment.
- Comply with all relevant regulatory requirements.
Links to School and Strategic Plan

The Constitution and the Strategic Plan uphold the rights and education of children with the “AMI” holistic approach to the development of children at School, at home and in society.

Other Related Issues

In February 2004, The Department of Education, Science and Training, released a paper entitled “Taking Schools to the Next Level, National Education Framework for Schools”. This paper states that in Australia, about one million young people are now considered to be overweight, and this figure is continuing to rise. Young people who are active and healthy are more likely to get the most out of their Schooling and reach their full potential. Good health for all Australians, with an emphasis on nutrition and physical activity, is an Australian Government priority.

Children who regularly enjoy a wide variety of nutritious foods are more likely to concentrate better at School and be better able to make the most of learning opportunities.

www.dest.gov.au/nef/Schools

Active Australia Schools Network is committed to developing, supporting and promoting sport.

www.activeaustralia.org/School

The Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, Population Health Division, enforces The Australian Standard Vaccination Schedule as recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Board (NHMRC). The School requires all children to be immunized in compliance with this Schedule. Immunise Australia Program website:


The Health Department offers strong and immediate support/recommendations for procedures for managing infectious disease, SARS, AIDS, peanut allergy, asthma, head lice, etc. Websites are: www.health.gov.au

All teaching staff have current First Aid Certificates.

School Nurse and School Dentist are accommodated as required.
Levels of Responsibility

The School Board is responsible for:

- developing and adopting the policy.
- ultimately responsible to the School community for ensuring that all measures have been adopted by the Principal and staff, that the policy is in place.

The Principal is responsible for:

- maintain strict confidentiality.
- ensuring parents/guardian are advised immediately and child temporarily removed from the School as appropriate.
- ensuring the child’s detailed, accurate and confidential medical records are kept and preserved for legal compliance.
- ensuring the child’s doctor is contacted if the parents/guardian cannot be contacted.
- teachers maintaining current First Aid certificates.
- ensuring the First Aid facilities are maintained.
- ensuring that staff and children fully understand hygiene and first aid procedures in dealing with blood transmitted disease, such as AIDS.
- training of staff in management of food allergies, infectious disease, asthma, head lice, and any other issues affecting the School community.
- ensuring that staff are trained in administering medicines.
- ensuring that medication request forms are completed and signed by parents/guardian in every case.
- notifying the School community immediately of any instances of infectious disease, head lice.
- promoting a positive attitude towards a healthy diet and lifestyle.
- enforcing a physical fitness program throughout the School.
- enforcing sun protection.
- enforcing the School’s stance on immunization requirements.
- maintaining thorough written records of any injury or illness that occurs whilst a child is in the School or under its care – Accident/Illness Record Book.
- careful assessment of the incident and the procedures required to be taken.
- ensuring personal information is handled responsibly.
- ensuring that administration of all documentation is handled appropriately and is included in the child’s file.
- ensuring hygiene and cleanliness prevail.
Levels of Responsibility (cont’d)

The Assistant Principals are responsible for:
- strict confidentiality.
- ensuring personal information is handled responsibly.
- those duties as delegated by the Principal.

The Staff is responsible for:
- strict confidentiality.
- ensuring personal information is handled responsibly.
- maintaining current First Aid certificates.
- fully understanding hygiene and first aid procedures in dealing with blood transmitted disease, such as AIDS.
- protecting children from contact with blood transmitted disease.
- managing food allergies, infectious disease, asthma, head lice, poor hygiene and any other issues affecting the classroom.
- careful dosage administration of medicines and only if medication request forms are completed and signed by parents/guardian in every case.
- notifying the Principal immediately of any instances of infectious disease, head lice.
- promoting a positive attitude towards a healthy diet and lifestyle.
- promoting physical fitness.
- enforcing sun protection.
- maintaining thorough written records of any injury or illness that occurs whilst a child is in the School or under its care – Accident/Illness Record Book.
- careful assessment of the incident and the procedures required to be taken.
- ensuring hygiene and cleanliness prevail.
- ensuring personal information is handled responsibly.

The Safety Officer is responsible for:
- ensuring First Aid Certificates and Kits are current.
- ensuring emergency contact telephone numbers are clearly displayed in administration areas.

The Parents are responsible for:
- the child arriving at School in a clean and healthy state.
- providing sun protection for the child.
- providing healthy food for the child.
- being familiar with the School’s policies on infectious & communicable conditions.
- Making sure the parents are responsible from immunisation.
Documentation

- The Policy and Procedures are documented in the Parent Handbook.
- The Policy, Procedures and Guidelines for staff are documented in the Staff Handbook and Administration Procedures file. This includes individual procedures for food allergies and infectious diseases.
- Parents/Guardian must acknowledge acceptance of medical requirements and immunization prior to admission to the School.

Performance Review and Measurement

- Sun protection is enforced throughout the School.
- Physical education is enforced.
- Hygiene is enforced.
- Infections will be managed according to recommendations from the Health Department.

Activity

- Annual review of the Policy is required by the School Board.
- Annual review of the Procedures and Guidelines.
- First Aid Certificates are to be current.
- First Aid Kits are to be current.

EXCLUSION OF CHILDREN: Any child who has not had the scheduled vaccines will be considered to be unimmunised and exclusion guidelines will apply accordingly.
Related Documents

Procedures and Guidelines.

Proforma of the Medication Request form.

Accident/Ilness Record Book.

First Aid Certificates.

The Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Act 2000.

- Admissions Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Child Safety Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Crisis Management Policy
- Discrimination and Equal Opportunity Policy
- Educational Standards Policy
- Occupational Safety and Health Policy
- Parent Information Policy
- Privacy Policy