



Stirling North Childhood Services Centre

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## Water Safety Policy

National Quality Standard 2.3 [Regulation 168 \(2\) \(a\) \(iii\)](#)

### Rationale

This policy ensures every reasonable precaution will be taken when children are engaging in, or are near, water based experiences.

It provides educators with information to ensure children's safety around water including water play activities and excursions.

### Detail

A water hazard is anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child's nose and mouth.

Staff must use risk assessment procedures when setting up a water play experience taking into consideration children's abilities and behaviour as well as safety issues, such as the positioning of water play experiences.

### Water troughs, buckets and other water receptacles

When using the water trough or containers water can be filled to no greater than 30cm. Water receptacles including troughs and buckets must be emptied immediately after use and stored in a manner that prevents the vessel filling with water when not in use e.g. always store troughs without a plug, upturn containers that hold water.

### Water course

A water course must not exceed 30cm in depth. Water is to be directed into areas that have suitable drainage systems to avoid pooling and all drains are to be regularly checked and cleaned of rubbish and debris to ensure they are functional.

### Excursions

A risk assessment must be completed before seeking parental consent for excursions involving swimming or where there is a significant water hazard.

### Other

Access to laundry and kitchen areas must be restricted when unattended by adults. Sinks must not be left unattended when the plug is inserted, or the sink is holding water.

### Roles and responsibilities

#### Staff

**Children must not be left unattended around a water hazard. Staff are required to monitor children with a focused, planned and purposeful observation and be within an arm's length (1-2m).**

Staff must comply with this policy and the Preschool Water Safety Procedure.

Report identified hazards on the department's Incident and Response Management System (IRMS) and notify other people in the immediate vicinity that a hazard is present.

Staff are also required to consider water safety and potential water hazards when undertaking a risk assessment for an excursion, including a routine excursion ([Education and Care Services National Regulations](#) R 101 (2) (b)).

**Related policies, procedures and guidelines**

Preschool water safety procedure

Camps and excursions – guidelines for schools and preschools

**Policy Review**

Governing Council and staff will monitor the effectiveness of this policy and revise the policy when required (at least once every three years).

This policy has been approved and ratified by Governing Council.

Signed by Chairperson:

Signed by Director:

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Danae Traianos  
May 2022

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Lyn Francis  
May 2022

Created: July 2022

Review: July 2025

Sourced: DfE Intranet, Education and Care Services National Regulations, NQS