

St Nicholas - Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness Procedure

Section 1 - Purpose

(1) St Nicholas is committed to providing children with an environment that promotes their health, safety, and wellbeing. St Nicholas aims to create an environment which minimises incidents, injury trauma and illness and educates children and families in relation to health and safety practices.

(2) St Nicholas employee have a duty of care to respond to and manage illnesses, accidents, incidents and trauma that may occur at the service to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children, educators and visitors.

(3) The [Education and Care Services National Regulations \(2011 S1 653\)](#) require approved providers to ensure their services have policies and procedures in place in relation to dealing with incident, injury, trauma and illness. This procedure needs to read in conjunction with the [St Nicholas Compliance Policy](#).

Section 2 - Scope

(4) This procedure applies to all St Nicholas employees who educate and care for children in Early Education and OOSH services, and the parents/carers of children who attend St Nicholas services.

Section 3 - Responsibility

ROLE	RESPONSIBILITIES
St Nicholas Approved Provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the obligations under the Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010 (NSW) and Education and Care Services National Regulations (2011) are met. • Take reasonable steps to ensure that the St Nicholas Nominated Supervisor, St Nicholas team member and visitors follow the policy and procedures. • Store records appropriately, in accordance with the Privacy Policy and Information and Records Management Policy.
St Nicholas Nominated Supervisor/ Responsible Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the St Nicholas Incident, Injury, Trauma and Illness procedure. • Ensure that the enrolment record contains all prescribed information. • Ensure that when children are on the premises, at least one St Nicholas team member holds a current approved first aid qualification, valid CPR qualification, current approved training and current approved anaphylaxis management training and approved emergency asthma management training. • Contact emergency services in the first instance, then notify parent/carers immediately after a Serious incident (St Nicholas), injury, trauma or medical emergency or as soon as practicable. • Ensure parents/carers or an authorised nominee is notified of any Serious incident (St Nicholas) involving their child at a service as soon as practicable, within 24 hours of the incident occurring. • Ensure the relevant external authorities are notified of incidents within the required timeframes. • Conduct a review and take any appropriate action to remove or rectify the cause if required. This will include reviewing the risk assessments and supervision plans. • Maintain high levels of active supervision and always meet ratio requirements. • Archive and store records appropriately, in accordance with the Privacy Policy and Information and Records Management Policy.

ROLE	RESPONSIBILITIES
St Nicholas Team Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take immediate actions to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of the children in our care, which may include providing first aid. • Be aware of children with allergies and their attendance days, and apply this knowledge when attending to any incidents, injury, trauma or illness. • Assess the seriousness of an incident and if there is a need to contact emergency services. • Maintain high levels of active supervision and always meet ratio requirements. • Record information as soon as possible, and within 24 hours of the incident injury, trauma or illness in mnResponse.
Parents/Carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide accurate health information regarding their child in writing and ensure this information remains current. This includes the child's medical history, any known allergens, and their associated management plan if applicable. • Provide authorisation in their child's enrolment form for the St Nicholas Approved Provider, St Nicholas Nominated Supervisor, or a St Nicholas educator to seek medical treatment for their child from a registered medical practitioner, hospital or ambulance service and, if required, for transportation by an ambulance service. • Sign consent forms during initial enrolment regarding application of sunscreen. • Notify St Nicholas educators if there has been a change in the condition of the child's day to day health, or of a recent accident or incident that may impact the child's care. • Ensure their child remains in their care for 24 hours post administration of an anaesthetic. • Ensure any medical action plans at the service are kept current. • Be contactable, either directly or through emergency contact listed on the enrolment form, in the event of an incident requiring the administration of first aid and/or medical attention. • Notify a St Nicholas team member if your child is unable to attend the service due to illness.

Section 4 - Procedure

(5) St Nicholas team members will:

- a. Assess the situation and apply first aid for the injury sustained to the child in accordance with the [St Nicholas Administration of First Aid Procedure](#).
- b. Where an injury requires medical treatment beyond first aid, St Nicholas team members will seek emergency medical treatment.
- c. If required, parents/carers will be directed to seek further medical assistance if the injury does not require immediate emergency medical treatment.
- d. Notify parents/carers or an authorised nominee of the incident.
- e. Complete an incident report in mnResponse within 24 hours.
- f. In the event where a child requires emergency medical attention, or further medical attention, the St Nicholas Nominated Supervisor or St Nicholas Responsible Person will contact their Area Service Manager who will provide guidance in relation to completing a report to relevant authorities.
- g. Adhere to the St Nicholas Notification of a Serious Incident Procedure, as required.
- h. Ensure the service has all relevant documentation to co-operate with any further investigation that may occur.

Trauma caused by a serious incident at the service

(6) Trauma may occur to a St Nicholas team member or child who has been exposed to or involved in a serious incident at the service.

(7) The St Nicholas Nominated Supervisor or St Nicholas Responsible Person will:

- a. Contact the child's parent/carer or authorised nominee as soon as practicable or within 24 hours, ensuring reporting and notification guidelines are followed.
- b. Contact and notify the St Nicholas Area Service Manager.
- c. Where applicable, contact emergency services.

- d. Ensure the relevant authorities are notified within the required timeframe.
- e. Ensure completion of an incident report in mnResponse, containing details before, during and after the incident within 24 hours.
- f. Liaise with emergency services, St Nicholas Area Service Manager and parent/carer, and provide correct and detailed documentation to ensure full cooperation in the event of an investigation.

(8) St Nicholas team member will:

- a. Work in collaboration with parent/carers and advise them to seek further professional assistance.
- b. Supply local information in relation to professional assistance in dealing with trauma to families to support them, where possible.
- c. In the event of a serious incident occurring and clear signs of trauma present, the St Nicholas Nominated Supervisor or St Nicholas Responsible Person will contact the St Nicholas Area Service Manager for assistance in contacting external support services to assist with trauma/grief counselling.
- d. Maintain communication with parents/carers to keep them updated.
- e. Provide ongoing support for the children, educators, family members and visitors will be provided where appropriate, that best suits their individual needs.
- f. Complete an incident report in mnResponse, containing details before, during and after the incident.
- g. Ensure the relevant authorities are notified within the required timeframe.

Reportable illnesses contracted by a child

(9) There are some illnesses that require notification to Regulatory Authority and the Public Health Unit. St Nicholas services should notify their Public Health Unit and Regulatory Authority within 24 hours of being made aware that a child enrolled at the service has one of the following vaccine preventable diseases (or is reasonably suspected of having come into contact with a person who has one of these vaccine preventable diseases), and the enrolled child has no evidence of immunisation lodged to show that the child is immunised against, or has acquired immunity by infection from that disease.

(10) These are known as Notifiable Diseases and include:

- a. Diphtheria;
- b. Mumps;
- c. Poliomyelitis;
- d. Haemophilus influenzae Type B (Hib);
- e. Meningococcal disease;
- f. Rubella (German Measles);
- g. Measles;
- h. Pertussis (Whooping Cough);
- i. Tetanus;
- j. Infectious disease outbreaks (more than 2 cases) of a gastrointestinal or respiratory illnesses

(11) For information specific to immunisation, please refer to the St Nicholas Infectious Diseases procedure.

(12) The St Nicholas Nominated Supervisor or St Nicholas Responsible Person will:

- a. Notify St Nicholas Area Service Manager.
- b. Ensure the Public Health Unit is notified.
- c. Ensure the relevant authorities are notified within the required timeframe.

(13) St Nicholas team members will:

- a. Follow the St Nicholas Infectious Diseases Procedure.
- b. Ensure visible signage is displayed alerting families of an outbreak, the symptoms, treatment and exclusion period of the disease.
- c. Provide families with details regarding exclusion periods.
- d. Complete an incident report in mnResponse.

Sudden illnesses in children

(14) The onset of sudden illness may occur for children while in attendance at a St Nicholas service. A child may become lethargic, have a temperature, indicate they are in pain, become quiet and withdrawn, do not want to participate in activities, or present in other ways.

(15) St Nicholas team member will:

- a. follow the child's medical action plan guidelines for known medical conditions.
- b. administer first aid in accordance with [St Nicholas First Aid Procedure](#) and First Aid training.
- c. communicate illness with the St Nicholas Nominated Supervisor or St Nicholas Responsible Person.
- d. stay with the child providing comfort and reassurance, and monitor their condition documenting any changes.
- e. contact emergency services so the child can receive appropriate treatment in cases where first aid procedures no longer provide necessary care.
- f. contact the child's parent/carer to arrange collection when a child is not well enough to participate in activities, or their symptoms are causing them distress.
- g. complete an incident report in mnResponse within 24 hours.
- h. contact the child's parent/carer or authorised nominee to collect the child in the presence of an unexplained rash, as it will be treated as an infectious illness.
- i. request parent/carer obtain a clearance letter from their medical practitioner in the event of a child being sent home, if deemed necessary.

Temperatures/Fevers

(16) St Nicholas team member will:

- a. check the child's temperature using an appropriate digital thermometer. If it is suspected that the child may have a temperature if they feel hot to touch, are lethargic or unsettled.
- b. recheck the child's temperature every 30 minutes if their temperature is between 37.5°C and 37.9°C, and record each reading on an incident report in mnResponse.
- c. phone a parent/carer or authorised nominee phone if the child's temperature is 38°C or higher, and advise to collect their child. St Nicholas educator should separate the child from other children where possible.
- d. ensure the 'Fever' fact sheet from Staying Healthy 6th Edition (2024) is available to families.
- e. refer to the [St Nicholas Administration of Medication procedure](#) as required.

(17) If the child has gone home from the service with a fever but their temperature is normal the next morning, they can return to the service.

(18) Call 000 and ask for an ambulance if the child has a temperature and displays any of the following:

- a. not responding to your voice.

- b. having problems breathing.
- c. is pale and their hands and feet are cold to touch.
- d. febrile convulsions (which are physical seizures).

(19) Notify parent/carer or authorised nominee of the situation and that an ambulance has been called for a medical emergency.

- a. Verbal permission can be granted for the administration of a single dose of paracetamol if the parent has provided written permission in the enrolment form. In the event paracetamol is administered a St Nicholas Paracetamol Administration Form must be completed at the time the medication is administered. Please refer to the [St Nicholas Administration of Medication procedure](#).
- b. Avoid cold water sponging or cold baths that make the child shiver. If sponging or bathing makes the child feel more comfortable use lukewarm water.
- c. Complete an incident report in mnResponse.

Vomiting and/or Diarrhoea

(20) Vomiting and diarrhoea may occur in children while attending St Nicholas services. This is not always indicative of illness.

(21) St Nicholas team member will:

- a. observe and document child's symptoms, and accurately transfer this onto an incident report in mnResponse.
- b. contact the family to collect the child if:
 - i. the child vomits or has diarrhoea on one occasion and is distressed or complaining of other symptoms, or
 - ii. the child vomits or has diarrhoea on two or more occasions during the day.
- c. inform the parent/carer or authorised nominee of the relevant exclusion periods as per Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services, 6th Edition (2024). A medical clearance letter may be required before the child returns to care.
- d. complete an illness report in mnResponse.
- e. notify an St Nicholas Area Service Manager and ensure appropriate reports are made to the Public Health Unit and the Regulatory Authority within the obligated timeframes, as required.

Rashes

(22) Urgent medical attention is needed if a child has a rash of flat spots that do not whiten/blanche if you press on them. The spots can be very small or quite large, and red or purple in colour. These rashes are caused by burst blood vessels under the skin, and may indicate a serious infection, such as meningococcal disease (Staying Healthy, 6th ed., 2024).

(23) Some rashes can be a sign of a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis). The parents/carers of children who are known to have severe, life-threatening allergies should provide the education and care service with an anaphylaxis action plan for their child. St Nicholas team members should follow this plan in the event of an anaphylactic reaction (Staying Healthy, 6th ed., 2024).

(24) St Nicholas team members will:

- a. contact the child's parent/carer or authorised nominee to advise they need to collect the child.
- b. exclude children with an unexplained rash from the service until such time as the rash is no longer present.
- c. advise families of relevant exclusion periods as per [Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early](#)

[childhood education and care services, 6th Edition \(2024\)](#) of children with a rash caused by an illness diagnosed by a medical practitioner. A medical clearance letter may be required before the child returns to care.

Incidents that result in the death of a child

- (25) A first aid trained St Nicholas team member will assess the situation for any danger to other children, team members, family members and visitors.
- (26) A first aid trained St Nicholas team member will administer first aid in accordance with their training and the St Nicholas Administration of First Aid Procedure.
- (27) Contact an ambulance by calling '000'. Ambulance is to be called prior to contacting parents or carers.
- (28) The St Nicholas Nominated Supervisor or St Nicholas Responsible Person must contact the St Nicholas Area Service Manager who will advise regarding contacting the child's family.
- (29) Ensure the relevant authorities are notified within the required timeframe.
- (30) The police and relevant authorities will investigate, and the environment is not to be disturbed until all applicable authorities have given an all clear.
- (31) The St Nicholas Nominated Supervisor or St Nicholas Responsible Person will direct St Nicholas team members to make comprehensive observations of anything seen or actions taken before or after the accident and complete any documentation required. This may include but is not limited to:
- a. incident report in mnResponse.
 - b. ACECQA notification of serious incident.
 - c. observation records and timelines of events.
- (32) These forms must be completed as soon as practical or within 24 hours of the incident.
- (33) Police in attendance will inform the St Nicholas Nominated Supervisor or Area Service Manager of any other matters that need to be addressed.
- (34) In the event of a death, or serious injury at the service, all St Nicholas employees will be offered debriefing and counselling from suitably qualified persons such as EAP, psychologist, counsellor, SIDS and kids.
- (35) In the event of a death, or serious injury at the service, children with the approval of parents/carers will be offered support by St Nicholas employees and external suitably qualified persons.
- (36) St Nicholas employees are not to comment to the press unless otherwise directed by St Nicholas Management.
- (37) If St Nicholas employees involved are found to be negligent in any way they will be placed on Administrative Leave until the investigation is concluded or until further notice.
- (38) St Nicholas employees involved in incidents that result in the death of child will be required to participate in investigations to the incident. Depending on the findings of People & Culture's investigations (which will be undertaken in accordance with relevant People & Culture policies) into the matter, employees may be subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to summary dismissal for serious misconduct.
- (39) If St Nicholas team members wish to attend the funeral (following appropriate consultation with the child's parents/carers), special leave will be granted which may result in the centre being closed for the day. Closure of the service will be considered on a case by case basis.

General Information

- (40) All St Nicholas employee will be informed of the [St Nicholas Compliance policy](#) and associated procedures.
- (41) If a child presents at a St Nicholas service with symptoms similar to those of an infectious disease already diagnosed in the service, the St Nicholas Nominated Supervisor or St Nicholas Responsible Person, has the right to discreetly ask the child's parent/carer to obtain a clearance letter from their medical practitioner before returning to care.
- (42) In the event of a child arriving at the service who is visibly unwell, the St Nicholas Nominated Supervisor or St Nicholas Responsible Person may discreetly ask the parent/carer to take the child home to recover before returning.
- (43) First aid kits will contain a list of contents with product use by dates.
- (44) A list of emergency numbers will be placed in prominent positions inside and outside the service and near telephones.
- (45) Resuscitation posters are displayed in appropriate areas of the service.
- (46) The St Nicholas Nominated Supervisor or St Nicholas Responsible Person is to be notified before parents are called to collect their child.
- (47) In the case of an injury sustained to the head, face or as a result of a bite from another child, parents/carers are to be notified as early as conveniently possible by telephone, even if the injury does not appear to be serious.
- (48) The following medical procedures will not be performed by educators and parents/carers will be notified of the injury and asked to collect child if necessary:
- educators will not remove any splinters or bee stings that are under the child's skin with no protruding points;
 - educators will not remove anything inserted into a child's ears or nose. Parents/carers will be asked to come and assess child and seek medical assistance if necessary.
- (49) Eyes are only to be washed out with a saline solution. If anything else is in the eye, parents/carers will be called to assess child and seek medical assistance if necessary. For eye injuries of a serious nature team members will seek medical assistance straight away.
- (50) In the event of a serious incident please refer to the St Nicholas Notification of a Serious Incident Procedure.
- (51) If an ambulance is called and a child is taken to hospital, a St Nicholas employee will accompany the child if the parent/carer has not arrived.

Section 5 - Legislative Requirements

Children (Education and Care Services) National Law 2010	Section 165	Offence to inadequately supervise children
	Section 174	Offence to fail to notify certain information to Regulatory Authority
	Section 167	Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011	Regulation 85	Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures
	Regulation 86	Notification to parents of incident, injury trauma and illness
	Regulation 87	Incident, injury, trauma and illness record
	Regulation 89	First aid kits
	Regulation 95	Procedure for administration of medication
	Regulation 97	Emergency and evacuation procedures
	Regulation 103	Premises, furniture and equipment to be safe, clean and in good repair
	Regulation 104	Fencing
	Regulation 117	Glass
	Regulation 161	Authorisations to be kept in enrolment record
	Regulation 168	Education and Care Services must have policies and procedures
	Regulation 170	Policies and procedures to be followed
	Regulation 171	Policies and procedures to be kept available
	Regulation 172	Notification of change to policies or procedures
	Regulation 177	Prescribed enrolment and other documents to be kept by approved provider
Regulation 183	Storage of records and other documents	
National Quality Standards	Element 2.2.2	Incident and emergency management: Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practised and implemented.
	Element 7.1.2	Management systems: Systems are in place to manage risk and enable the effective management and operation of a quality service.
	Element 7.1.3	Roles and responsibilities: Roles and responsibilities are clearly defined, and understood, and support effective decision-making and operation of the service.

Section 6 - Document Review

(52) This procedure will be reviewed when there is a legislative change, organisational change, delegations change or at least every 3 years to ensure it continues to be current and effective.

Status and Details

Status	Current
Effective Date	26th February 2025
Review Date	26th February 2028
Approval Authority	Executive Director of St Nicholas
Approval Date	14th February 2025
Expiry Date	To Be Advised
Unit Head	David Healy Executive Director of St Nicholas
Enquiries Contact	Nicole Baker Executive Manager - Quality Assurance - SN <hr/> St Nicholas

Glossary Terms and Definitions

"First Aid" - Immediate treatment or care given to a person suffering from an injury or illness until more advanced care is provided or the person recovers.

"St Nicholas" - St Nicholas is an agency of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle that provides a community in which children and young people develop the cultural, spiritual, physical and educational skills to belong in a contemporary world. Collectively, St Nicholas provides education services spanning early education (EE), out of school hours care (OOSH) and vocational education (Pathways).

"Visitor" - A person with no or minimal current or ongoing relationship with the Diocese, who is attending for a particular purpose or for no defined reason. Government officials, statutory officers and other persons discharging a particular purpose by attending the Diocese are visitors, even when that person may repeatedly attend the Diocese to discharge their duties. A Visitor is required to be escorted when specifically engage with children or vulnerable adults. Otherwise, visitors should be closely monitored whilst on a diocesan site where children or vulnerable adults are or are likely to be present.

"mnResponse" - mnResponse is used by all agencies and staff, as a simplified online system that has replaced a range of paper-based forms. It is used for: ♦ incident reporting; ♦ hazard reporting; ♦ feedback and complaints; ♦ compliance and assurance activities; and ♦ Risk Management activities.

"Families" - Means parents, carers, guardians, kin of the child attending a Diocesan service such as a Catholic school, St Nicholas Early Education Centre or CatholicCare and/or members of a clients family who care for and assist the client.

"St Nicholas Approved Provider" - The legal entity that holds responsibility for the service.

"St Nicholas employee" - Any worker who is employed by St Nicholas Early Education including office and service-based roles. This incorporates all workers, including office-based and service-based roles who are employed by St Nicholas (excludes those employed in Shared Services).

"St Nicholas team member" - Any St Nicholas Employee who holds a role within a service. This incorporates all service level roles, including leadership, cooks, educators, SBATs and trainees.

"St Nicholas educator" - All service roles who hold (or are working towards) an approved education and care

qualification, in Education and Care Services National Regulations (2011 SI 653) regulations 126A, 135 and 324, means— (a) an approved certificate III level education and care qualification; or (b) an approved diploma level education and care qualification; or (c) an approved early childhood teaching qualification.

"St Nicholas Nominated Supervisor" - The Nominated Supervisor has day-to-day responsibility for the service in accordance with the Education and Care Services National Regulations (2011 SI 653). In relation to an education and care service, means a person who: • is nominated by the approved provider of the service to be a nominated supervisor of that service; and • has provided written consent to that nomination Education and Care Services National Regulations (2011 SI 653). In St Nicholas Early Education services, the Nominated Supervisor holds the title of Centre Director.

"St Nicholas Responsible Person" - The Responsible Person is an individual who is physically present and is responsible for the operation of a centre-based service for an agreed period of time. A responsible person must be present at all times that the approved service operates and can be: • the approved provider or a person with management or control of the service; • a nominated supervisor of the service; or • a person placed in day-to-day charge of the service in accordance with the Education and Care Services National Regulations (2011 SI 653).

"Emergency Services" - Includes ambulance, fire brigade, police and state emergency services.

"Medication" - Includes prescription, over-the-counter and complementary medicines. All therapeutic good in Australia are list on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Good, available on the Therapeutic Goods Administration website.

"Approved anaphylaxis management training" - Anaphylaxis management training approved by ACECQA and published on the list of approved first aid qualification and training on the ACECQA website.

"Approved emergency asthma management training" - Emergency asthma management training approved by ACECQA and published on the list of approved first aid qualifications and training on the ACECQA website.

"Approved first aid qualification" - A qualification approved by ACECQA and published on the list of approved first aid qualifications and training on the ACECQA website with content such as: Emergency life support and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation; convulsions; poisoning; respiratory difficulties; management of severe bleeding; injury and basic wound care; and administration of an auto-immune adrenalin device.

"Medical Emergency" - An injury or illness that is acute and poses an immediate risk to a person's life or long-term health.

"Notifiable Disease" - Are illnesses that require notification to the Regulatory Authority and Public Health including: Diphtheria; Mumps; Poliomyelitis; Haemophilus influenzae Type B (Hib); Meningococcal disease; Rubella (German Measles); Measles; Pertussis (Whooping Cough); Tetanus Infectious disease outbreaks (more than 2 cases) of a gastrointestinal or respiratory illness.

"Serious incident (St Nicholas)" - Includes the following incidents occurring while or following the child being educated and cared for by a St Nicholas Service: a) The death of a child; b) Serious injury or trauma to a child; c) Serious illness of a child d) Any emergency for which emergency services attended e) Where a child appears to be missing or cannot be accounted for, appears to have been removed or is mistakenly locked in or locked out of the education and care service premises or part of the premises.

"Trauma" - When a child or person feels intensely threatened by an event he or she is involved in or witnesses

"Medical Action Plan" - A document that has been written and signed by a doctor. It also describes symptoms, causes, clear instruction on action and treatment for the child's specific medical condition.

"St Nicholas Area Service Manager" - An employee who oversees the operations and management of a portfolio of St Nicholas services.