

Working with Fire Policy

Designation: Health & Safety

Rationale:

The inclusion of fire is an integral part of Te Rāwhiti's programme and philosophy, however, we are committed to ensuring safe practices are upheld whenever staff are working with fire.

Te Whāriki:

Well-being/Mana Atua: Tamariki experiences an environment where they are kept safe from harm.

Belonging/Whenua: Tamariki experiences an environment where they feel comfortable with the routines, customs, and regular events.

Procedures:

1. We light candles during kai times and special celebrations, such as festivals and birthdays. Candles will be placed at the centre of a stable table and in a stable candle holder.
2. Staff role-model safe candle lighting and extinguishing practices and only tamariki who have had experience of this imitation, and deemed capable in this task, will be asked to contribute.
3. At least one staff member will always remain present while a candle is lit and will not move away from the space until it is fully extinguished.
4. Staff light fire pits as part of the weekly curriculum.
5. Staff will have the emergency kit on hand prior to the fire being lit and while alight, including first aid kit and fireproof blanket, with a bucket of water as a method of extinguishing the fire.
6. Staff role-model safe fire practices always and tamariki are made aware of how we keep ourselves safe while around an open fire, such as sitting when in proximity to the fire and knowing that only kaiako are allowed to stoke the fire.
7. At least one staff member will remain next to the firepit when lit and will not move away from the space until it is fully and safely extinguished.
 - Use drywood.
 - Stop fuelling the fire at least half an hour before you want to finish it.
 - Pour water over the fire until there are no embers.
8. Matches will remain out of reach of tamariki at all times.
9. If at any point a tamariki is deemed unsafe around the fire, the fire will be put out immediately.

Authorised:	Tash Robertson
Date:	11 Nov 2023
Review Date:	11 Nov 2025
Consultation Undertaken:	Yes