

# COONARA EARLY LEARNING CENTRE POLICY NO: 17

## STUDENT, VOLUNTEER AND VISITOR POLICY

Our Service values the participation of students and volunteers. Having students and voluntary workers within the Service helps to inform the community about our program and the value of the work we do. Students and voluntary workers and visitors are welcome at the Service; however, the children’s care and safety are our first priority.

### NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 7: GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP		
7.1	Governance	Governance supports the operation of a quality service.
7.1.1	Service philosophy and purposes	A statement of philosophy guides all aspects of the service’s operations.
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 defined 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.
7.2.2	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 LAW AND REGULATIONS	
Sec. 170	Offence relating to unauthorised persons on education and care service premises
Sec. 175	Offence relating to requirement to keep enrolment and other documents
83	Staff members and family day care educators not to be affected by alcohol or drugs
84	Awareness of child protection law
120	Educators who are under the age of 18 to be supervised

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145	Staff Records
149	Volunteers and Students
168	Policies and Procedures
170	Policies and procedures to be followed
172	Notification of change to policies or procedures

### RELATED POLICIES

Bullying, Discrimination and Harassment Policy	Interactions with Children, Families and Staff
Code of Conduct Policy	Policy
Child Protection Policy	Privacy and Confidentiality Policy
Child Safe Environment Policy	Respect for Children Policy
Dealing with Complaints Policy	Staffing Arrangements Policy
Family Communication Policy	Supervision Policy
	Work, Health and Safety Policy

### PURPOSE

Our Service supports participation of work placement students (including work experience students) and volunteers wanting to develop professional skills and knowledge in their effort to become Early Childhood Professionals.

Our service aims to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children enrolled at the service by having a process in place to accurately and securely record information about visitors, students and volunteers. To ensure a professional and pleasurable learning experience, students and volunteers will be encouraged to participate in the centre's daily routine and assist in accordance with their qualification level to work with children under the National Quality Framework requirements. Our Service will ensure no child or children are left alone with a visitor, student or volunteer.

### SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, staff, management, Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, students, volunteers and visitors (including contractors) of the Service.

## COONARA EARLY LEARNING CENTRE POLICY NO: 17 IMPLEMENTATION

We have a strong commitment to provide a range of opportunities for volunteers, students and visitors to participate in programs and activities while adhering to clear guidelines regarding appropriate interactions and communication with staff, and other adults and children at the Service.

A visitor may include, but is not limited to:

- Families looking to enrol their child/ren and are provided with an opportunity to view the service
- Inclusion support workers/ Allied Health Workers
- Trades person (plumber, carpenter, electrician)
- Community members contributing to the educational program such as through story or music
- Authorised Officer (Department of Education, Regulatory authority, SafeWork, Police)
- Students or Volunteers
- Educators visiting from another service
- TAFE/Uni/RTO Teachers
- Performers/ Entertainers/ Presenters

### THE APPROVED PROVIDER/MANAGEMENT/NOMINATED SUPERVISOR WILL:

- ensure all educators, staff, students, volunteers and visitors have knowledge of and adhere to this policy
- ensure the student or volunteer completes a *Student and Volunteer Application Form* prior to commencement of work placement, recording their full name, address, and date of birth
- ensure a *Visitor Register* is maintained, including
  - date
  - reason for visit
  - full name
  - time of arrival and departure
  - company (if applicable)
  - Working with Children Check
- ensure the *visitor register* is kept in a safe and secure location
- ensure all visitors complete and sign the *Visitor Register*
- ensure students, volunteers and/or visitors are under the direct supervision of the approved provider, nominated supervisor, responsible person or educator at all times whilst at the service

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- ensure students, volunteers and/or visitors are never left alone with a child whilst at the service under any circumstance
- provide the student/volunteer with information about Child Protection Law and mandatory reporting obligations
- ensure visitors who may come into direct contact with children submit their Working with Children Check to be verified by the approved provider (best practice)
- appoint an educator to be the Student Supervisor/mentor for the duration of the placement
- conduct an orientation for the student, volunteer or visitor, including taking the student, volunteer or visitor on a tour of the Service, showing emergency exits, staff room and bathroom facilities
- complete the *Student and Volunteer Induction Checklist* with the student or volunteer
- provide the student/volunteer with a *Student and Volunteer Handbook*
- negotiate with the student or volunteer the times/hours to be worked, and dates of the placement.
- advise students or volunteer to bring in a poster with a photo introducing themselves and outlining the reason for their placement
- inform families, children, and educators when work experience students and volunteers are present at the Service, including their role and hours they will be attending the Service
- ensure work placement students or volunteers are never left alone with children
- ensure students or volunteers are not included in the ratio of adult to children
- ensure students and volunteers are aware that they must not discuss concerns, issues or complaints with parents, guardians and/or visitors
- introduce the student or volunteer to educators and the Lead Educator/ Supervisor
- assist the student or volunteer to complete the *Student and Volunteer Induction Checklist*
- show the student, volunteer or visitor where they can access the Service policies
- ensure the student or volunteer has signed a confidentiality agreement prior to commencing their placement
- discuss any relevant important information about specific children to the student or volunteer (i.e. court orders, additional needs, dietary needs) so that the student or volunteer is aware of potential issues
- liaise with learning institutions and accept suitable student placements under the institution's supervision
- assist learning institutions to place suitable students with individual educators
- ensure student's paperwork and insurances are current

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- ensure each student or volunteer holds a current Working with Children Check prior to commencing their placement
- record and verify each student, volunteer or visitors Working with Children Check where required
- ensure that no student, volunteer or visitor is affected by or under the influence of drugs or alcohol while on the service premises when children are being educated and cared for

### TEACHERS/EDUCATORS WILL:

- maintain open communication with work experience students and volunteers along with their practicum teachers about their performance
- support all student's and volunteer's practicum requirements to the best of their ability during the placement
- work as a team sharing appropriate skills and knowledge with each student and volunteer
- ensure all colleagues are provided with relevant information about tasks the student is required to complete in the service as part of their practicum
- be aware of student and volunteer expectations
- have the time and proficiencies to support each student and volunteer in their placement
- encourage students to seek help and advice as required
- be positive role model, showing appropriate behaviour and conduct themselves in a professional manner
- guide the students or volunteer throughout the day
- make the student or volunteer feel welcome and a valued member of the team
- ensure all visitors complete and sign the *Visitor Register*
- ensure the student, volunteer or visitor is not left alone with a child or children whilst at the service under any circumstance
- ensure students, volunteers and/or visitors are under the direct supervision of the approved provider, nominated supervisor, responsible person or educator at all times whilst at the service

### THE LEAD EDUCATOR WILL

- discuss the progress of written work and performance with the student or volunteer
- discuss any concerns raised by the student with the Student Supervisor
- ensure students or volunteers are directly supervised at all times during children's nappy change times

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- encourage students and volunteers to use their initiative
- ensure the student or volunteer remains up to date with their assessments/tasks to be completed
- discuss concerns with student or volunteer with management
- never leave the student or volunteer alone with a child or children
- provide honest and accurate feedback to the student's training institution supervisor as required

### WORK EXPERIENCE STUDENTS AND VOLUNTEERS WILL:

- complete the *Student and Volunteer Application Form* prior to the commencement of work placement
- provide Working with Children Check details prior to placement
- learn about the children through interaction and practical experience
- develop the skills and knowledge needed to care for and educate children
- learn about the importance of working as part of a team in the Early Childhood profession
- learn strategies for working in a team environment
- learn and accommodate the expectations of qualified educators in the Service
- inform their room leader in writing of what will be expected of them by their training body, University or School, or any other training organisation, and provide time sheets and evaluation forms
- keep up to date with all written work requirements
- work a variety of shifts to gain knowledge of different aspects of Service operations
- bring in a poster introducing themselves that will include:
  - Name
  - Photo
  - Course they are studying
  - RTO/university/school they are studying with
  - Dates and times they will be at the Service
  - The focus of their study.
- discuss any problems the student may be experiencing with their room leader.
- adhere to all Service policies and procedures
- never remove a child from direct staff supervision

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### PROBITY CHECKS

- All students, volunteers and visitors will supply identity details to the Nominated Supervisor
- All students, volunteers and visitors will complete and provide to the service a Working with Children Check prior to commencing their placement (*best practice for visitors*)
- All students and volunteers will have a meeting with the Nominated Supervisor to receive information regarding the following service policies:
  - Child protection
  - Child Safe Environment
  - Privacy and Confidentiality
  - Dealing with Complaints
  - Work, Health and Safety
  - Code of conduct
  - Photography
  - Social Media

### STUDENTS AT RISK

If educators feel that the student is at risk of failing their practicum, the following steps will be taken:

1. the Lead Educator will alert the student's training institution Supervisor of any concerns regarding the student.
2. both the Student Supervisor and the Lead Educator will discuss concerns with the student.
3. the Lead Educator will arrange for the student's supervisor/assessor to visit the Service and discuss concerns that have ascended.
4. the student's educational institution and Nominated Supervisor will govern the outcome of the practicum.

### TERMINATION OF STUDENT PRACTICUM OR VOLUNTEER PLACEMENT

Termination of a student's or volunteer's placement will occur if the student or volunteer

- harms or is at risk of harming a child in their care
- is under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- fails to notify the Service if they will not be attending the Service
- does not adhere to starting times or break times
- is observed using repeated inappropriate behaviour at the Service
- does not comply with all policies and procedures addressed in the student package

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- does not provide the photo with an introduction on commencement
- does not keep up to date with their work placement tasks
- removes any child or children from the direct supervision of an educator.
- is unable to maintain or hold a current Working with Children Check [prior to commencing their placement].

### CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT/REFLECTION

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

### SOURCES

Australia Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. (2023). [Guide to the National Quality Framework](#).  
 Australian Government Department of Education. [Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia.V2.0, 2022](#)  
 Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2023).  
 Education and Care Services National Regulations. (Amended 2023).  
 Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth).  
 Fair Work Commission: Anti-bullying jurisdiction.  
 Guide to the National Quality Framework. (2018). (Amended 2020).  
 Office of the Director of Equal Opportunity in Public Employment. (1996). [Dealing with employee work-related concerns and grievances: Policy and guidelines](#):  
 Revised National Quality Standards. (2018).  
 Safe Work Australia. (2016). [Guide for preventing and responding to workplace bullying](#)  
 Work Health and Safety Act, 2011.

### REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED BY	Carol Czaplowski	Nominated Supervisor	
POLICY REVIEWED	JANUARY 2024	NEXT REVIEW DATE	JANUARY 2025
VERSION	V1.24		