

Gulfview Heights Primary School

Out of School Hours Care



CLOTHING POLICY

Children need protective, comfortable and appropriate clothing and footwear to explore their environment. Clothing needs to protect children from injury and sun exposure whilst promoting self-help abilities. Appropriate footwear will fit a child's foot correctly and ensure comfort. Educators will also dress to prevent injury and sun exposure and will be encouraged to dress in a professional and respectful manner, being positive role models for the children.

National Quality Standards

Quality Area 2: Children's Health and Safety		
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.

Quality Area 5: Relationships with children		
5.1	Relationships between educators and children	Respectful and equitable relationships are maintained with each child
5.1.1	Positive educator to child interactions	Responsive and meaningful interactions build trusting relationships which engage and support each child to feel secure, confident and included
5.1.2	Dignity and rights of the child	The dignity and rights of every child are maintained

PURPOSE

GHPS OSHC aim to ensure the safety and comfort of all children by providing appropriate clothing guidelines for children, parents and staff utilising and working at OSHC.

Children being clothed appropriately allow them to play without risk of sunburn and serious injury caused by inappropriate clothing. Children are more at ease, reassured, satisfied and less anxious when they are dressed for warmth during winter and not overdressed during summer as well as wearing safe footwear when climbing outdoor equipment or playing sport.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management and visitors

IMPLEMENTATION

Effective clothing strategies, including sun protection clothing, are important factors in ensuring a child feels safe, and secure at OSHC.

Management/Supervisor will:

- Ensure that a Sun Safety Policy is developed and maintained.
- Ensure educators are provided with personal protective equipment (E.G. gloves, etc) to help with cleaning and health protection measures.
- Provide information for educators about suitable clothing and footwear expectations for the care environment.
- Provide information to families about suitable clothing and footwear. This information will be available at the service using a variety of communication such as emails, newsletters and the website.
- Ensure educators are aware and follow the Sun Safety Policy.

Educators will:

- Consult and communicate with families about the individual needs of children with respect to different values and beliefs associated with clothing and footwear.
- Monitor children's clothing and footwear to ensure compliance with the Sun Protection Policy and to support the safety, comfort and wellbeing of every child.
- Consider clothing and footwear associated with excursions or planned learning experiences and communicate clearly with families about the need for extraordinary protective clothing requirements.
- Provide protective clothing such as smocks/aprons for messy play experiences and painting. Children will be encouraged by educators to wear protective clothing during messy and water play.
- Encourage children to utilise their self-help skills where appropriate to put on and remove clothing and shoes to meet their needs.
- Monitor UV rating to ensure children are dressed appropriately for the weather.
- Discuss clothing with the children.
- Model appropriate clothing – for example wearing hats and sun safe clothing.
- Convey respect for children and appreciate their individuality.
- Respect children's privacy and modesty when they are changing their clothes or dressing themselves, ensuring that individual needs and preferences are understood and catered for.

Families will:

- Provide spare clothing in children's bags to allow for soiled or dirty clothing and changing weather conditions. This includes spare socks and shoes.
- Dress children appropriately, including footwear and appropriate hat.
- Not dress their children in good/expensive clothing where there is a chance they will get stained.
- Ensure children are appropriately protected from the sun (refer to the Sun Safety Policy for further information on hats and clothing).
- Ensure their children's clothing accommodates for the weather conditions. i.e. loose and cool in the summer and warm enough for the winter.
- Ensure their children have appropriate footwear that enables them to play comfortably and not cause safety concerns. i.e. thongs or backless shoes do not allow children to use equipment safely.
- Ensure clean and appropriate spare clothing is available in their child's bag.
- Ensure clothing and belongings are clearly labelled with the child's name.
- Be familiar with their child's clothing fabric to minimise allergies and reactions.

Resources and References

1. Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (
2. Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National regulations
3. Guide to the National Quality Standard
4. Cancer Council Australia – www.cancer.org.au
5. Staying Healthy in Childcare 5th Edition
6. Red Nose – <https://rednose.com.au>

Updated: June 2020