

Water Safety Policy

Definition of a body of water

The service recognises the following locations are bodies of water:

- swimming pools, wading pools, lakes, ponds, the sea, creeks, dams and rivers
- equipment used by the service that could contain 5cm or more of water and could allow a child to submerge both nose and mouth at the same time.

Policy

St Pius X OSHC recognises the risks posed by bodies of water and takes the safety of children and educators involved in water-based activities and around bodies of water seriously. The service will ensure that every precaution is taken so that children are able to enjoy water-based activities safely. Risk assessments will be carried out for programmed water-based activities and the outcomes will underpin the educator to child ratio for the activities.

Implementation

The service shall ensure the safety of children around bodies of water by:

- Undertaking a risk assessment that will determine the required educator to child ratio for the proposed activity.
- Ensuring there are educators present that have a current, approved first aid qualification including CPR.
- Demonstrating a preference for venues that provide additional supervision in the form of life guards.
- Ensuring educators are placed in positions that allow them to directly and actively supervise any child accessing a body of water.
- Avoiding any venue with a body of water where sufficient precautions cannot be taken to ensure the safety of children.

Responsibilities

The director will be responsible for:

- Actively looking for venues that provide additional supervision in the form of life guards, when the venue contains or has access to a body of water.
- Conducting a risk assessment on any venue the service plans to visit, to ensure that the service is able to provide appropriate levels of supervision and that the risk does not exceed the service's ability to maintain the safety of children.
- Ensuring a risk assessment is carried out on any activity the service sets up that allows children to access a body of water.
- Ensuring educators position themselves in the environment so that every child is within sight of an adult at all times and that supervision is direct and vigilant; and that educators rotate their position in the environment on a regular basis to allow for movement and to maintain vigilance.
- On a swimming excursion, having some educators designated to supervise children from within the body of water.