



Snake Safety Plan Policy

Aim	The purpose of this policy is to set out the policies and procedures in relation to the incidence of personnel at Crossways Lutheran School discovering a snake in the school environment. It also outlines first aid procedures in the case of a snake bite.
Rationale	<p>The Snake Safety Plan has been developed to ensure that the risk of someone being bitten by a snake while at Crossways Lutheran School has been minimised and procedures can be safely administered when a snake is sighted on school property. The Snake Safety Plan is implemented throughout the year.</p> <p>Remember all snakes are protected by law and only venomous snakes that are life threatening may be killed. There is no reason why we can't live in harmony with them provided we respect their presence and take all reasonable precautions when the more venomous of their kind are encountered.</p>
Implementation & Procedures	<p>As Crossways Lutheran School is located in a semi-rural area and partly surrounded by scrub, it is likely we will have snake encounters around the school from time to time. Snakes are most active during the day in Spring, Summer and Autumn. However they can even be active on warm winter days and during warm nights.</p> <p>Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff discuss snake safety with children reinforcing that staff and children are never to approach or attempt to apprehend a snake.• Contact details for snake handlers are included in this policy and located at the office (left hand above cupboard on wall) in the 2021 Local Directory folder – ensure all staff know where to access these numbers.• Educate children and adults about snake safety through school assemblies, newsletters etc, especially at the beginning of snake season.• Invite the local National Parks & Wildlife personnel to the school and talk to students about snakes and snake safety.• Snake Safety Plan available to parents and staff on the school website.• School Principal ensures that Snake Safety Drills are carried out and record on the school calendar.• Grounds/maintenance staff, and other appropriate staff carry out regular yard inspections looking for water sources, desirable hiding places particularly around the buildings during snake season.• Keep grass short and maintained through school maintenance program

Course of action when a snake is seen

If a snake is seen in or around the building or grounds by a staff member, parent or child they are to:

- Assume it to be venomous. All snakes should be regarded as being dangerous. Identification of a snake is difficult and there are serious consequences of wrongly identifying a snake as non-venomous.
- Stay calm and give the snake plenty of space.
- Immediately tell any nearby people to stay well away from the snake while someone alerts the supervising teacher they have seen a snake.
- At least 1 more staff member is called to assist with supervision.
- 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. If the snake is not visible anymore, do not try to flush it out.
- All children must be kept safely away.
- No adult or child should try to kill or catch the snake. The greatest risk of a snake bite from venomous snakes is from people trying to kill or handle them. Snakes can move quickly and it is paramount to ensure your safety and the safety of nearby children.
- As soon as the safety of children and adults is established, immediately contact National Parks and Wildlife to report the snake sighting. The National Parks & Wildlife number in Ceduna is mob: **0428 253 144** or landline: **86 253 144**. They will then advise further course of action.
- Staff member to document the snake sightings and responses in "Snake Sightings Record Book"
- Snake bite first aid emergency kit located in the Server room with the First Aid kit.
- If someone has been bitten by a snake on school site first aid procedures for snake bite need to be implemented, an ambulance called and National Parks & Wildlife needs to be informed by the Principal via a critical incident report.

First aid for snake bites

If you or another person are bitten:-

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

- Do not panic. Try to remain calm, lie down and immobilise the bitten area. It is unlikely that the bite will be life-threatening.
 - Have another member of staff ring 000 and seek medical help while you do the following-
 - Apply a bandage but do not block circulation. Take a broad bandage and bind along the limb starting at the bite area, at the same pressure as for a sprain.
 - Then bandage down the limb and continue back up the entire limb over and above the bite area. This will help prevent the spread of the venom through the body. Do not remove the bandage. It is often easier to go over the top of clothing such as
-

	<p>jeans rather than remove clothing. In an emergency, strips of clothing or pantyhose can be used instead of a bandage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Immobilise the limb with a splint. Lie down and keep the limb completely still until help arrives. Do not elevate the limb or attempt to walk or run. Movement will encourage the spread of the venom through the body. ➤ Do not attempt to catch the snake. All too often, the snake will bite again if an attempt is made to catch it. Identification of the snake species can be obtained through samples of the patient's blood or urine, and from venom around the bite area. If the species of snake still remains uncertain, a poly-antivenene may be used, which is suitable for treatment of all venomous snake bites. ➤ Do not wash the wound. Venom left on the skin will help doctors identify the snake and administer the appropriate antivenene. ➤ Do not cut the wound. This will spread the venom into the bloodstream and can cause more serious injuries than the snake bite itself. ➤ Seek medical help. An antivenene may be required.
--	--

Related Policies	
-------------------------	--

Review Process	Development / Review Team: Governing Board, Principal and Finance Officer Review Period: 3 years
Endorsement	Policy endorsement date: , 2021
Review	Next Review date: , 2024