



Governance

Document Control

| Revision Number | Implementation Date | Review Date | Prepared By | Approved By |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 1 | April 2023 | November 2023 | Katherine Darroch | |

Rationale

The Governance Policy provides the overall direction, effectiveness, supervision and accountability of a Service. Management are responsible for guiding the direction of the service, ensuring that its goals and objectives are met in line with the philosophy, and all legal and regulatory requirements governing the operation of the service.

National Quality Standard (NQS)

| Quality Area 7: Governance and Leadership | | |
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| 7.1 | Governance | Governance supports the operation of a quality service |
| 7.1.2 | Management Systems | Systems are in place to manage risk and enable the effective management and operation of a quality service |
| 7.1.3 | Roles and Responsibilities | Roles and responsibilities are clearly defines, and understood and support effective decision making and operation of the service |
| 7.2 | Leadership | Effective leadership builds and promotes a positive organisational culture and professional learning community |
| 7.2.1 | Continuous improvement | There is an effective self-assessment and quality improvement process In place |
| 7.2.2 | Educational leadership | The educational leader is supported and leads the development and implementation of the educational program and assessment and planning cycle |
| 7.2.3 | Development of professionals | Educators, co-ordinations and staff members” performance is regularly evaluated and individual plans are in place to support learning and development. |

Education and Care Services National Regulations

| Children (Education and Care Services) National Law | |
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| Sec. 13 | Matters to be taken into account in assessing whether fit and proper person |
| Sec. 14 | Regulatory Authority may seek further information |
| Sec. 21 | Reassessment of fitness and propriety |
| Sec. 51 | Conditions on service approval |
| Sec. 162 | Offence to operate education and care service unless responsible person is present |
| Sec.172 | Offence to fail to display prescribed information |
| Sec. 173 | Offence to fail to notify certain circumstances to Regulatory Authority |
| Sec. 174 | Offence to fail to notify certain information to Regulatory Authority |
| Sec. 175 | Offence relating to requirement to keep enrolment and other documents |
| Sec.188 | Offence to engage person to whom prohibition notice applies |
| 29 | Condition on service approval-insurance |
| 31 | Condition on service approval-quality improvement plan |
| 55 | Quality improvement plan |
| 56 | Review and revision of quality improvement plans |

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| 73 | Educational program |
| 74 | Record of child assessments or evaluations for delivery of educational program |
| 84 | Awareness of child protection law |
| 85 | Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures |
| 117B | Minimum requirements for person in day-to-day charge |
| 157 | Access for parents |
| 158 | Children's attendance record to kept by approved provider |
| 161 | Authorisations to be kept in enrolment record |
| 162 | Health information to be kept in enrolment record |
| 167 | Record of service's compliance |
| 168 | Education and care services must have policies and procedures |
| 170 | Policies and procedures to be followed |
| 171 | Policies and procedures to be kept available |
| 172 | Notification of change to policies and procedures |
| 173 | Prescribed information to be displayed |
| 176 | Time to notify certain information to Regulatory Authority |
| 177 | Prescribed enrolment and other documents to be kept by approved provider |
| 180 | Evidence of prescribed insurance |
| 181 | Confidentiality of records kept by approved provider |
| 181-184 | Confidentiality and storage of records |
| 185 | Law and regulations to be available |

Related Policies

Acceptance and Refusal Authorisation Policy
Administration of First Aid Policy
Code of Conduct Policy
Child Safe Environment Policy
Control of Infectious Diseases Policy
Dealing with Complaints Policy
Delivery of Children to and Collection from EEC Service Policy
Emergency and Evacuation Policy
Interactions with Children, Staff and Families Policy

Medical Conditions Policy
Payment of Fees Policy
Privacy and Confidentiality Policy
Sleep and Rest Policy
Staffing Arrangements Policy
Student and Volunteer Policy
Sun Safety Policy
Water Safety Policy

Purpose

Our Service aims to ensure all legal and financial requirements are implemented and recognised through appropriate governance practices, providing quality education and care, meeting the principles, practices and elements of the Early Years Learning Framework and the National Quality Standard.

Scope

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor and visitors of the Service.

Implementation

Under the Education and Care Services National Regulations, the approved provider must ensure that policies and procedures are in place in relation to the governance and management of the service (regulation 168) and that they take reasonable steps to ensure those policies and procedures are followed (regulation 170). ACECQA 2021

Governance is the process that directs and controls our Service, ensuring accountability, and supporting decision making. The Approved Provider and Nominated Supervisor of the Service accept the legal responsibilities associated with establishing, administering, and maintaining the Service. Our Service has the following established positions:

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| Approved Provider | Seventh-Day Adventist Schools (Victoria) Ltd |
| Person with Management Control | Chief Executive Officer - Adventist Schools Victoria |
| Nominated Supervisor | As listed in each Service |
| Educational Leader | As listed in each Service |
| Responsible Persons | As listed in each Service |
| Leader Educators | As listed in each Service |

The Approved Provider is legally responsible for:

- Ensuring compliance with the Education and Care Services National Law and Education and Care Services National Regulations
- Complying with Family Assistance Law
- Appointing a Nominated Supervisor, an Educational Leader and a Director/coordinator for the Service
- Displaying the prescribed information as listed in Regulation 173 including the current rating levels for each quality area stated in the National Quality Standard
- Ensuring background checks, including criminal history and/or working with children checks, are completed for all staff and educators
- Determining whether or not a person working in the service is a 'fit and proper person'
- Provide information to the regulatory authority upon request in relation to being a 'fit and proper person'
- Implementing a probation and induction orientation program to ensure employees are aware of their roles and responsibilities, understanding of the values and organisational culture of the Service, policies and procedures, child protection law and other legislation
- Supporting the Nominated Supervisor [Responsible Persons] in their role, providing adequate resources to ensure effective administration of the Service
- Developing a clear and agreed philosophy, which guides business decisions and the work of management and staff
- Acting honestly and with due diligence
- Ensuring that families of enrolled children have access to enter the premises (regulation 157)

- Ensuring there is a sound foundation of policies and procedures that complies with all legislative and regulatory requirements, and that enables the daily operation of the Service to be in line with the Service's philosophy and goals
- Maintaining up to date and current policies and procedures for compliance by all educators
- Ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of children and taking every reasonable precaution to protect children from harm or hazard
- Ensuring policies and procedures are followed in the event that a child is injured, becomes ill or suffers a trauma (Reg.85)
- Confirming incident, injury, illness or trauma records are stored in a safe and secure place until the child is 25 years of age. In the event of a death of child while being cared for by the service or may have occurred as a result of an incident, the records must be kept until 7 (seven) years after the death.
- Being an employer, including all legal and ethical responsibilities that this entails
- Appointing staff and monitoring their performance
- Ensuring educator qualification requirements are current
- Ensuring all educators and staff have a clear understanding of the hierarchy of management.
- Providing clear and direct written and verbal feedback and instruction that is suitable and appropriate to the task
- Ensuring the Service remains financially viable and can meet its debts and other obligations as they fall due
- Ensuring the Service holds a current insurance policy for public liability with a minimum cover of \$10, 000, 000 [or public liability provided by the Government of a State or Territory in respect for an education and care service]
- Managing control and accountability systems
- Reviewing the Service's budget and monitoring financial performance and management to ensure the Service is solvent at all times and has sound financial strength
- Approving annual financial statements and providing required reports to government bodies and maintaining appropriate delegations and internal controls
- Complying with funding agreements where appropriate
- Reviewing the work process regularly
- Completing a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) for the Service and updating it at least annually
- Ensuring the QIP is updated upon request by the regulatory authority and submitted to the regulatory authority upon request (Reg. 31, 56)
- Developing coherent aims and goals that reflect the interests, values and beliefs of all stakeholders of the Service
- Establishing clearly defined roles and responsibilities for the members of the Management Committee and staff, individually and as a collective, and clearly articulating the relationship between all stakeholders
- Evaluating and improving the performance of the Management Committee.
- Ensuring the educational program is based on an approved learning framework (EYLF) and contributes to each child's sense of identity and wellbeing
- Complying with all other Victorian and Australian governments' legislation that impacts upon the management and operations of a Service.
- Ensuring all notification and reporting requirements are met regarding the National Quality Framework and other legislation
- Ensuring a copy of the Education and Care Services National Regulations and National Law is available at all times at the service for use by educators, staff, families and visitors (Reg. 185)

- Ensuring that requirements relating to the physical environment, space, equipment and facilities are met
- Notifying families at least 14 days before changes to policy or procedures that:
 - o affect the fees charged or the way they are collected
 - o significantly impact the service's education and care of children, or
 - o significantly impact the family's ability to utilise the service.

The Nominated Supervisor is responsible for:

- Adhering to the National Education and Care Service Regulations and National Law.
- Developing ethical standards and a code of conduct which guide actions and decisions in a way that is consistent and reflective of the Service's expectations.
- Undertaking periodical planning and risk assessments and having appropriate risk management strategies in place to manage risks faced by the Service.
- Ensuring that the actions of and decisions made are clear and consistent and will help build confidence in all stakeholders.
- The day to day management of the Service.
- Ensuring all notification and reporting requirements are met regarding the National Quality Framework and other legislation
- The effectiveness of the Service's well-defined partnership between the Approved Provider and the Nominated Supervisor. The partnership requires clear understanding of roles and responsibilities, and regular and open communication.
- Producing outcomes together with Educators and Staff. Educators must agree on their responsibilities and work according to current policies and procedures.
- Providing educators with training, resources and support.
- Identifying and reporting if something significant occurs (for example: Work Health and Safety; Fraud Prevention; Complaint handling).
- Identifying work required for completion and delegate to Educators/staff.
- Ensuring Educators and Staff do not delegate responsibilities for which they are accountable for or have been delegated to them by Management.
- Delegate all tasks in writing with a clear due date.
- Ensuring Educators are adhering to service policies and procedures.

Service Philosophy

- The development and review of the philosophy and policies will be a continuous process on an annual basis or when required.
- The philosophy and associated statement of purpose will reinforce all other documentation and the practices of the Service. The philosophy will reflect the principles of the approved national framework "*Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia*" and "*My Time, Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia*" and "*My Time, Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia*"
- There will be a collaborative and consultative process to support the development of the philosophy that will include children, parents and Educators.
- All documents will be dated and include nominated review dates.

Code of Conduct

The standards of behaviour outlined in our Code of Conduct Policy provide guidance for all staff to make personal and ethical decisions related to confidentiality, recruitment, duty of care, record keeping, professional relationships and appropriate use of resources within the Service.

Confidentiality

All members of the Management Committee along with the Nominated Supervisor, Educators and Staff who gain access to confidential information, whether in the course of their work or otherwise, shall not disclose information to anyone unless the disclosure of such information is required by law and will respect the confidentiality of all documents and meetings that occur. Child Information Sharing may be mandated to promote children's wellbeing and safety under state/territory legislation.

This also includes:

- Using information acquired for their personal or financial benefit, or for the benefit of any other person
- Permitting any unauthorised person to inspect, or have access to any confidential documents or other information.
- Any information received or transmitted via mobile telephone (including text/SMS) or any other electronic device (e.g. email) shall be treated with the same confidentiality as any other written form of communication and must be stored confidentially.

This obligation, placed on a member of the Committee of Management, Nominated Supervisor, Educator and Staff shall continue even after the individual has completed their term and is no longer on the Management Committee or employed by the Service. The obligation to maintain confidentiality also applies to any person who is invited to any meetings of the Management Committee.

Ethical decision-making

Our Service will make decisions which are consistent with our policies and procedures which work in conjunction with the national education and care law and regulations, our approved learning framework (EYLF) and the ethical standards within the ECA Code of Ethics.

Review and Evaluation of the Service

- Ongoing review and evaluation will support the continuing development of the Service. We will ensure that the evaluation involves all stakeholders.
- The development of a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) will form part of the reflection procedure. Reflection on what works within the Service and what needs additional development. This will be included in the QIP.

Maintenance of Records

- The Service will adhere to record keeping requirements outlined in the National Regulations (177).
- The Service will adhere to the storage of confidential records outlined in the National Regulations (181-184).
- The Service has a responsibility to keep sufficient records about staff, families and children in order to operate dependably and lawfully.
- The Service will safeguard the interests of the children and their families and the staff, using procedures to ensure appropriate privacy and confidentiality practice is upheld
- The Approved Provider assists in determining the process, storage place and time line for storage of records.
- The Service's orientation and induction processes will include the provision of significant information to managers, educators, children and families to comply with National Regulations and Standards.
- The Approved Provider will need to ensure that the record retention procedure meets the requirements of the following government departments:
 - Australian Tax Office (ATO)
 - Family Assistance Office (FAO)
 - Family Assistance Law
 - National Law and Regulations

Managing conflicts of interest

- Conflict of interest, whether actual, potential or perceived, must be declared by all members of the Management Committee/Nominated Supervisor, Senior Staff and managed effectively to ensure integrity.
- Every stakeholder that is in a position of management has a responsibility to ensure their transactions, external business interests and relationships will not provide potential conflicts and to make such disclosures in a timely manner as they arise.
- The following process will be followed to manage any conflicts of interest:
 1. Whenever there is a conflict of interest, the member concerned must notify the Approved Provider about the conflict.
 2. The member who is conflicted must not be present during the meeting of the Management Committee or Management meeting where the matter is being discussed, or participate in any decisions made on that matter. The member concerned must provide the committee / Licensee with any and all relevant information they possess on the particular matter.
 3. The minutes of the meeting must reflect that the conflict of interest was disclosed and appropriate processes followed to manage the conflict.
 4. A conflict of interest disclosure statement must be completed by each member of the Management Committee / Staff member upon his or her appointment and annually thereafter. If the information in this statement changes during the year, the member shall disclose the change to the President / Licensee, and revise the disclosure statement accordingly.

Continuous Improvement/Reflection

Our Governance Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis in consultation with children, families, staff, educators and management.

Source

- Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).
- ACECQA. (2021). Policy and procedure guidelines. *Governance and Management Guidelines*.
- Australian Government. Department of Education. Child Care Provider Handbook. (2019). (2022)
<https://www.education.gov.au/child-care-package/child-care-provider-handbook>
- Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).
- Early Learning Association Australia (ELLA) Employee management and development kit (2014)
<https://elaa.org.au/resources/free-resources/employee-management-development-kit/>
- Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2018).
- Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2011).
- Guide to the National Quality Framework. (2017). (Amended 2020).
- Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Cth).

Review

| Policy Reviewed | Modifications | Next Review Date |
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