



DAME NELLIE MELBA
KINDERGARTEN
EST 1915

Bush Kindergarten Program

Identification and Visibility Policy



PURPOSE

This policy aims to clearly define:

- Ways in which bush kinder participants are clearly visible to staff and volunteers, and clearly identifiable to other users of Burnley Park to protect the safety of all participants
- Communication to onlookers and users of the park regarding the Bush Kinder program.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Values

DNMK is committed to:

- Providing a safe and healthy environment for children, staff and volunteers participating in the Bush Kinder program
- Being respectful of the community space that the bush kinder site offers, while ensuring the safety of participants at all times in response to external influences and risks
- Being respectful that members of the public may be interested in the Bush Kinder program, but ensuring that the program is not interrupted by other park users.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to parents, staff, committee members, authorised persons, volunteers and students on placement working at **DNMK**.

3. BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

DNMK's Bush Kinder program is conducted in community parkland which is enjoyed by members of the public and allows dogs to be walked off lead in designated areas. It is important that children, staff and volunteers participating in the Bush Kinder program are easily identified to each other and parkland users as a discrete group. It is also critical that children participating in the program are clearly visible to all staff and volunteers.

Relevant legislation may include but is not limited to:

- *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011*
- *Education and Care Services National Law 2010*
- National Quality Standards, including Quality Area 2 – Children's health and safety and Quality Area 3 – Physical environment
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
- Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007

4. DEFINITIONS

Identifiable clothing: At each session, all children will be provided with a wristband which has the DNMK mobile number on it. During warmer months children will be given a hi-vis vest to wear over their clothing. When it is wet or raining children will be wearing bright coverall waterproofs.

Visible signage: Visible signage will be posted at the Home Base Bush Kinder site. The signage will be displayed to make it clear to other users of the parkland that there is a Kindergarten session in progress, requesting that members of the public don't linger at the site so as not to disrupt the session and that dogs to be kept on leads in the vicinity.

5. SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

Kindergarten policies

- Bush Kinder Delivery & Collection of Children Policy (Bush Kinder Specific)
- Bush Kinder Extreme Weather Policy (Bush Kinder Specific)
- Bush Kinder Protective Clothing Policy (Bush Kinder Specific)
- Bush Kinder Emergency Evacuation Policy (Bush Kinder Specific)

- Bush Kinder Snake Awareness Policy (Bush Kinder Specific)
- Bush Kinder Dog Awareness Policy (Bush Kinder Specific)
- Incident, Injury, Trauma & Illness Policy (including First Aid)
- Excursion & Regular Outing Policy
- Road Safety and Transport Policy
- Sun Protection Policy
- Water Safety Policy
- Occupational Health & Safety Policy

Procedures

The Committee and Director are responsible for:

- Ensuring staff are appropriately trained in procedures for dealing with onlookers, dogs etc.

Staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring all children are wearing their identification band and hi-vis vest or wet weather coveralls.
- If necessary requesting in as diplomatic a fashion as possible that interested onlookers move on so as not to disturb the education program underway.
- Identifying owners of dogs off lead and encourage the owner to put the dog on a lead. Where the dog on lead comes into the bush kinder area, activating the procedures in the dog awareness policy.

Educators must be carrying personal ID and provide DNMK's contact details when requested by members of the public or public safety personnel (police, council etc)

Parents are responsible for:

- making sure their child is signed in and an ID band has been put on the child's wrist and supporting the child to put on a hi-vis vest or wet weather coverall.
- Reading and being familiar with the policy
- Bringing relevant issues to the attention of both staff and committee

EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the policy has achieved the values and purposes the committee will:

- Seek feedback regarding this policy and its implementation with parents of children participating in the Bush Kinder program.
- Seek feedback from staff in relation to the effectiveness of this policy.
- Regularly review the policy and centre practices to ensure they are compliant with any new legislation, research, or best practice procedures.

AUTHORISATION

This policy was adopted by the Approved Provider of DNMK September 2020

REVIEW DATE: SEPTEMBER 2022