

## 2.6 FIRE SAFETY AND EDUCATION STATEMENT

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### INTRODUCTION

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Children under 5 years of age are, tragically, twice as likely as are older children to suffer fatal injuries in fires. Regrettably these fires are more likely to have been lit by young children and/or electrical appliances and faults. It is vital, therefore, to provide information to young children in order to prevent them from 'playing' with fire, and to give them survival techniques to avoid serious injury.

### PURPOSE

Lindfield Montessori Preschool provides and maintains a safe learning environment for the children in compliance with all relevant fire and building regulations, continuing fire safety education for all children.

### STRATEGIES

Lindfield Montessori Preschool endeavours to protect the life of all staff and children on the premises in the event of a fire by following these procedures:

#### **Fire Precautionary Measures**

- A smoke detector is installed adjacent to the kitchen. The smoke detector is tested each year at the beginning of day light saving and batteries replaced as needed.
- Diagrams of the building, showing exit doors and the location of fire-fighting equipment are displayed by the three main exits, and a summary of emergency evacuation procedures.
- One main exit, chosen because it is visible from all parts of the room, has been fitted with an illuminated EXIT sign with an independent power source, in accordance with advice from a qualified safety adviser.
- Fire Brigade and other emergency numbers are clearly displayed near the telephone.
- All doors forming part of an exit are to remain readily operable at all times without a key and by single hand action.
- The exit doors swing in the direction of exit travel from the building.
- Obstructions which affect the use of any exit or escape path are not allowed.
- Electrical installations must conform to the requirements of the current S.A.A. Wiring Code. The Nominated Supervisor is to have them checked every 2 years by a qualified person. Records of electrical testing and maintenance procedures are kept in the OH&S file in the office. The Nominated Supervisor is to ensure it is kept current and that the required testing takes place.
- Power boards are not to be overloaded.

- Power outlets within children's reach are to be fitted with appropriate safety devices when not in use.
- Rubbish is to be stored in the bins provided and disposed of promptly. Rubbish and garden debris must not be allowed to accumulate in the play area.
- In accordance with legislation, a 'No Smoking' policy is to be observed within the building at all times, and outside the building when the preschool is in operation.
- Staff are to know the location of firefighting equipment.

### **Fire Extinguishers**

A carbon dioxide extinguisher - safe for electrical fires, flammable liquids and general use – and a fire blanket are installed just outside the kitchen area. The Nominated Supervisor is to ensure that this fire protection equipment is tested biannually, in accordance with AS 1851.1 – 1995 for Level 1 Service and kept in proper working condition.

(Note: In this clause AS 1851.1 means the standard published by Standards Australia under the title "Maintenance of Fire Protection Equipment, Part 1: Portable Fire Extinguishers and Fire Blankets", and numbered AS 1851.1- 1995, as in force from 1st August, 1996.)

### **Education**

- Children are informed about fire hazards and preventative measures.
- Children learn how to dial 000 and that anyone discovering a fire should notify others.
- The children's program covers the need to be careful with matches, stoves, heaters, candles, barbecues, etc. Children should know these are tools not toys.
- Children are advised to alert an adult if there is smoke.
- Children are prepared by knowledge of the STOP, DROP and ROLL as well as GET DOWN LOW AND GO GO GO techniques.
- Children are informed that remaining calm in an emergency is practised in evacuation drills because it can save lives.

### **Evacuation**

Regular evacuation practices are to be carried out with the children at least every three months, in accordance with the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2012. Each is to be treated as a real emergency.

The initial practice consists of a full explanation and guided walk through of the procedure at the beginning of the year. It is followed by a surprise drill. This method enables us to check the children's understanding of the procedure and increase the speed with which we exit the building.

The location of the emergency bag is varied to ensure we practice using all 5 classroom exits during the drills.

A record of the drill and an evacuation evaluation form is completed and kept in the OH&S folder in the office, recording the drills children have participated in during the school year (including the number of children and staff present, names of children absent, location of fire, report and follow up).

The Nominated Supervisor is to ensure that the children’s emergency bag contains current, correct parent contact details at all times.

Staff members should regularly review their roles regarding evacuations.

*Note: Lindfield Montessori is in the Fire Brigade area covered by the Pymble Fire Station*

STATEMENT REVIEWED	MODIFICATIONS	NEXT REVIEW DATE
November 2021	Updated copy	2023