

	Thornbury Kindergarten. Policies
Policy Title	Identification and Visibility (Bush Kinder)
Quality Area	2 – Children’s Health and Safety
Category	Best Practice

1. Purpose

This policy aims to clearly define:

- Ways in which Bush Kinder participants are clearly visible to staff and volunteers, and clearly identifiable to other users of Darebin Parklands to protect the safety of all participants.
- The manner in which the Bush Kinder site is marked and signed to enable identification by users of Darebin Parklands and to communicate some key messages to optimise the Bush Kinder program and experience.

2. Values

Thornbury Kindergarten is committed to:

- Providing a safe and healthy environment for children, staff and volunteers participating in the Bush Kinder program.
- Being respectful of the community space that the Bush Kinder site offers, while ensuring the safety of participants at all times in response to external influences and risks.
- Being respectful that members of the public may be interested in the Bush Kinder program, but ensuring that the program is not interrupted or disturbed by other park users.

3. Scope

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

4. Background and legislation

Thornbury Kindergarten’s Bush Kinder program is conducted in community parkland which is enjoyed by members of the public and allows dogs to be walked off leads in designated areas. It is important that children, staff and

volunteers participating in the Bush Kinder program are easily identified to each other and parkland users as a discrete group. It is also critical that children participating in the program are clearly visible to all staff and volunteers.

In addition, appropriate signage must be visible to members of the public requesting that dogs be walked on leads in the vicinity of the Bush Kinder site and that they respect the education program underway and not disturb the program in any way.

Relevant legislation includes but is not limited to:

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic) (Part 2: Principles for Children)
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010: Section 167
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011: Regulations 101(2), 168(2)(a)(iii)
- National Quality Standard, Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety
 - Standard 2.3: Each child is protected
 - Element 2.3.2: Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury

5. Definitions

At each session, all children will be provided with a red wristband which has the Bush Kinder mobile number on it. Thornbury Kindergarten would prefer the children to wear the red Thornbury Kindergarten hat and a Thornbury Kindergarten T-shirt, sometimes over their long-sleeve tops if the weather is cold. When it is wet or raining, wet gear should be worn over clothing (preferably red), to make the children recognisable as part of the group.

Visible signage: Visible signage will be posted at both paths/entrances into the Bush Kinder site. The signage will be displayed to make it clear to other users of the parkland that there is a Kindergarten session in progress, requesting that members of the public don't linger at the site so as not to disrupt the session and that dogs to be kept on leads in the vicinity.

Suggested/sample wording for the signage is detailed in Attachment 1.

6. Sources and related centre policies

Centre policies

- Extreme Weather (Bush Kinder Specific)
- Protective Clothing (Bush Kinder Specific)

- Dogs (Bush Kinder Specific)
- Incident and Medical Emergency Management
- Communication
- Hygiene
- Program participation
- Supervision of children
- Excursions and centre events
- Occupational Health & Safety

7. Procedures

General

The Committee is responsible for:

- Providing appropriate signage for the Bush Kinder site as detailed in this policy.
- Providing red wrist bands with the Bush Kinder mobile number on them and access to appropriate identifiable clothing as detailed in this policy for Bush Kinder participants. Clothing can be purchased through the Merchandise department.
- Ensuring staff are appropriately trained in procedures for dealing with onlookers, dogs etc.

Staff are responsible for:

- Placing Bush Kinder signage as detailed in this policy in appropriate places at the Bush Kinder site.
- Attempting to locate owners of dogs off leads and encourage the owner to move the dog away from the Bush Kinder site and/or put the dog on a lead.
- Requesting in as diplomatic fashion when possible that interested onlookers move on so as not to disturb the education program underway.

Parents/guardians are responsible for:

- Reading and being familiar with the policy.
- Bringing relevant issues to the attention of both staff and committee.

8. Evaluation

In order to assess whether the policy has achieved the values and purposes the proprietor (committee) will:

- Seek feedback regarding this policy and its implementation with parents/guardians of children participating in the Bush 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.

9. Attachments

Attachment 1: Sample wording for Bush Kinder signage

10. Authorisation

This policy was approved by the committee of management of Thornbury Kindergarten at a committee meeting on December 2017.

Review date: December 2019

ATTACHMENT 1

Bush Kinder sign:

Now in progress

Bush Kinder - Thornbury Kindergarten Program:

Our children at play in nature.

Thank you for sharing the park.

Please keep dogs on leads near us.

Sample wording for Bush Kinder signage

BUSH KINDER SESSION IN PROGRESS

Thornbury Kindergarten is running a Bush Kinder program, conducted at this site every Thursday and Friday. The program is held exclusively outdoors. Whatever the weather, children are encouraged to take the lead in playing, exploring and learning in a bush or natural environment.

We respect that Darebin Parklands is a community space, but we ask for your co-operation in the following ways:

- Please be mindful that we are running an education program, and ask that you refrain from lingering at the site or disturbing the program in any way.
- Please leave your dogs on leads in the immediate vicinity of our Bush Kinder site.
- We welcome your interest in the program, but our staff will be unable to discuss it while supervising children.

We thank you for sharing your parklands with us and for your co-operation.