

Ngarri Primary School - Snake Management Policy



Help for non-English speakers.

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact administration.

PURPOSE

Ngarri Primary School is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for the community and we aim to take every reasonable precaution to protect children and staff from hazards associated with a snake being on the premises. This policy aims to define the risks of snakes at Ngarri Primary School, procedures for preventing snake bites and the appropriate response for dealing with a snake sighting and possible bite.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- all staff, including casual relief staff and volunteers
- all students
- staff, students and visitors of the Out of School Hours Care Service
- contractors

POLICY

Risks of Snakes at Ngarri Primary School

As Ngarri Primary School is located in a semi-rural area and partly surrounded by bushland and waterways, it is likely that we will have snake encounters from time to time within the school grounds. Snakes are most active during the day and prevalent in the warmer months (September to April) but they could be encountered on a sunny day at any time of the year. There can also be increased snake movement in new areas close to residential or commercial development, where snakes are forced out of their natural habitat.

Several species of snakes exist in the Wyndham area, most commonly the Tiger Snake, Eastern Brown Snake and the Little Whip Snake. Unprovoked snakes rarely attack humans and are generally shy, timid animals that will avoid conflict if given the opportunity. Bites can occur when people try to kill snakes. Only trained snake controllers should be used to manage snakes.

Care should also be taken on school camps and excursions, where this policy applies.

Education:

- Staff to discuss snake safety with students reinforcing that staff and students are to never approach or attempt to apprehend a snake.
- Educate children and adults about snake safety through school assemblies, newsletters etc especially at the beginning of snake season.
- Make the Snake Management Policy available for parents and staff to access on our school website.
- Principal ensures that 'Snake Safety Drills' are carried out and recorded in the Emergency Management Drill register each year.
- Educate Grounds/Maintenance staff on snake management strategies, such as keeping the grass short and maintained, complete regular yard inspections looking for water sources, desirable hiding places particularly around the buildings and garden beds.
- Provide first aid training for staff, to include first aid for snake bites

Course of action when a snake is seen:

[Students: What to do if you see a snake \(Appendix 3\)](#)

- If the snake is in a strike pose (upright), stay very still and call for help
- If the snake is lying flat, move slowly and calmly away from the snake
- Inform a yard duty teacher of exactly where you saw the snake
- Do not scream and run
- Follow the teachers' instructions and REMAIN CALM

[Staff on duty: What to do if you see a snake \(Appendix 4\)](#)

- DO NOT attempt to touch or harm the snake, give the snake plenty of room
- Calmly move students away from the snake
- Send for help - use the [Snake Zone cards \(Appendix 1\)](#) and send a child to the office with this card or use your mobile phone to contact the office
- Staff to ensure that all students have been either moved to a safe area, or if the Leadership team deem it necessary, put the school into lockdown.
- Once the area is clear of children and other adults, a staff member should inspect the site of the snake sighting, from a safe distance. Do not flush out the snake.
- Administer first aid in the event of a snake bite
- Monitor the safe from a safe distance (at least 5m away) until the snake catcher arrives.

Admin/Leadership staff:

- Once alerted to a snake sighting, inform Leadership team so that they can support/send support to staff on duty
- Contact our local snake catcher, **Jarrold Bingham on 0423 474 604**, and he will advise of what to do next.
- Keep communication open with yard duty teacher and support as necessary

First Aid for snake bites

If you or another person is bitten:

Assume ALL snakes are venomous, and take the following action:

- Do not panic. Encourage the patient to remain calm, get them to lay down (do not move them) and call for help (send a student or call the **office on 8764 3999**).
- Do not wash the bite site. Traces of venom that are left on the skin can be used to identify the snake.
- Have another member of staff call 000 (if they are standing next to you) and seek medical help while doing the following -
 - follow the 'What to do - pressure bandage and immobilise' procedure from the [St John's Ambulance - First Aid Fact Sheet: Snake Bite \(Appendix B\)](#)
 - immobilise the limb with a splint. Do not elevate the limb or allow the patient to attempt to stand up/walk. Movement will encourage the spread of the venom through the body.
- Do not cut or suck the venom out or apply a tourniquet.
- Be prepared - a resuscitation may be required.

Appendix 1:

[Snake Zone Cards \(add link to Google Doc\)](#)

<p>A SNAKE has been sighted in:</p> <p>ZONE 1 Gag Pit to Front Gate</p> <p>Please activate the Snake Safety Plan.</p>	<p>A SNAKE has been sighted in:</p> <p>ZONE 2 Foundation Playground</p> <p>Please activate the Snake Safety Plan.</p>
<p>A SNAKE has been sighted in:</p> <p>ZONE 3 1/2 Playground</p> <p>Please activate the Snake Safety Plan.</p>	<p>A SNAKE has been sighted in:</p> <p>ZONE 4 Basketball Courts</p> <p>Please activate the Snake Safety Plan.</p>
<p>A SNAKE has been sighted in:</p> <p>ZONE 5 Oval/Portables</p> <p>Please activate the Snake Safety Plan.</p>	<p>A SNAKE has been sighted in:</p> <p>OTHER Please Specify</p> <p>Please activate the Snake Safety Plan.</p>



First aid fact sheet

Snake bite



All known or suspected snake bites must be treated as potentially life-threatening, and medical aid should be sought urgently.

Signs and symptoms

Signs of a snake bite are not always visible. In some cases, the patient may not have felt anything. Symptoms may not appear for an hour or more after the person has been bitten.

Depending on the type of snake, signs and symptoms can include some or all of the following:

- immediate or delayed pain at the bite site
- swelling, bruising or local bleeding
- bite marks (usually on a limb) that can vary from obvious puncture wounds to scratches that can be almost invisible
- swollen and tender glands in the groin or armpit of the bitten limb
- faintness, dizziness
- nausea and vomiting
- headache
- abdominal pain
- oozing of blood from the bite site or gums
- double or blurred vision
- drooping eyelids
- difficulty in speaking or swallowing
- limb weakness or paralysis
- difficulty in breathing
- occasionally, initial collapse or confusion followed by partial or complete recovery.

What to do

Pressure bandage & immobilise

- 1 Follow DRSABCD.
- 2 Call Triple Zero (000) for an ambulance.
- 3 Lie the patient down and ask them to keep still. Reassure the patient.
- 4 If on a limb, apply an elasticised roller bandage (10–15 cm wide) over the bite site as soon as possible.
- 5 Apply a further elasticised roller bandage (10–15 cm wide), starting just above the fingers or toes and moving upwards on the bitten limb as far as can be reached.
 - Apply the bandage as firmly as possible to the limb. You should be unable to easily slide a finger between the bandage and the skin.
- 6 Immobilise the bandaged limb using splints.
- 7 Write down the time of the bite and when the bandage was applied. If possible, mark the location of the bite site (if known) on the skin with a pen, or photograph the site. Do not wash venom off the skin or clothes because it can assist identification.
- 8 Stay with the patient until medical aid arrives.



In a medical emergency call Triple Zero (000)

DRSABCD Danger ▶ Response ▶ Send for help ▶ Airway ▶ Breathing ▶ CPR ▶ Defibrillation

You could save a life with first aid training • www.stjohn.org.au • 1300 360 455



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Students: What to do if you see a snake (Appendix 3)

SNAKE SIGHTING

STUDENTS:

- Do not scream or run
- If the snake is in a strike pose (upright), stay very still and call for help
- If the snake is laying flat, move slowly and calmly away from the snake
- Inform a yard duty teacher of exactly where you saw the snake
- Follow the teachers instructions and REMAIN CALM

 **Ngarri**
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Appendix 4:

Staff on duty: What to do if you see a snake (Appendix 4)

SNAKE SIGHTING

STAFF:

- DO NOT attempt to touch or harm the snake, give the snake plenty of room
- Calmly move students away from the snake
- Send for help
use the Snake Zone cards and send a child to the office with this card or use your mobile phone to contact the office
- Staff to ensure that all students have been either moved to a safe area, or if the Leadership team deem it necessary, put the school into lockdown.
- Once the area is clear of children and other adults, a staff member should inspect the site of the snake sighting, from a safe distance. Do not flush out the snake.
- Administer first aid in the event of a snake bite
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FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Wyndham City Council

<https://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/pets-animals/animal-complaints-pests/snakes>

St John's Ambulance

https://stjohn.org.au/assets/uploads/fact%20sheets/english/Fact%20sheets_snake%20bite.pdf



POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	October 2025
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	2028 - to ensure ongoing relevance and continuous improvement, this policy will be reviewed every 3-4 years.

Review and feedback

We recognise that our school's practices must be regularly reviewed and updated in partnership with our families and local communities. We encourage you to contact Ngarri Primary School with any feedback, concerns or suggestions.