Snake Sighting Procedure

Overview:
The Beehive Montessori School is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for students, staff, parents and visitors. Due to our proximity to the sand dunes and bushland surrounding the School, there is a risk of snakes being present on School grounds.
Unprovoked, snakes will rarely attack humans. They are generally shy and avoid human contact if given the opportunity. Snakes are protected by law, and there is no reason why we can't live in harmony with them provided we respect their presence and take all reasonable precautions.

As preventative measures, the Beehive Montessori School:

- Clears undergrowth in and around play areas regularly over the spring, summer and autumn months in particular.
- Keeps pathways clear of vegetation
- Educates and reminds students of the risks of snakes on school grounds, and not to walk or play in thickly vegetated areas (such as the verge).
- Reminds children the greatest risk of snake bite is by people trying to catch them, so they are to move away and tell and adult.
- Ensures classroom teachers have up to date first aid training, including snake bite first aid
- Ensures all primary students have an annual snake bite first aid refresher

Snake Bite First Aid:

1. Stay calm, call or send someone to the office for help and phone for an ambulance.
2. Reassure the patient and encourage them to be calm and still, restricting movement is very important.
3. The most effective first aid for snakebite is the pressure-immobilisation technique. The principle is to minimise the movement of venom around the lymphatic system until the patient is in a hospital. This is done by applying a firm bandage (or suitable alternative) to the bitten area and limb, and to immobilise the patient. When applied properly, this method can trap the venom in the bite area for many hours and can halt the effects of the venom until the bandage is released in the hospital and where the antivenom can be administered.
    a. If the bite is on a limb, apply a broad pressure bandage over the bite site as soon as possible.
    b. Then apply a further elasticised or firm bandage- start at the fingers or toes and move up the limb as far as can be reached, going over the bite site. Apply firmly but without stopping blood flow (check the finger tips).
    c. Splint the bandaged limb- this can be done by bandaging the arm to the body, or legs together.
    d. Ensure the patient remains still.
    e. Record the time the bite occurred and when the bandage was applied.
    f. Wait with the patient, monitor and record any changes in their condition.

	Students at school	Parents and visitors
1.	If a student sees a snake, they should assume it is venomous and immediately tell an adult on duty.	If a parent or visitor to the school sees a snake, they should assume it is venomous. If it is possible and safe to do so, keep the snake in sight and call the office or ask a bystander to inform the office.
2.	One adult on duty moves to a safe area and blows the whistle- all students go to the adult with the whistle, away from the area the snake was seen. An adult to notify the office as soon as possible. Snakes can move quickly and it is paramount to ensure your safety and the safety of all students. If the snake is no longer visible, do NOT try to flush the snake out, just make a note of where it was last seen, and if it is safe to do so keep an eye on the area and keep others away.	Snakes can move quickly and it is paramount to ensure your safety and the safety of others. If the snake is no longer visible, do NOT try to flush the snake out, just make a note of where it was last seen, and if it is safe to do so keep an eye on the area and keep others away.
3.	The office will contact a relevant staff member who is trained and registered in Snake Relocation and inform them of the snake sighting and its location If they are not available and the snake's location is confirmed, contact a registered snake removalist such as: Snakes Away 0450 526 284 Wildcare 9474 9055 Wendy Binks 0407 942 757 Paul Kenyon 0439 941 004 Danielle Cliff 0448 592 711 Steve Tuckey 0415 806 809 Snake Catcher Perth 0434 574 920	
4.	The person responsible for Snake Relocation will: • Use protective clothing (long loose trousers) and boots • Take the snake bin (with hessian sack inside), snake bite kit and tools to the location of the snake • Remove all obstacles, trip hazards etc and ask bystanders to move away • If the snake is indoors, use towels etc to block escape routes under doors • Use the correct tools in the manner taught to move the snake to the snake bin • Use the plastic snake bin lid as a shield when opening and closing the bin • Tie the lid to the snake bin securely after capture and ensure signage indicates a snake is inside • Relocate the snake to an appropriate area at least a kilometre from the school, within three days of capture • Record the capture and release in the Snake Log (kept with the snake kit)	