

# External Policies and Procedures

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A – OSCAR map

## Programme philosophy and environment

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Karori West OSCAR Group (the Group) is a not-for-profit Incorporated Society, comprising of parents/caregivers of enrolled children.

The Group aims to provide safe and stimulating after school care and holiday programmes for children of all different ages, identities and cultural backgrounds. We encompass individual needs to make our community a diverse, fun and active space for kids to express themselves.

Karori West Normal School (KWNS) recognises the importance of the Group in the school community. The Group and KWNS acknowledge that a positive partnership ensures an effective and successful programme. The safety and welfare of our children is of paramount consideration. As such we comply with all relevant legislation and are accredited under the Social Services Accreditation process through the Ministry of Social Development (MSD).

## Programme operation

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### General Structure

The Group operates in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding with KWNS and is governed by a Committee of parent/caregiver volunteers.

The Chair is the head of the Committee and is responsible for overseeing all Committee activities. The other Committee roles include Secretary, Treasurer, Building & Facilities Officer, Funding Officer and Communications & Liaison Officer.

It is the Committee's responsibility to:

- Set an annual budget in consultation with the OSCAR Manager
- Keep clear and accurate financial records
- Arrange auditing of the accounts
- Arrange regular meetings to attend to any necessary business
- Arrange an Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held no later than the 31<sup>st</sup> March of every year
- Employ and oversee the work of the OSCAR Manager and Financial Administrator.

The Group employs an OSCAR Manager to manage the day-to-day running of the programme. The Manager is responsible for employing and managing all Supervisors.

The Group also employs a Financial Administrator to ensure efficient administration of our financial processes and procedures.

### Programme Hours

After school care hours are **3pm to 5:45pm, Monday to Friday**. Note the programme does not operate on public holidays, teacher-only days, or other days during term time when the school is closed. Holiday programme hours are **8am to 5:45pm**.

### Enrolment and Membership

To apply for a place, fill out an Enrolment Form and email it to [admin@kwoscargroup.com](mailto:admin@kwoscargroup.com).

The form is available to download: <https://www.kwoscargroup.com/enrolment>

***Please note:** Demand for places is high and we always have a waiting list. It's therefore advisable that parents/caregivers apply for a place well in advance of actually needing it.*

**IMPORTANT:** At least **three week's written notice** must be given if a family wishes to leave the Group or wishes to change days of attendance.

## Fees and Payment

For our current fees and payment conditions please refer to our Fee Schedule.

The Fee Schedule is available to download here: <https://www.kwoscargroup.com/fees-payments>

For further information, refer to our Credit Policy below.

Some families may be eligible for a Work and Income subsidy.

Visit their website to find out more:

<https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/oscar-subsidy.html>

## Absences

**After school absences must be notified by text or voice mail no later than 2.30pm on the day of the absence.**

**Holiday programme absences must be notified by text or voice mail no later than 9am on the day of the absence.**

The following steps will be taken if a child does not arrive at the programme:

- Parents/caregivers will be telephoned
- If parents/caregivers are unable to be contacted, emergency contacts will be telephoned. The school will also be contacted for any related information.
- If no one is able to be contacted and the absence remains unexplained, the police will be notified.

## Pick-up

Only persons specified on the enrolment form will be able to collect the child. Parents/caregivers must notify us in advance if a person who is not listed on the enrolment form will be collecting their child. If an unauthorised person comes to collect a child, he/she will not be released until we have been able to contact the parents/caregivers for authorisation.

**The sign-out form must be signed by an authorised person collecting a child.**

A child is allowed to leave the programme unaccompanied as long as:

- written permission is given in advance
- and the child notifies a staff member as they are leaving.

If a child is not collected by 5.45pm the following steps will be taken:

- They will be dropped off at the principal's office and parents/caregivers will be contacted.
- If there has been no contact with the parents/caregivers within half an hour of the programme closing (6.15pm), the emergency contacts will be called.
- If the emergency contacts are not able to be contacted, the child will be dropped off at the nearest police station and a note will be left at the programme venue indicating where the child has been taken. The Committee will also be informed.

## Expectations of Parents/Caregivers

Parents/caregivers are expected to be courteous to staff and understand that the harmony of the whole Group is important. If the Manager or a staff member raises an issue about a child's behaviour, parents/caregivers are expected to support them and work with them to resolve any issues.

All parents/caregivers are expected to be involved in the running of the Group, including:

- attending the Group's AGM each year
- holding Committee positions as they become available
- participating in fundraising events or working bees.

Other expectations are as follows:

- keeping their child away from the programme if they have a potentially infectious illness or illness requiring special care
- full disclosure of information relating to any diagnosis or condition their child may have
- notifying the manager of any changes in family circumstances or other factors that may result in a change of behaviour or changing needs of their child
- being aware of parents'/caregivers' responsibilities in regard to the Group's sun-safe policy (see below in the Health and Safety section).
- being liable for any costs incurred if equipment or property is damaged through wilful or reckless behaviour by their child.

## Settling New Children

**All new children will be on a trial period for three months** during which we assess if the children are settling in well and if they align with the programme expectations.

Prior to a child's arrival, the Manager will talk to parents/caregivers about the settling-in routine and anything else the programme should be aware of in regard to the child's situation and needs.

***Please note:** The Group is committed to providing an inclusive, welcoming and harmonious environment for all. Therefore, it is very important that parents/caregivers are open and honest about anything that may affect or be affecting the child or has the potential to affect other children at the programme.*

If a child has trouble settling or is distressed, parents/caregivers will be contacted to discuss solutions to make the transition easier.

For any new entrants, arrangements will be made for them to be collected from their classrooms and/or escorted to the programme by a school staff member.

## Children With Special Needs

Children with special needs or children requiring extra support will not be excluded from the programme, provided the Manager is confident that:

- the child can be safely cared for
- the child's needs can be catered for without negatively affecting the other children
- the child will benefit from being at the programme.

As part of the enrolment process, parents/caregivers will be asked to specify any particular needs of their child. It is important that full disclosure of information relating to any diagnosis or condition the child has must be provided, including details of any medication or required treatment.

The Manager will ensure all staff are fully aware of the child's requirements and confident to provide the necessary care.

If the child requires further aid or support, for example modified facilities or specialist staff, the Manager will consult with the Committee who will make the final decision. Each case will be considered individually, and every effort will be made to include the child within the limits and resources of the programme.

## Cultural Awareness

As part of the enrolment process, parents/caregivers will be asked to specify any particular needs of their child. Cultural requirements will be catered for where possible, and provided that the needs of other children are not compromised.

We encourage children to respect and celebrate different cultures, and as such incorporate a variety of cultural activities into the programme.

## Confidentiality

- At all times the Group will comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act 2020.
- No information is shared except with the owner's permission or as required by legislation. Note we are required by law to allow access of our files to Oranga Tamariki-Ministry for Children and the Ministry of Social Development should they request it.
- All files holding confidential information will be secured and kept away from unauthorised persons.
- Parents/caregivers have the right to view and correct any information relating to their child.
- All personal information shared in discussions between staff or at meetings will remain between those persons.
- All sensitive and personal conversations, including telephone conversations, shall be held discreetly and in private.

## Complaints

The Group has a complaint form which is available on request.

If parents/caregivers have a complaint the general process is as follows:

- Discuss the situation with the Manager who will attempt to rectify the situation. Note: The Manager will keep the Committee informed of any complaints received.
- If the situation cannot be resolved with the Manager, or the complaint is about the Manager, write to the Committee at [committee@kwoscargroup.com](mailto:committee@kwoscargroup.com). The Committee will provide a response within ten working days.
- If required, members of the Committee will arrange a meeting with parents/caregivers to resolve and/or come up with a plan.
- If parents/caregivers feel their complaint has still not been adequately resolved, they can contact the Social Services Accreditation Team at the Ministry of Social Development at [Social\\_Services\\_Accreditation@msd.govt.nz](mailto:Social_Services_Accreditation@msd.govt.nz).

## Credit Policy

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This credit policy covers all programmes run by Karori West OSCAR Group (the Group) including but not limited to:

- After school care
- Holiday programmes
- Any additional care that may be provided during term time, e.g. for teacher only days, strikes or union meetings.

Refer to the **Fee Schedule** which sets out current fees, and summarises payment methods and terms as well as consequences resulting from non-payment, overdue fees and debts.

The Fee Schedule is available to download here: <https://www.kwoscargroup.com/fees-payments>

The Fee Schedule is reviewed and updated annually to ensure costs are reflective of what is needed to run the programmes effectively.

The Fee Schedule will be shared annually with parents at the beginning of each school year, when payment arrangements are provided by the Financial Administrator, or when a child joins the Group.

A **Late Pick-Up Fee** is set out in the Fee Schedule and may be applicable if children are collected after 5.45pm. This is at the OSCAR Manager's discretion and is based on factors such as, degree of lateness, how often late pick-ups occur, additional costs incurred in staffing, etc.

**Any absences are non-refundable.** This applies to all programmes and includes extended absences during term time, e.g. if you take your child out of school for a holiday.

### After School Care

Fees apply for all term days enrolled in the programme including any statutory holidays and teacher only days that fall within term time.

To help minimise time spent chasing unpaid fees we expect fees to be paid by automatic payment as per the payment arrangements provided by the Financial Administrator at the start of each year.

**Automatic payments are to continue throughout the year, including the school holidays.**

Once the full amount of fees for the year has been received, automatic payments are to be suspended until the following school year. The final payment date will be advised in the payment arrangements provided by the Financial Administrator at the start of the year.

New families starting during the year will be emailed an invoice advising the payment arrangements and a copy of the Fee Schedule.

**Alternative payment arrangements must be negotiated with the Financial Administrator**, and are at the discretion of the Committee.

### Holiday Programme and additional care

All children must be booked using the appropriate booking method. This enables the OSCAR Manager to ensure appropriate staffing and resources are procured.

**Please note:** *Holiday Programmes are very popular and places are given on a first-in, first-served basis.*

*A child's place in a programme is not confirmed until a booking using the appropriate method is received AND payment is made.*

Payment is required by the date as stated on the booking form. Any payments received after that date will automatically incur a 15 percent (i.e. 15 percent of the total value of the requested booking) Late Payment Fee.

If a child shows up who does not have a place booked the OSCAR Manager will assess whether there are adequate staffing and resources for the child to be accommodated, and:

1. If the child **CANNOT** be accommodated, a parent or caregiver will be notified and required to collect their child immediately.
2. If the child **CAN** be accommodated, a parent or caregiver will be notified and advised that the child can remain but that a \$20 non-booking fee will apply in addition to the standard cost of the programme.

## Family Accounts

We strongly encourage emailing the Financial Administrator [finance@kwoscargroup.com](mailto:finance@kwoscargroup.com) if you are experiencing any difficulties in meeting your payment obligations. In many cases the Financial Administrator is happy to negotiate a suitable payment plan or arrangement on behalf of the Committee.

Reminder statements will be emailed within 7 days of overdue invoices or payments.

Any accounts 30 days overdue (and without a payment arrangement) will automatically incur a **\$10 Administration Fee**.

If payments are repeatedly dishonoured or late you may be asked to pay for a term in advance.

The Financial Administrator regularly keeps the Treasurer updated of payment issues and arrangements in place with families.

Any accounts that have a history of ongoing issues with payment, or an excessive build-up of unpaid fees, will be reported to the Committee and the Chair of the Committee will contact the family to discuss. Failure to satisfactorily resolve the payment issues may result in your child's membership being revoked at the Committee's discretion.

Further, where we cannot resolve payment issues and come to an agreement, we may employ the services of **debt collection agency**. By accepting a place in the Group you are agreeing to be liable for the costs of any debt collection, including legal fees, incurred.

The Financial Administrator will contact families who have overpaid any account and the excess will be refunded.

## Work and Income subsidy

Parents receiving Work and Income subsidy are responsible for ensuring application forms are completed and submitted in a timely manner. In the event that Work and Income does not provide the expected payments, parents are 100% liable for any outstanding fees already incurred.

If payment from Work and Income is not received within 3 weeks of the expected Work and Income payment date for *After School Care* the family will be sent an invoice and payment is expected within 5 days.

If payment from Work and Income is not received within 3 weeks of a child attending *Holiday Programme* the family will be sent an invoice and payment is expected within 5 days.

## Programme Supervision

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### Programme Content

We aim to provide a varied and stimulating programme that meets the developmental, emotional, intellectual and physical needs of the children.

We offer a number of organised activities including:

- arts and crafts projects
- sports/active games
- quiet games or activities
- cooking/baking
- technology-based activities.

Children will be encouraged to participate in organised activities but may choose not to, as long as they are not bored or disruptive. We also value a certain amount of free playtime each day.

The Manager and staff will regularly review the programme, including undertaking an annual survey to get feedback from parents and children. These results enable us to keep pace with the changing needs of the Group members.

### Attendance Roll

An attendance roll is taken at the beginning of the session, and head counts are made periodically during the session.

### Ratio

A minimum of two staff are on duty at all times, and we adhere to the following staff to child ratios:

- On-site 1:10
- On excursions 1:8
- For water-based activities 1:6

Children must stay within the defined boundaries of OSCAR at all times. These boundaries are displayed on a map located in the den. The map is also available in the Appendix.

### Missing Child

If a child goes missing, the following procedure will be followed:

- the school will be contacted for assistance
- staff will conduct a thorough search
- parents/caregivers will be contacted
- the police will be contacted.

### Food and Drink

We provide afternoon tea which follows current nutritional guidelines. Examples of the types of food provided include fruit, crackers, toast and spreads.

All food will be stored and handled safely, and children are expected to wash their hands before eating. Staff may occasionally give children sweet treats as part of an activity or incentive. Children are not allowed to bring lollies or sweet treats to OSCAR unless they have gained permission from the Manager/staff beforehand.

Parents/caregivers are expected to fully brief the Manager on any food allergies or nutritional requirements that their child may have. At the Committee's discretion, any serious allergies may be communicated to the Group with a request that the particular allergen(s) be kept away from OSCAR.

We discourage children bringing food that needs to be heated (ie, Two Minute Noodles) to OSCAR, as staff are not responsible for heating food for individual children. These types of food may be brought to OSCAR if pre-heated at home and put in a leak-proof flask or thermos.

## Excursions

On occasion, the staff will take a small group of children to the Karori Park Dairy to purchase lollies or a treat (usually as a reward related to an activity or incentive). These are purchased by OSCAR and children are not allowed to use their own money to purchase additional items.

Otherwise, excursions only occur during holiday programmes. Health and safety is a major consideration when planning and undertaking excursions. For full details on how we safely manage excursions, please refer to our Health and Safety Procedures section below.

## Electronic Devices

To gain access to devices children need to request permission from the Manager or Head Supervisor. This enables the staff to monitor usage time, content, what they are using it for and who it is being used with. This is applicable to devices owned by OSCAR as well as a child's personal device if brought from home.

Creative use of technology is encouraged, and children will be allowed device time accordingly for activities like shooting a trailer on iMovie, doing online educational quizzes or looking up a recipe for a baking activity.

We also encourage the use of technology to create social opportunities, ie, use of a tablet for a multiplayer digital board game. A time limit will be set according to the activity.

If the weather is bad in the school holidays the staff may bring in a gaming console (ie. PlayStation). Any games played will be age appropriate, involve multiple players and are supervised, to ensure all those who wish to participate are given a turn.

Use of personal devices is limited to 30 minutes per day. Only year fives and up are allowed to watch other children on their personal devices as we cannot guarantee age-appropriateness of the content, even when closely monitored.

**Please note:** *We do not encourage children to bring personal devices to OSCAR, and if they choose to do so, it is at their own risk. If a child is found using a personal device without permission, or using it to view inappropriate content, it will be confiscated. Further steps such as banning the device from being brought to OSCAR and /or revoking technology and device privileges may also be taken.*

## Expectations of Children

All children are expected to adhere to the OSCAR rules (see below). These rules have been developed by both the staff and children.

Other expectations are as follows:

- Being responsible for their own possessions.
- Informing staff when going to the toilet (so that they can be located in case of an emergency).
- Requesting permission from the Manager/staff before bringing lollies or sweet treats to OSCAR.



# The OSCAR Etiquette



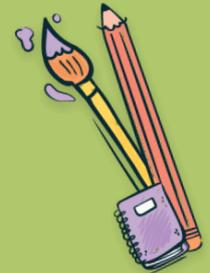
Here at OSCAR, we have one main rule,  
and that's to be happy and safe after school.  
Looking after our whānau and all the toys too,  
being respectful is what we do.



We'll tidy our mess if it's all over the place,  
and always respect our friend's personal space.  
If we lose a ball or a bat or a bike or a hat,  
we'll make sure to tell a supervisor that.

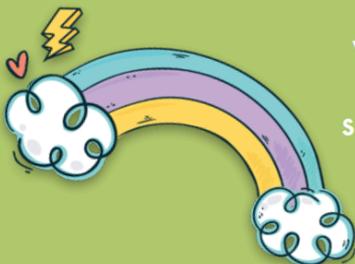
Be kind to the trees and their branches and roots,  
and don't break them off with your big heavy boots.

If it's sunny make sure your hat can be seen,  
and please don't complain when we give you sunscreen!



Your shoes should be clean when you enter the den,  
and listen to instructions, we won't tell you again!

We want our whare to be full of laughter,  
so when school is over, we'll see you after!



## Health and Safety

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The programme will take place in a safe and healthy environment suitable for the care of children and for the needs of the staff and volunteers. At all times the well-being and safety of the children is foremost. All relevant legislation will be adhered to.

### Building Warrant of Fitness

It is the Committee's responsibility to ensure that the programme's venue has a current building warrant and that it complies with other relevant fire and safety requirements. The final responsibility lies with the owner of the building. The Committee will liaise with Karori West Normal School in the event of any issues.

### Hazards Identification and Risk Management

The safety of children and adults at the programme will be ensured by:

- identifying and recording all potential health and safety hazards at venues used by the Group
- assessing the risk to staff and children of all identified hazards
- putting controls in place to remove or minimise the risks, for example, providing safety equipment
- using healthy and safe work practices, together with staff training
- regular inspections by staff to check that hazards have not changed
- compliance with all relevant codes of practice and regulations
- having a sun-safe policy in place which must be followed by children and staff (see below).

It is the responsibility of the Manager to ensure all procedures are in place to ensure the safety of staff and children at all times.

All employees will be involved in hazard identification, and information on identified hazards will be made available to all staff. Health and safety information will be discussed at staff meetings where staff are informed of all health and safety policies and regulations.

Potentially dangerous materials and equipment (e.g. poisons, cleaning equipment, sharp cutting instruments) must be clearly identified and stored out of reach.

### First Aid Emergency Procedures

A first aid kit is kept at the programme venue and taken on excursions, along with emergency contact numbers. The first aid kit will be stored out of reach of the children. It is the responsibility of the Manager to ensure that it is maintained and well stocked.

**Please note:** *If a child has anaphylactic reactions, we expect parents/caregivers to provide an EpiPen at OSCAR Den, or for it to be available in the child's bag at all times.*

At all times, at least one staff member who holds a current first aid certificate must be on site.

In the event of any accident or incident to either children or staff the following procedure will be followed:

- Staff will immediately inform the Manager.
- Appropriate first aid will be administered.
- If a child needs medical attention, parents/caregivers will be contacted to ascertain if they would like staff to take them to the medical centre stated in the child's enrolment form or would prefer to take the child themselves. If parents/caregivers or alternative contacts are unavailable, the child will be taken to the nearest available medical facility by taxi or private vehicle. A replacement staff member will be co-opted if possible.
- If serious injury occurs, parents/caregivers will be notified, and an ambulance called. If it is not possible to call an ambulance, children may be transported in a private vehicle or taxi.

- The Committee will be informed as soon as possible of any serious accidents/incidents.

### Accident and Incident Reporting

All accidents and incidents will be recorded by staff in the Accident and Incident Register and parents/caregivers notified at the end of the day. Parents must also sign the report in the Register to acknowledge they have been notified of the incident/accident and actions taken.

Accidents/incidents recorded in the register will be periodically reviewed by the Manager and, if necessary, appropriate follow up actions will be taken to minimise the risks of these reoccurring. Such actions may include changes to policies and procedures, discussing the situation and required responses with staff, or providing staff with further training.

Accidents/incidents involving staff will also be reported in the Register. Major accidents/incidents will be reported to WorkSafe NZ, MSD and other agencies as required by law. In case of any distressing event happening in the workplace, the Committee will ensure that appropriate professional support is made available.

If a child is emotionally traumatised the following procedure will be followed:

- A Supervisor will calm the child.
- Parents/caregivers will be contacted.
- Professional help will be contacted if required (e.g. Child Adolescent Mental Health Service)
- If the incident is of a criminal nature, then it will be reported to the police.

### Smoke-Free Policy

A smoke-free policy will be adhered to at all times when the programme is operating. Staff may not smoke while on duty, when in sight of the children, or on school grounds.

### Cleaning & General Hygiene

The Manager and staff will ensure that all areas of the venue are kept clean and free of rubbish. This includes:

Daily:

- sweeping/carpet sweeping all floors
- emptying rubbish
- wiping all kitchen benches and surfaces where food is prepared
- washing all kitchen cloths
- toilets, hand basins, and toilet floors are cleaned by the school on a roster

Weekly:

- cleaning fridge and any areas where food is stored
- general cleaning check
- washing all tea towels
- disposing of lost property
- mopping the kitchen floor

Each term:

- washing hard floors
- washing blankets
- washing cushions, soft toys, dress ups

### Food handling

These following guidelines will apply when handling/preparing food:

- washing hands before handling food and wearing gloves if appropriate
- covering cuts and abrasions with a water-proof dressing
- staff who may be unwell will not be involved in food handling
- all children will be reminded to wash their hands before eating
- all fruit and vegetables are washed before use
- food will be covered until it is served
- children are not permitted in the kitchen for a baking/cooking activity unless supervised.

## Animals

If a stray animal arrives at the programme, staff will assess the potential danger of the animal and if necessary, children will be taken inside, and the pound will be contacted.

On excursions, if children are in danger of attack by an animal, the staff will withdraw the children from the situation as quickly and calmly as possible. The appropriate authorities will be contacted.

The programme allows visits from pets. If parents/caregivers wish to bring the family pet for a visit, they are required to:

- assess the animal's temperament first (e.g., are they friendly and able to cope with a lot of excited noisy children?)
- get prior approval from the Manager
- ensure they are brought in on a lead or in a cage.

## Sun Safety

Children are encouraged to be aware of the risks and effects of the sun/sunburn and act responsibly, including:

- wearing hats and applying sunscreen on hot/sunny days
- seeking shade
- drinking plenty of water.

**Please note:** During Terms 1 and 4 it is compulsory for children to wear a hat while outside. Hats must be a bucket hat or similar, i.e., the hat should protect both the face and the back of the neck.

Parent/caregiver responsibilities:

- Reinforce sun safety with their child and encourage them to be responsible while at OSCAR.
- Provide adequate and appropriate clothing for the day, for example a spare change of clothes on hot days where we might have water play, and a rash top for trips to the pools or beach.
- Apply sunscreen to their child in the morning before sending them to holiday programme.
- If their child requires a specific type of sunscreen, parents/caregivers must ensure it is provided at all times, including and between the Term 3/4 holidays (usually in October) and Term 1/2 holidays (usually in April). Also ensure the Manager has been notified.

## Illnesses and Medicines

If a child has an accident or becomes ill while at OSCAR, they will be made comfortable, put into a quiet area and the parents/caregivers will be notified.

Medicines will not be provided by the programme, nor will medicines be administered without prior written approval of a parent or caregiver. A Medicine Consent Form must be signed by the parents/caregivers with dosage and administering instructions.

## Fire and Earthquake Emergency Plan

Both fire and earthquake drills will be carried out once a term during after school care and once a week during the holiday programme. The Committee will keep the fire department notified of programme hours and numbers of children.

The Manager is responsible for:

- keeping a record of each drill including the number of children and staff involved
- ensuring that new staff/volunteers are aware of the procedures.
- ensuring the plan is clearly displayed at the programme venue.

### Earthquake Action Plan

- Manager shouts “earthquake”.
- Children find a safe area or drop to the floor.
- Children apply Drop, Cover, Hold.
- Children wait until staff say all clear before they can move. Staff must stay prepared for aftershocks.
- Evacuate the building if it is unsafe, taking the roll, emergency contact details and the first aid kit if possible, without endangering staff.
- Children are checked and any injuries attended to.
- A roll will be taken to account for all children.

In case of a major natural disaster, staff members are required to stay on site until every child has been picked up. Support will be received from the school as part of their civil defence duty.

Note that we keep some emergency food and water on site.

### Fire Action Plan

- Manager calls out “fire” and activates the alarm.
- Evacuate all people from the building taking the roll, emergency contact number and first aid kit if possible.
- Call the Fire Service (111).
- Gather in front of the school staff room (see map for emergency meeting point).
- A roll will be taken to account for all children.
- All children stay at the emergency meeting point until told to move.

## Excursions

On occasion, the staff will take a small group of children to the Karori Park Dairy to purchase lollies or a treat (usually as a reward related to an activity or incentive). These are purchased by OSCAR and children are not allowed to use their own money to purchase additional items.

Otherwise, excursions only occur during holiday programmes. Health and safety is a major consideration when planning and undertaking excursions. Parents/caregivers will be notified in advance of all planned excursions (trip days) via email. In the event of any change, i.e., change of date due to weather, parents/caregivers will be notified as soon as possible. As a general rule, excursions are undertaken between 9am and 2.45pm.

General procedures for excursions are as follows:

- The Supervisor/child ratio will be a maximum of 1:8.
- The person in charge of the excursion will have a current first-aid certificate and be trained in CPR.
- Children will be put into groups with one Supervisor whose primary responsibility will be the safety of that group.
- All Supervisors will carry a mobile phone for emergencies.
- Supervisors will only allow children to go to the toilet in pairs (and if using public toilets will stand outside).
- A first aid kit and children's emergency contact details will be taken on excursions.

- Only instructors with recognised qualifications and/or recognised agencies will be used to instruct outdoor pursuits.
- Supervisors will be briefed beforehand on emergency procedures, hazard identification and their individual responsibilities.
- The children will be organised into a 'buddy system' when on walks and will walk double file with at least one adult in the rear and one adult leading.
- Where there is a road to cross, pedestrian crossings will be used if they are available. One adult will stand in the middle of the road to ensure traffic is stopped before children begin to cross and will remain there until all children are safely across the road.

Where there is access to water:

- The Supervisor/child ratio will be a maximum of 1:6.
- If children are swimming, Supervisors will be in the water with them.
- The person in charge of the excursion will remain out of the water to overview group safety and deal with any potential emergency.

A contingency plan will be prepared beforehand for all excursions in case of bad weather.

# Child Protection Policy

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## Purpose and scope

Karori West OSCAR is committed to supporting and protecting vulnerable children and to reporting situations where there is concern for children's well-being. This policy applies to all staff and should be used whenever abuse or neglect is suspected or identified.

This policy guides the actions of the Programme whenever there is a concern about the abuse of children. This includes acting appropriately, if a child discloses abuse or suspected abuse by a staff member or between children at the Programme. It also provides guidelines for staff to help minimise the risk that they may be subject to an allegation of abusive behaviour.

The interests and welfare of the child will be the primary consideration when any action is taken about suspected abuse.

The Programme will consult with statutory agencies (the Police and the Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children) which have specialist knowledge to help protect children from abuse. Staff will not assume responsibility beyond the level of their experience and training.

## Definition of child abuse

"Any act by which an individual, institution or society as a whole that interferes with the well-being of a child or young person and deprives that child or young person of his or her rights".

There are five types of child abuse:

- Sexual abuse occurs when someone uses his or her power over the child, or takes advantage of the child's trust and respect, to involve the child in sexual activity.
- Physical abuse is non-accidental injury by somebody and also includes abusive administration of drugs or alcohol to a child.
- Emotional abuse is when a child's self-esteem is attacked by somebody to coerce the child into doing what the abuser wants them to do.
- Neglect is a denial of the basic needs/ rights of nurturing, food and shelter, so that the child fails to thrive. It must be seen as a form of child abuse.
- Family violence may be witnessed or experienced by children and involve physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

## Potential indicators of abuse

Physical indicators (often unexplained or inconsistent with explanation given):

- bruises and welts
- cuts and abrasions
- burns
- fractures and dislocations (particularly in very young children)
- multiple fractures at different stages of healing
- malnourished
- frequent complaints (e.g. nausea, headaches, stomach aches)
- extremely dirty or unwashed (in the case of neglect)
- discomfort in sitting or fidgeting as unable to sit properly (in the case of sexual abuse)
- unusual or excessive itching or pain in the genital or anal area (in the case of sexual abuse)

Behavioural indicators:

- gives inconsistent or vague explanations regarding injuries
- is wary of adults or a particular person

- vacant stare or frozen watchfulness
- cringes or flinches if touched unexpectedly
- may be extremely compliant and eager to please
- extreme attention seeking or extreme inhibition
- dresses inappropriately to hide bruising or injuries
- may regress (e.g. bedwetting)
- may indicate general sadness
- could have vision or hearing delay
- depression or anxiety
- withdrawn or aggressive
- displays bullying behaviours
- self-destructive behaviour
- fearful and submissive
- eating disorder
- compulsive or obsessive behaviours
- lack of self esteem
- poor social skills
- no understanding of basic hygiene (in the case of neglect)
- age-inappropriate sexual play or language (in the case of sexual abuse)
- sophisticated or unusual sexual knowledge (in the case of sexual abuse)

### Action plan

- Staff will respond to suspected child abuse or any concerning behaviour by writing down observations, impressions and communications in a confidential register. Information volunteered by a child should be fully and accurately recorded and dated. No child should be interviewed or in any way questioned about the suspected abuse, particularly sexual abuse. Do not ask questions beyond open prompts.
- Reassuring children and letting them know that they have done the right thing is essential. Explaining to them what is happening next and trying to re-engage the child in supervised activities if appropriate.
- No staff member must act alone about suspected child abuse but must consult with the manager and/or a Committee member.
- Where staff and manager suspect child abuse has occurred and a child is unsafe, the manager is committed to promptly reporting the matter to the Police or Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children.
- If the abuse reported concerns a staff member, the staff member is to be removed from the child's environment. The manager must communicate with the employee about the complaint. The employee must be advised of their right to seek support from appropriate representatives. The programme must inform the appropriate agency. All information given by the employee must be thoroughly recorded.
- Remind staff that support is available for them (e.g., Manager, Principal, Committee, Oranga Tamariki)

**Record > Consult > Ensure the safety of the child > Report > Get support**

### Supervision guideline

To minimise the risk of actual or alleged abuse in the Programme the following guidelines are in place:

- The staff should avoid being alone with a child wherever possible. If a staff member must be alone with a child, they should use extremely careful judgment and let the Manager know.
- Wherever possible, an open-door policy for all spaces should be used (except toilets).
- Staff should be aware of where all children are at all times and check to ensure what they are doing is appropriate.
- Be aware of situations where children are out of sight together (dens, play huts etc.) and supervise accordingly.
- Visitors to the Programme should be monitored at all times by Programme staff.
- All volunteers and outside instructors should be monitored by the paid Programme staff.

- Unless requested by children or parents, there is no need to assist school aged children with toileting. If the situation arises, ensure that the Manager is aware a staff is toileting a child, and that parents are informed.
- Where a child requires assistance, e.g., intellectually or physically disabled, if possible involve the parents/caregivers and outside agencies to assist. If this assistance is not available, ensure that the staff members are aware of the appropriate procedures when giving assistance.
- Staff should avoid transporting a child or young person on their own, unless an emergency requires it.
- Except in an emergency, children and young people are not to be taken from the Programme without written parental consent.

## Peer Abuse

The Programme will ensure that the safety of the children is paramount. Any form of physical, sexual or verbal harassment or violence from peers will be addressed appropriately.

While the situation is being evaluated the children concerned will be separated. It is essential to reduce further emotional trauma for the victims who may be fearful and distressed if they are in contact with possible abusers.

In some cases where the abuse has occurred at the Programme, immediate suspension may be appropriate. All information should remain as private as possible. This applies to the Programme and all families involved. When an abusive child is enrolled at the Programme there will be communication with the management and staff about risks involved. Co-operation of the family will be sought in doing this.

## Confidentiality and information sharing

The Privacy Act 1993 and the Children, Young Persons, and their Families Act 1989 allow information to be shared to keep children safe when abuse or suspected abuse is reported or investigated. Note that, under sections 15 and 16 of the Children, Young Persons, and their Families Act, any person who believes that a child has been, or is likely to be, harmed physically, emotionally or sexually or ill-treated, abused, neglected or deprived may report the matter to Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children, or the Police and, provided the report is made in good faith, no civil, criminal or disciplinary proceedings may be brought against them.

# Behaviour Management Policy

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## Purpose and Scope

In order to provide a safe and enjoyable environment for children, staff will use a clear and consistent approach to guide children's behaviour.

Every child will be:

- treated with respect and dignity
- given positive guidance to encourage appropriate behaviour
- given positive guidance using praise and encouragement and avoiding blame, or harsh language
- encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour by being offered choices and the use of consequences, including, if necessary, the involvement of parents.

**The focus will be on the behaviour, not the child.**

## Behaviours

Inappropriate behaviour is defined as:

- biting, hitting, kicking, spitting, throwing sand/toys, yelling inside, pushing, shoving, pulling hair, bad language, intimidating others or damaging their creations/belongings, etc.

Appropriate behaviour is defined as:

- respecting other people, their creations/belongings and OSCAR equipment.

## Children's Rights

Children have:

- the right to be safe and feel safe
- the right to receive care, attention and support from Programme staff
- the right to be treated fairly by the staff and the other children
- the right to play and be included in activities
- the right to enjoy recreation and relaxation

## Rules and Responsibilities

KWOSCAR has clearly defined rules that use children's language to ensure that the children understand what the rules are.

The staff and children will formulate a set of rules for the Programme and discuss the consequences of breaking these rules.

Positive reinforcement will be used as much as possible. Rewarding good behaviour will promote good behaviour.

## Guidelines

Steps to be taken in managing behaviour include:

- redirection
- removing the child from the situation
- warning the child with "Don't do ... please do ..." OR "I don't like you doing ... because ...". After the second warning you can use "No..." OR "Stop now or ..." OR "How do you think xxx feels when you do ..." OR "How would you feel if xxx did ... to you".

Staff will, at all times, model the required behaviour, and will be available to assist children to manage their behaviour. A stimulating and varied programme will help ensure against boredom.

## Conflict Resolution

Conflict between children is normal. Staff will use appropriate methods and problem-solving skills to help children manage their conflict.

Children will mostly respond to a stern reminder of the rules they should be adhering to. When these rules are ignored, staff will use these approaches to rectify the situation:

- Time out may be used, to allow children to cool off, but not isolated from view or from others.
- Children will be allowed time to talk about what happened and what the conflict was about.
- Ask open ended questions such as “What happened?” or “Can you tell me ...” rather than “Did you ....?”.
- Listen reflectively. “You’re saying ...” or “In other words ...”.
- Acknowledge feelings as well as facts. “Sounds like you’re feeling....because...”.
- Avoid making judgments or judging children’s solutions. Respect their opinions and attempts to rectify the situation.
- Children will be asked how the situation could have been managed differently – brainstorm to assist children to problem solve.
- Children will be asked how they would like to end the situation e.g., handshake, apologies.
- Children may need help understanding the consequences of a solution. “What do you think would happen if you did that?”.
- Children may need help action on their solution. Ask, “What is the first think you need to do?” or “How are you going to take the first step?”.

## Serious Misconduct and Exclusion

- Unacceptable behaviour will be recorded in the Accident and Incident Report.
- Serious or repeated cases of unacceptable behaviour will be reported to the parent/guardian.
- If unacceptable behaviour continues, parents will be asked to meet with the supervisor and all options will be explored and a behaviour management plan will be prepared.
- If no improvement is made, it is a last resort of the Programme Manager, in consultation with the Committee, to exclude the child from the Programme, either for a short time, or possibly permanently.
- All discussions and recording of children’s behaviour will be entirely confidential.

## Staff Conduct

- No child will in any way be physically, verbally or emotionally abused by staff.
- Staff will address behaviour calmly and assertively and will not shout, threaten or intimidate.
- There will be no unusual confinement, and food and drinks will not be withheld from children.
- No physical restraints will be used on children unless it is an immediate issue of safety for the child or other children, or direct verbal commands have not been effective.
- Staff will not discuss the behaviour of children outside of the Programme without ensuring they protect the confidentiality of the child and the family, except in situations where child abuse or neglect is suspected (see Child Protection Policy).

# Privacy Policy

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## Purpose and Scope

The privacy policy enables us to protect the privacy of all individuals associated with Karori West OSCAR Group Inc (K.W. OSCAR), staff, committee members, contractors, parents/guardians, children and any others. The policy follows the key principle of the Privacy Act 2020, which describes how we may collect, use and store personal information.

## What information we collect

We only collect personal information:

- for purposes connected with the function of our programme and only when it is necessary to have this information.
- in a transparent and respectful manner.

In regard to families, we collect information:

- required by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) including name, contact details, date of birth, medical information, or other sensitive data.
- about accidents or incidents happening during K.W. OSCAR operations (behavioural or otherwise) in alignment with MSD expectations.

In regard to staff, we collect information:

- required by law, including name, age, contact details, tax code, bank details, background check, IRD number or other necessary data.
- about professional performances

We have access to data that is collected directly by Mailchimp (for example, IP addresses) which we have no use for.

We take reasonable steps to make sure personal information is correct, up to date, relevant and not misleading.

## How we collect and store information

In regard to staff, committee members and helpers, we collect information from:

- the applicant themselves during the recruitment process (such as CV, cover letter, written reference, interview)
- other parties (such as applicant's referees)
- publicly available sources if the person's interests are not prejudiced
- police checks, background checks, medical check or any other third party authorised by the applicant or staff member
- development plans and performance appraisal

In regard to families, we collect information from:

- the person concerned, or if a child, from their parents/guardians
- publicly available sources if the person's interests are not prejudiced

We collect information via:

- Aimy Plus where users directly input their information or provided to K.W. OSCAR staff to upload into Aimy Plus.

- Mailchimp

We store information via:

- Dropbox
- One Drive
- Google Drive

We use XERO for billing, invoicing and accounting purposes. Some information is transferred from Aimy Plus to XERO for that purpose.

We use Smartpayroll for payroll purposes which requires some employee's information such as physical address, tax codes and other relevant information necessary to process payroll lawfully.

### How we use and disclose information about individuals

We collect personal information for a range of purposes to enable us to provide after school care and holiday programme. This includes managing relationships with children, parents/guardians and staff, children safety and welfare, staff safety and welfare, future employment, promoting and improving our services, seeking funding, reporting to government authorities, internal accounting, satisfying our legal obligations, etc.

Information is only used for the purposes for which it was obtained and for directly related purposes, except in certain circumstances (for example, for statistical purposes where the person's identity isn't disclosed).

We only keep information for as long as it is needed, and for the purposes for which it was obtained, after which it will be destroyed or de-identified. However, we may be required to keep some information for specified periods of time (for example, under certain laws).

We may disclose personal information if required by law (for example, if the right to privacy is over-riden by other legislation, if it is necessary for the protection of individual or public health and safety).

### How we safeguard personal information

We have reasonable safeguards in place to protect personal information from loss, unauthorised access, use or disclosure. These safeguards include the use of personal logins, password protected devices and lockable filing cabinets.

If personal information is subject to privacy breach, we will notify you and the Privacy Commissioner in accordance with our obligations under the Act.

### How individuals may access information relating to them that is held by K.W. OSCAR

Any individual can request to access, correct or delete their information at any time.

### How to raise an issue or complaint

Any person may contact the OSCAR Manager or Committee via the contact details below.

If K.W. OSCAR receives a complaint about compliance with the Privacy Act, K.W. OSCAR will investigate the matter and notify the complainant of their decision as soon as practicable.

OSCAR Manager: 027 610 0563 – [admin@kwoscargroup.com](mailto:admin@kwoscargroup.com)

Committee: [committe@kwoscargroup.com](mailto:committe@kwoscargroup.com)

Address: 19 Allington Road, Karori 6012, Wellington

If K.W. OSCAR do not resolve a complaint to one's satisfaction, the complainant may address the issue to the [Office of the Privacy Commissioner](#).

# Appendix

## A – OSCAR Map

