

## Bush Park Procedure

**Rationale:** Bush Park provides opportunities to strengthen children's connections with nature and their local community. Positive learning experiences include learning about native habitats and wildlife, flora and fauna as well as creating a sense of understanding about the world. Whaingaroa Childcare encourages Bush Park education to foster children's dispositional learning such as curiosity, imagination and wonder, as well as promoting their health, physical development and well-being in the outdoors. We also acknowledge Taane Mahuta and Papatuaanuku during these experiences and celebrate children's spiritual connections with the earth.

**Objective:** That Whaingaroa Childcare shall provide regular bush park learning opportunities to support their holistic growth.

### Procedure:

- During teacher induction, teachers are made aware of bush park risk management plan.
- Before commencing Bush Park, parent/guardians sign a permission form that includes the risk management plan, vehicle permission and information about how Bush Park operates.
- Children either transported by their parents/caregivers, a teacher in their personal vehicle or via a private hire shuttle bus. All relevant legislations regarding transporting children are followed at all times, including the use of appropriate child restraint that are updated as they expire.
- An attendance register, documenting the time and date is kept for each Bush Park session.
- Bush Park has a specific risk assessment and management plan.
- Kaiako will take with them all equipment necessary to ensure Bush Park is a safe, and educational experience, including first aid supplies, water, clothing, medication, gear bag and a cellphone.
- Parents and whaanau are invited to participate in Bush Park and will be counted in the adult:child ratio if they attend. Kaiako will prepare parents before leaving the centre.
- Whaingaroa Childcare shall provide wet weather gear to ensure children can participate in the programme in all weathers.
- The person responsible is required to hold a First Aid certificate and current teaching certification.
- If a child is lost we would call 111 immediately.
- When at Bush Park, responsibility for caring for the environment will be promoted by respecting living and non-living things.



- Bush Park will actively support children's learning about nature, promoting experiences which develop working theories and care for the living world.
- Kaiako will share the educational purpose of these outdoor experiences with parents and whanau using Story Park and other forms of documentation.

**Date Adopted:** October 2024

**Review Date:** October 2025

**Links to templates**

- Excursions
- Spontaneous excursions
- Bush Park permission form

**Links to licencing criteria**

HS17 -18

**Links to Te Whaariki**

Wellbeing G3	They are kept safe from harm
Belonging G1	Connecting links with the family and the wider world are affirmed and extended
Contribution G1	There are equitable opportunities for learning, irrespective of gender, ability, age, ethnicity or background
Contribution G2	They are affirmed as individuals
Contribution G3	They are encouraged to learn with and alongside others
Exploration G3	They learn strategies for active exploration, thinking and reasoning
Exploration G4	They develop working theories for making sense of the natural, social, physical and material worlds