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| **Outings and Excursion Policy** |
| **Policy Category:** Health and Safety | **Date Created:** 09th March 2020 |



**Little Sunbeams Christian Early Childhood Centre**

**The purpose of this operational policy is to ensure children’s safety during outings and excursions by meeting Licensing Criteria HS17 and HS18.**

**Position Statement**

**Safety is of paramount importance when leaving the familiar Centre environment. To ensure everyone’s safety. Parents will be notified of an excursion and the planned adult : child ratio and their consent given and recorded, assessment and management of risk will be undertaken and clear methods of communication will be established and maintained.**

**Issue Outline:**

Outings and excursions are an important way for children to form connecting links and learn about their local community, environment and the wider world.

This learning is valued by our early childhood curriculum Te Whāriki (2017) and justifies the risks involved as long as safety is paramount and risks minimised through thorough planning.

This policy ensures the correct records and parental permissions are documented.

**Detail:**

* Planning for each outing and excursion includes risk assessment, route mapping, method of travel and names of adults and children. The risk assessment is signed off by the person responsible
* The planning is made available to all parents along with a contact cell phone number
* On any trip at least one staff member with a current first aid certificate will be present
* Teachers will take a first aid kit, roll, cell phone, emergency contact numbers and all other necessary supplies on all outings and excursions
* Health and safety factors will be taken into account in planning and executing any excursion, in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015
* The adult to child ratios are determined according to the nature of the excursion and any risks involved. Ratios are not less than the required regulatory adult:child ratio
* The ratio of adults to children for those children remaining at the centre will comply with the 2008 Regulations
* Written permission is obtained from parents at the time of enrolment for **spontaneous** outings and excursions. These include outings to local parks, libraries, fire stations, and neighbouring schools within a comfortable walking distance from the centre
* Before leaving on a **planned** excursion we gain written permission from parents, if the travel is in a motor vehicle then this needs to be stated and signed
* At least two staff to go on every outing
* Staff will not transport one child alone, unless it is their own child
* All children travelling in a motor vehicle will be restrained as required by Land Transport regulation
* There will be at least two adults travelling in any vehicle carrying children and standard regulatory ratios will apply
* The driver will have a full licence and the car will have a current WOF and Registration
* Teachers will not deviate from the planned outing route
* A head count will be taken at regular intervals
* Parents will be required to meet the cost of any special outings or excursions. Notice will be given of any cost involved and this money should be paid prior to the outing. Children will not be excluded from outings because a parent cannot afford the outing.

**Alignment with Other Policies:**

* Travel Permission Policy
* Parent Involvement, Information and Communication Policy
* Child Protection Policy
* Health and Safety Policy
* Enrolment Policy.

**Impacts of Policy on Staff, Parents, Children:**

Appropriate risk assessment will minimise the risk of harm to any adult or child. Parents need to be comfortable with, and aware of, where there children are and who they are with at all times.

Staff and parents need to be aware of the importance of maintaining the correct adult : child ratio.

**Alignment with the Centre Philosophy:**

This policy ensures a safe environment, a crucial part of creating and maintaining the well-being of children in our care.

**Implication and/or Risks:**

Failure to comply with this policy could lead to serious harm, damaging the Centre’s reputation and the trust placed in us by parents.

**Relevant Background (including legislation/regulation references)**

Licensing Criteria 2008, Health and Safety, Hazards and Outings Documentation required:

* **HS17**: - A record of outings or excursions. Records include:
	+ The names of adults and children involved;
	+ The time and date of the outing;
	+ The location and method of travel;
	+ Assessment and management of risk;
	+ Adult: child ratios; and
	+ Evidence of parental permission and approval of adult:child ratios, which may have been provided at enrolment for spontaneous or regular outings, as long as some general assessment of risk has been undertaken and information is provided to parents regarding the circumstances/rational of the outings.
	+ The signature of the person responsible giving approval for the excursion to take place
* **HS18** – If children travel in a motor vehicle while in the care of the service;
	+ each child is restrained as required by Land Transport legislation;
	+ required adult:child ratios are maintained; and
	+ the written permission of a parent of the child is obtained before the travel begins (unless the child is travelling with their parent).
* Te Whāriki Early Childhood Curriculum, Ministry of Education 2017
* Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (and associated regulations).

**Implementation:**

Clear procedures have been developed, risk assessment forms are used for planning and management check and sign off all excursions.

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| Authorised: | Kim McDonald |
| Date: | March 2020 |
| Review Date: | November 2021 |
| Consultation Undertaken | Staff, Parents, Management Committee |

**Review:** This policy will be reviewed annually or when there is significant change in the area of the policy topic.