

Hauraki Primary School

Policy Document

Water Safety

Rationale

It is a primary objective of the Hauraki School Board (the Board) to provide a physically and emotionally safe place for all students and staff. The Board is committed to taking all reasonably practicable steps to ensure the health and safety of all students, staff, and other visitors to the school.

The Board acknowledges the inherent risks with education outside the classroom (EOTC) involving water and our school pool. Water presents a risk of drowning and injury can be sustained from the hard pool surfaces or the misuse of equipment.

Purpose:

The Board will take reasonably practicable steps to ensure health and safety and eliminate or minimise health and safety risks with EOTC and our school pool by:

- providing all children with a safe environment when engaged in activity in, on, or near water whether during EOTC or at the school pool;
- complying with all relevant legal requirements, regulations, and New Zealand standards;
- promoting the teaching of sound water safety skills, knowledge, and attitudes; and
- managing and maintaining our school pool.

Guidelines

1. Safety is paramount in an aquatic environment, as teaching in this environment differs from teaching in the classroom.
2. All children are expected to participate in swimming and water safety programmes provided by the school. These programmes may be provided in the school pool or through EOTC programmes, such as Waterwise.
3. Outside agencies will be utilised on a needs basis to assist in the teaching and assessing of swimming and water safety activities.

EOTC and Waterwise

4. All EOTC programmes, including Waterwise, must comply with the EOTC policy.
5. All practicable steps must be taken to ensure that the standard of safety and use of equipment and instructors in EOTC programmes meets best practice.
6. Any EOTC programme that involves water must have an adult/pupil ratio of 1 to 4.
7. A teacher must always be present at Waterwise sessions.

School Pool

The Board's expectations and rules for the school pool are set out below. Specific responsibilities for visitors, contractors and the Board are also set out.

Pool management

8. The day-to-day management and use of the pool during school hours is delegated to the principal.
9. To assure the Board that risk and safety is appropriately managed in the pool compound and school pool, the principal will immediately report any accidents or incidents in the pool compound or school pool to the Board.
10. The Board retains discretion to close the school pool if it is not satisfied the below expectations and rules are being followed.
11. Outside of normal school hours, the pool is closed. The Board will display signage to this effect.
12. The principal will regularly remind the school community that the pool is closed outside of normal school hours.

Pool rules

13. Students must never be in the pool compound without a teacher present and may not swim without a teachers' permission.
14. Students in the water and around the pool compound must be actively supervised.
15. Students must walk, not run, around the pool, and may not dive or jump in from the sides of the pool, except with the teachers' permission and supervision.
16. Students must not enter the pump or chemical shed.
17. Pool equipment is not left lying around the pool where it could be a hazard.
18. The pool gate shall always be closed securely and must not be tied or left open at any time for any reason.

19. No supervisor will ever leave the pool complex until all children have left the area, and the gate must always be locked at the end of any swimming session.

Pool hygiene

20. Students are encouraged to use the toilet before swimming.
21. To avoid spreading illness (e.g. those caused by Cryptosporidium, Giardia, E. coli, or norovirus), anyone who has had diarrhoea must not use the pool until two weeks after their symptoms have resolved. This is Ministry of Health advice and a requirement of Water Quality Standard NZS 5826:2010.
22. In the event of a faecal accident, diarrhoea, or vomiting in the pool, the pool will be closed until the water quality is tested and restored.

Pool security and maintenance

23. Pool users should report any problems with the operation of the gate immediately.
24. The fencing and gate operation is checked as part of regular site inspections and maintained to meet NZS 8500:2006 and the Building Act 2004.
25. Pool chemicals are always kept locked securely away and are handled and stored correctly.
26. Trees can be a health and safety hazard around a swimming pool. Any trees nearby the pool compound will be maintained.
27. Maintenance of the pool surrounds is carried out when the pool is not in use, where possible.

Water testing and monitoring

28. Having an efficient mechanical filter system and chemically treating the water maintains the pool water in a safe and hygienic condition for swimmers.
29. Pool water quality is maintained to comply with NZS 5826:2010. This standard aims to maintain chemical and microbiological levels to safeguard health, prevent unnecessary discomfort, and minimise degradation of the pool and equipment.
30. To ensure that the water remains chemically, and microbiologically safe, regular testing is required. The school caretaker is responsible for water quality and treatment during the school year.
31. Microbiological monitoring is completed monthly.
32. If no one is available to test and treat the water, the pool will be closed.

Responsibilities

Visitors to the school

33. During school hours, no visitors to the school may enter the pool compound or pool without the prior permission of the principal.
34. If permission to enter the pool compound or pool during school hours is granted, nobody is to swim while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

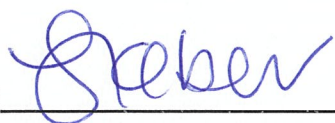
Contractors

35. The Board may agree to a contractor, such as a swim school or after school care, using the school compound and pool outside of school hours.
36. In these circumstances, both the Board and the contractor are Persons Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) and share responsibility for health and safety.
37. The Board requires all contractors to follow the rules and expectations set out in this policy. The principal will provide a copy of this policy to all contractors.
38. As set out in the Health and Safety policy, contractors are also responsible for complying with relevant health and safety legislation, and for recording and reporting any accidents that harm themselves or any other person.

Board

39. Pool maintenance is required on an annual basis and the Board will budget for this each year.
40. Adequate and appropriate resources will be provided for the effective teaching and promotion of water safety education and activities.
41. The Board is not responsible for any harm due to unauthorised use of the pool.

Signed: _____



Date: _____

23 September 2024

Presiding Member of the Board

Review Date: _____

Term 3 2027

Related policies

- Health and Safety
- EOTC