



# Star of the Sea School

*OSHC*  
*Water Policy*

*Open Hearts Open Minds*



## **SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT**

Our school is built on the core values of respect, inclusivity, compassion, collaboration and honesty. We support our families as the first and foremost educators of their child's faith development. Our vision paves the way for educating students for the 21st century but also draws from our history and tradition.

We guide our learners to be self-managed, innovative and critical thinkers who have a strong sense of who they are and their relationship in their world. As a learning community, we value the skills necessary to build meaningful relationships and for learners to be connected to each opportunity to develop their own personal growth. We encourage our learners to question, explore and discover so they actively contribute to a more compassionate society.

## **PURPOSE**

At Star of the Sea School, we believe safety, a basic human right, is a pre-requisite for our school to be able to carry out our mission to educate.

Children have the right to be emotionally and physically safe at all times. Although the protection and safety of children is fundamentally the responsibility of families, we endeavour to support this premise.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children through vigilant, intentional, and consistent active supervision practices around water. It provides clear guidelines for staff to effectively observe, anticipate, and respond to children's needs in all environments to prevent harm and promote a safe learning atmosphere.

Catholic schools operate in a wider community context where legal requirements exist and where they have an obligation to students.

## HOW THE POLICY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED

To ensure the safety of children around bodies of water, the service will:

- Conduct a thorough risk assessment to determine the appropriate educator-to-child ratio for the planned activity.
- Ensure that educators present hold a current and approved first aid qualification, including CPR.
- Prioritise venues that offer additional supervision through qualified lifeguards.
- Position educators strategically to allow for direct and active supervision of all children accessing or near a body of water.
- Avoid any venue with a body of water if adequate safety precautions cannot be confidently implemented.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Director is responsible for:

- Actively selecting venues that offer additional supervision—such as qualified lifeguards—when the location includes or provides access to a body of water.
- Ensuring all educators possess the necessary skills and competencies to safely facilitate water-based activities.
- Overseeing that educators position themselves strategically within the environment to ensure every child remains within sight of an adult at all times. Supervision must be direct, vigilant, and dynamic, with staff regularly rotating positions to maintain a high level of alertness and coverage.
- Assigning specific educators to supervise children from within the water during swimming excursions to ensure close and immediate support.
- Conducting thorough risk assessments for any venue being considered for visits, to confirm that the level of supervision is adequate and that potential risks remain within the service's capacity to manage and mitigate.
- Ensuring that risk assessments are also completed for any planned activity that provides children access to a body of water, regardless of location.

## POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains effective and relevant to the needs of our school community.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPROVAL

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, students, and the broader school community and was approved on \_\_\_\_\_.

## REVISION RECORD

Implemented	November 2024
Ratified by School Board	
Last Reviewed	24 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
Next Review	June 2026