



# NATURE KINDERGARTEN CLOTHING POLICY

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## Purpose

This policy aims to:

- Set out clear guidelines for parents and staff regarding appropriate clothing to be worn by children attending Kinder in various weather conditions to ensure their safety and wellbeing (including a description of clothing which should not be worn)
- Provide clear guidelines regarding the change of clothes requirements for Kinder participants
- Provide an appropriate mechanism for communication of the protective clothing requirements for Bush Kinder sessions to parents

## Policy statement

### 1. Values

Isabel Henderson Kindergarten is committed to:

- Providing a safe and healthy environment for children participating in the Bush Kinder program
- Facilitating a Nature Kinder experience in a variety of (safe) weather conditions, including rain, to allow children to experience nature across as broad a spectrum as possible and without compromising the safety of the participants
- Ensuring clothing worn by children in the program allows for maximum comfort, free movement and does not obstruct the children in their activities in a Nature Kinder setting
- Facilitating communication to parents to ensure compliance with this policy

### 2. Scope

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

### 3. Background and legislation

The IHK program is intended to operate across a broad spectrum of weather conditions, allowing children to experience nature and its elements across the seasons. Whatever the weather, children are encouraged to take the lead in playing, exploring and learning in a natural environment.

For this reason, there are some particular clothing requirements in the Nature Kinder setting that may differ from requirements in other centre-based environment.

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

Protective and appropriate clothing & footwear:

It is important that children wear appropriate and protective clothing and footwear which:

- allows children to move freely and undertake activities such as climbing, balancing, running, puddle jumping
- keeps children warm and dry in cold/wet weather
- protects children from the damaging effects of the sun, UV rays in warm weather and high UV conditions.
- prevents sunburn, bites, scratches and stings. (Even in warm weather, long sleeve tops and long pants are recommended - this clothing should be loose fitting and light).
- Where possible is made from natural fabrics which allow breathability and is comfortable against the skin



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- In the case of footwear, keeps feet and toes covered and has a flexible and gripped sole to allow children to climb and balance on uneven surfaces

The following table provides examples of recommended clothing, clothing which is not recommended and unacceptable clothing:

	Warm Weather	Cold Weather / Rain
Recommended clothing and footwear	Light, loose fitting long sleeve tops and long pants, broad brimmed or legionnaires hat, closed toe shoes	Waterproofs*, long pants, long sleeved top, beanie, waterproof gloves, thermals in very cold weather
Not recommended	short sleeved tops, long skirts or dresses, shorts	Skirts, dresses (incompatible with waterproofs)
Unacceptable clothing and footwear	Open toe shoes, sandals, thongs, crocs, singlet tops	Non-waterproof clothing. [waterproofs on top of non waterproof clothing is acceptable].

\* Waterproofs provided by Isabel Henderson Kindergarten.

Change of clothes: All children at IHK are required to bring a change of clothes and footwear as these may become wet and muddy. It is recommended that the spare clothing include:

- Spare top and bottoms of appropriate thickness/weight for the weather on the day
- Spare underpants (and singlet in winter)
- 2 pairs of socks
- 1 pair of gumboots (it is not recommended that gumboots are worn at all times due to the restriction of movement they impose).

Waterproofs: Light rainproof suit worn over clothing, which includes a jacket with a hood, and pants or overalls, which zip up over clothing.

### 5. Sources and related policies

- Kindergarten policies
  - Extreme Weather Policy
  - Insect and snake Awareness Policy
  - Learning through Play Policy
  - Incident, Injury, Trauma & Illness Policy (including First Aid)
  - Supervision of Children Policy
  - Sun Protection Policy
  - Water Safety Policy
  - Safe environments Policy
  - Occupational Health & Safety Policy

### Procedures - General

The Committee is responsible for:

- Implementing and maintaining a Protective Clothing Policy which provides clarity to parents and staff as to the appropriate clothing children are required to wear at Kinder in various weather conditions to ensure their safety and wellbeing (including a description of clothing which should not be worn)



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- All parents being aware of this policy and provided access to the policy at orientation sessions, in written kindergarten orientation material on the website, or make available upon request.
- Supplying waterproofs.
- Ensuring staff are appropriately educated on procedures in the event that children are not wearing compliant clothing

Staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring all children being dropped off to Kinder are wearing appropriate clothing in line with this policy.
- If inappropriate clothing is worn, staff are to:
  - Highlight to the parent dropping off the child which clothing is inappropriate and the reasons for it;
  - Determine if the change of clothing brought by that child is appropriate and request the parent change the clothes on the child if need be;
  - If the clothing has the potential to put the child's safety and wellbeing at risk and there is no suitable alternative clothing, inform parent that the child is not able to attend Bush Kinder
- Assisting changing the child's change of clothing if need be
- Encouraging children to tell a staff member if they need help with clothing or feel uncomfortable.
- During orientation sessions, advising parents of the clothing requirements for Kinder

Parents are responsible for:

- Ensuring protective and appropriate clothing is worn to Kinder by their child in line with this policy
- Changing their child's clothing as instructed by the teacher to enable their child to participate in the Kinder session if required.
- Ensure their child's change of clothes includes items as set out in this policy
- Reading and being familiar with the policy
- Bringing relevant issues to the attention of both staff and committee
- Changing children into and out of the waterproofs at the start and end of each session

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 Kinder program. This can be facilitated through discussions and the annual centre survey.
- Ask staff to share their experiences and observations 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

Endorsed by the Westgarth Kindergarten Committee of Management on 12 December 2018. Review Date  
This policy will be reviewed every two years and is next due for formal Committee review in