



**WHEELERS HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL
OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE**

Children’s Belongings Policy

We acknowledge that children may bring certain personal belongings with them to the Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) Program each day, and as such, it is important to clarify responsibilities.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN’S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.2	Safety	Each child is protected.
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard.

QUALITY AREA 5: RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHILDREN		
5.1	Relationships between educators and children	Respectful and equitable relationships are maintained with each child.
5.1.1	Positive educator to child interactions	Responsive and meaningful interactions build trusting relationships, which engage and support each child to feel secure, confident and included.
5.1.2	Dignity and rights of the child	The dignity and rights of every child are maintained.

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL REGULATIONS	
155	Interactions with children
156	Interactions in groups
168	Education and care services must have policies and procedures

PURPOSE

To ensure families and educators are aware of their responsibility regarding children's belonging including keeping them safe.

SCOPE

This policy applies to children, families, educators, the Approved Provider, nominated supervisor and management of the OSHC Program.

IMPLEMENTATION

It can be distressing for children to misplace their toys from home or other personal belongings whilst attending OSHC. At times toys from home can also cause conflict between children. Children often want to share or show other children or educators special items from home, but these treasures may be inadvertently broken or lost. To save the upset and heartache, parents are requested to encourage children to leave their toys at home, unless they are essential to a child's emotional wellbeing and/or sense of belonging (security items).

We have numerous stimulating, challenging and educational toys and resources catering to a range of children's interests that are available to play with each day.

NOMINATED SUPERVISOR AND EDUCATORS WILL:

- allow children to bring personal belongings to share with others and understand that children may frequently have items in their bag that they have taken to their class or for lunch time play. Items may include special items from gifts, holiday souvenirs, or items relating to a current interest.
- facilitate opportunities for children to share their toys/news items with others to encourage:
 - social development
 - language skills
 - children to verbalise thoughts, fears, and feelings
 - broaden the cultural and social understandings of all children involved
 - and provide an opportunity for development of special interests for the group.
- remind families that if they allow children to bring items to the OSHC Program it is completely at the family's own risk

- re-iterate our policy, that if personal belongings are particularly valuable, fragile, or hold irreplaceable emotional value, it is recommended that the child bring in the item, show it to friends and educators, and then have the educator put them in a safe place. This allows for the child to share the excitement and experience without the risk of loss or damage.
- manage any grievances or concerns related to lost, damaged, or stolen property of the children in accordance with the *Dealing with Complaints Policy* and procedure
- Laptops brought in for BYOD program are to be put away safely in a designated cupboard or tub each session and only used for Homework purposes
- Electronic devices are allowed for vacation care programs where the children are allowed to use these in the morning before 10.00am and after 4.00pm. these devices are locked away during the day
- request that if children wish to bring in DVD/Blu-ray or music, these should be discussed with OSHC Co-ordinator/Nominated Supervisor and be 'G-rated'. Although media rated 'PG' (Parental Guidance) is generally appropriate for children, it cannot be assumed that all parents want their children exposed to this rating
- take as much care as possible in ensuring that personal belongings are returned to the correct family. To assist us with this we ask families to ensure that any item that can be labelled, either has the child's name on it, or the child's initials. If an item cannot be labelled, it is the parent's responsibility to advise an educator that their child has this item in their possession.
- encourage children who bring special belongings into care to keep them in their school bags to reduce the prospect of them becoming lost or broken.
- allow children to wear dress-up clothes to the program for specific 'dress-up' days or special occasions
- request that accessories such as guns, knives, swords, or other weaponry is left at home. Such items can encourage violent play and may present a danger to the child and others within our OSHC environment. Any such toys will be removed from the child and placed in the OSHC Office for parental collection at the end of the day.
- take as much care as possible in ensuring that children's clothing items are returned to their correct family. The labelling of all items can help us achieve this. However, the OSHC Service cannot take responsibility for damaged, lost or stolen items.
- actively encourage children to care for their belongings by:
 - reminding children appropriately when belongings need to be placed in their school bag. (For example, lunch box into bag.)

- providing suitable storage to keep belongings safe-bag storage areas
- inform families through relevant newsletters and publications such as the Family handbook of appropriate personal belongings allowed at the OSHC program.

FAMILIES WILL:

- be responsible for providing the child with appropriate belongings and property required for active participation in all program activities and experiences. This property may include (but is not limited to):
 - enclosed footwear and weather appropriate clothing (if not in school uniform)
 - Sunsmart hat – no peak caps
 - suitable school bag (backpack)
 - appropriate food and lunch box for snacks for Vacation Care Programs
- ensure all personal property and belongings are clearly named or labelled.

COMFORT TOYS

School age children sometimes require a security/comfort item. If this is required we recommend children bring something such as a favourite book, small soft toy etc and leave very special items at home.

We encourage families to communicate specific needs of their child directly with OSHC educators.

RELATED POLICIES

Dealing with Complaints Policy (Family) Enrolment Policy	Family Communication Policy Respect for Children Policy
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SOURCE

Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).
 Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).
[Education and Care Services National Regulations](#). (2011).
 Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2017).
 Guide to the National Quality Framework. (2017). (amended 2020).
Privacy Act 1988.
 Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).

Review

Policy Reviewed	School Council approval date	Next Review Date
January 2019		January 2021