**Water safety**

**Rationale**

Children are naturally drawn to water but unfortunately there are great risks of drowning amongst children aged 0-4. Due to children’s understanding of danger and their top heaviness of their body this provides a significant risk. At Flagstaff Hill Kindergarten we have many opportunities for children to play with water which includes:

* The creek in Yeltanna Wirra
* The creek in our outdoor space
* Water troughs
* Gorge walks along the creek

This user guide covers the DfE documents related to ‘water safety’. The Primary document this user guide refers to is the DECE Preschool Water Safety Procedure and replaces any site specific Water Safety procedures.

**The Director will:**

* Develop and review this policy and ensure it is implemented throughout the site.
* Lead reflection of the risk assessment discussion and review for general water play and gorge walks

**Educators will:**

* Ensure where water hazards are present, safety measures are in place. A water hazard is defined as anything that can hold 5cm of water and fit a child’s nose and mouth.
* Ensure water containers are emptied when experiences are finished for the day.
* Ensure wading/paddling pools or water play containers are emptied after each use and stored to prevent the collection of water
* Supervise water play experiences at all times
* Complete a Risk Management plan, when planning experiences or excursions based around water play or areas with a potential drowning hazard.
* Ensure children are supervised if playing in the outdoor environment during or after rain. The environment should also be checked for flooding or other water hazards after storms
* Read the risk/benefit assessment for the gorge walks

**R168(2)(a)(iii) water Safety**

**National Quality Standards 2.2.1**

Approved by Educators and the Governing Council August 2021

To be reviewed 2024

Governing Council Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Kindergarten Director: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_