




# Child Risk Management Strategy

<b>Purpose:</b>	The purpose of this strategy is to eliminate and minimise risk to student safety to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students.	
<b>Scope:</b>	Students and employees, including full-time, part-time, permanent, fixed-term and casual employees, as well as contractors, volunteers and people undertaking work experience or vocational placements.	
<b>Document No.</b>	1.40	
<b>Status:</b>	RATIFIED	<b>Supersedes:</b> March 2024 Child Risk Management Strategy
<b>Authorised by:</b>	Board Chair – Elizabeth Goor 	<b>Date of Authorisation:</b> 05/02/2025
<b>References:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 (Qld)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2020 (Qld)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Child Protection Act 1999 (Qld)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017 (Qld)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017 (Qld)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 (Qld)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2017 (Qld)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000 (Cth)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Education (Overseas Students) Regulation 2018 (Qld)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005 (Qld)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Criminal Code Act 1899 (Qld)</a></li> <li>• Blue Card Services <a href="#">Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy Toolkit</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Restricted Person Declaration Form</a></li> </ul>	
<b>Review Date:</b>	Annually	<b>Next Review Date:</b> 05/02/2026
<b>Policy Owner:</b>	School Governing Body	

## 1. Statement of Commitment

Montessori Noosa is committed to taking all reasonable steps to promote the safety and wellbeing of students enrolled at the school and their protection from foreseeable harm.<sup>1</sup> In practice, Montessori Noosa is committed to acting in accordance to the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* (Qld) (“the Act”) to promote the safety and wellbeing of students means that it will implement the measures outlined below in points.

## 2. Code of Conduct

At Montessori Noosa we expect our employees to conduct themselves as follows:

School employees are expected to always behave in ways that promote the safety, welfare and well-being of our students. Employees must actively seek to prevent harm to students, and to support those who have been harmed.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Employees should avoid situations where they are alone in an enclosed space with a student.
- When physical contact with a student is a necessary part of the teaching/learning experience, employees must exercise caution to ensure that the contact is appropriate and acceptable. Employees must always advise the student of what they intend doing and seek their consent.
- Employees must not develop a relationship with any student that is, or that can be interpreted as having a personal rather than a professional interest in a student.
- Employees must not have a romantic or sexual relationship with a student.

This commitment is evidence of Montessori Noosa fulfilment of the requirements of Schedule 1 s.2(2).

## 3. Recruitment, Selection, Training and Management Procedures

Montessori Noosa is committed to recruiting, selecting, training and managing employees in such a way that limits risks to students. In particular, Montessori Noosa will:

- Ensure that its recruitment and selection procedures act to reduce the risk of harm to children from employees via:
  - Accurate position descriptions, including whether the successful applicant must be a teacher registered with the Queensland College of Teachers (who has been subject to relevant police and other safety checks), whether a Blue Card is necessary for the successful applicant, the responsibilities and supervision associated with the position, the nature and environment of the service provided to students, and the experience and qualifications required by the successful applicant.
  - Advertising the position with a clear statement about the school’s commitment to safe and supportive work practices and identifying that candidates will be subject to a teacher registration check or Blue Card screening, a police check, referee checks, identification verification and the requirement to disclose any information relevant to the candidates’ eligibility to engage in activities including children.
  - A selection process that includes assessing the application via an interview process and referee and other checks (as identified above) based on the accurate position description.
  - A probationary period of employment, which allows the school to further assess the suitability of the new employee and to act as a check on the selection process.
- Ensure that its training and management procedures act to reduce the risk of harm to students from employees via:
  - Management processes that are consistent, fair and supportive.
  - Performance management processes to help employees to improve their performance in a positive manner.

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<sup>1</sup> *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2020* (Qld) sch 1 s.2(1)

- Supportive processes for staff when they are experiencing challenges, such as mentoring, mediation, conflict resolution, coaching, additional training, and external support and counselling services.
- An induction program which thoroughly addresses the school's policies and procedures, particularly its expectations regarding student risk management and to assist employees to understand their role in providing a safe and supportive environment for students.
- Training new and existing staff on an ongoing basis to enhance skills and knowledge and to reduce exposure to risks, as follows:
  - the school's policies and procedures
  - identifying, assessing and minimising risks to students
  - handling a disclosure or suspicion of harm to a child.
- Keeping a record of the training provided to employees.
- Exit interviews to assist the school to identify broader issues of concern that may impact on the safety and wellbeing of students at the school.

This commitment is evidence of Montessori Noosa fulfilment of the requirements of Schedule 1 s.2(3).

#### **4. Handling Disclosures or Suspicions of Harm**

Any of the types of concerns or reports below must be reported and managed under the MN Child Protection Policy

- all staff with concerns about sexual abuse, or likely sexual abuse, or a child sexual offence committed by an adult
- teachers, nurses and early childhood education and care professionals with concerns of sexual or physical abuse
- all staff who have received a report of inappropriate behaviour by another staff member.

To report any type of harm, all staff members should use the Report of Suspected Harm or Sexual Abuse Form.

Furthermore, and in accordance with section 76 of the *Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005*, the Principal of Montessori Noosa will report to the Queensland College of Teachers any investigations into allegations of harm caused, or likely to be caused, to a student because of the conduct of a relevant teacher at the school.

Any report made under this section or the Montessori Noosa Child Protection Policy will fulfill the reporting obligations of all adults under the *Criminal Code Act 1899*.

This commitment is evidence of Montessori Noosa fulfilment of the requirements of Schedule 1 s.2(4).

#### **5. Managing Breaches of this Child Risk Management Strategy**

Montessori Noosa is committed to appropriately managing breaches of this Child Risk Management Strategy in accordance with its other relevant policies as appropriate in the circumstances, such as its MN Child Protection Policy, MN Staff Code of Conduct, MN Complaints Handling Policy and Procedures and this is evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of Schedule 1 s.2(5).

##### **6.1 Implementing and Reviewing the Child Risk Management Strategy**

This Strategy in its entirety and its related policies and procedures are evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of Schedule 1 s.2(6)(a) relating to implementation.

The introduction to this Child Risk Management Strategy and the "Compliance and Monitoring" section below state Montessori Noosa commitment to reviewing the Strategy annually and are evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of the Schedule 1 s.2(6)(a) relating to review.

## 6.2 Blue Card Policies and Procedures

Montessori Noosa is committed to acting in accordance with chapters 7 and 8 of the Act relating to the screening of employees in such a way that limits risks to children. In particular, Montessori Noosa will:

- Require relevant prospective or current employees, volunteers, trainee students and school board members to have working with children authority, and check the validity and appropriateness of any currently held notices, in accordance with Montessori Noosa position descriptions and the Act prior to the commencement of their engagement.
- Not allow a person to continue to work with children if their working with child authority is cancelled or suspended or a negative notice is received after a change of police information.
- Have all relevant prospective employees and volunteers engaging in Restricted Employment acknowledge and sign a [Restricted Person Declaration Form](#) declaring they are not a restricted person prior to commencing their engagement.
- Not allow a person relying on an exemption to continue to work with children if they become a restricted person.
- Link and unlink individuals as they commence and conclude their engagement with the school.
- Appoint a school contact person who will be responsible for managing the working with child screening process and all related documentation and records.
- Keep written records of all the above actions, decisions and outcomes, including the dates of expiry for working with children authority.
- Ensure that all information in relation to working with children authority is kept confidential.
- Act to remind employees to keep their working with children authority up to date and apply for a renewal prior to expiry.
- Take appropriate action if an employee, volunteer, trainee student or school board member fails to submit a renewal application prior to their working with children authority expiring.

This commitment is evidence of Montessori Noosa fulfilment of the requirements of Schedule 1 s.2(6)(b).

### High Risk Management Plans

Montessori Noosa is committed to identifying risks, assessing risks, eliminating and minimising risks and the monitoring of risk to the safety of students on an ongoing basis. Montessori Noosa will utilise various risk management tools to assist it in this process and will keep appropriate records of decisions made and actions taken in relation to risks to children.

This commitment is evidence of Montessori Noosa fulfilment of the requirements of Schedule 1 s.2(7).

### Strategies of Communication and Support

Montessori Noosa commitment to making this Child Risk Management Strategy available to students, parents and employees via its website, upon induction and during annual refresher training is evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of Schedule 1 s.2(8)(a).

Montessori Noosa is committed to training employees in relation to risks to students and will conduct this training regularly via annual formal training events, informal updates at staff meetings and regular discussions between management and their staff, and this is evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of Schedule 1 s.2(8)(b).

### Responsibilities

Montessori Noosa is responsible for developing and implementing this Child Risk Management Strategy and related policies and procedures to ensure it fulfils its obligations.

All employees at Montessori Noosa are responsible for acting in compliance with this Child Risk Management Strategy and related policies and procedures.

### **Compliance and Monitoring**

Montessori Noosa is committed to the annual review of this Strategy. Montessori Noosa will also record, monitor and report to Board of Directors, the Principal and Business Manager regarding any breaches of the Strategy.

In addition, Montessori Noosa is committed to other various compliance and monitoring arrangements made under relevant policies and procedures.

### **Related Documents**

- Montessori Noosa Blue Card Policy
- Montessori Noosa Blue Card Register
- Montessori Noosa Child Protection Policy
- Montessori Noosa Child Protection Procedures
- Montessori Noosa Complaints Handling Policy
- Montessori Noosa Complaints Handling Procedures
- Montessori Noosa Staff Code of Conduct
- Montessori Noosa Restricted Person Declaration Form
- Montessori Noosa Risk Management Framework

### **Helpful Links**

- Independent Schools Queensland's [Child Protection Decision Support Trees](#)
- Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety [Child Protection Guide](#) resource
- [Blue Card Services resources](#)