

2026 ALGESTER STATE SCHOOL SNAKE POLICY

PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to set out the policies and procedures in relation to the incidence of personnel at Algester State School discovering a snake in the school environment.

Snakes are listed under the Environment and heritage protection; it also seems that snakes relocated from an area will be replaced by other snakes moving in.

Snakes are not usually aggressive and do not seek confrontation with humans but may retaliate if provoked.

The important thing to remember is to never attempt to catch or kill a snake – most snake bites occur when people are trying to do this. It is not necessary to try and identify the type of snake as if a person is bitten, physicians may be able to identify the type of snake from residual venom on the skin. Also, for many Australian snakes, a polyvalent antivenom (antivenom that is effective for multiple species of snake) is often sufficient for treatment of snake bites.

Officer in Charge in the event of a snake sighting: Principal, Business Manager or School's Officer

Course of Action when a snake is seen:

If a snake is seen in or around the buildings or grounds by either parent or child they are to assume it to be venomous.

The following actions are to be taken:

1. Note the location of the snake and ensure that this area is isolated until the snake is removed
2. Remove all staff and students from immediate area or evacuate the room until snake is removed.
3. Immediately contact the office.
4. An adult is to keep an eye on the location of the snake from a safe distance. **DO NOT** approach, attack or otherwise provoke the snake.

REMEMBER - IF PROVOKED IT MAY STRIKE

Office Staff:

1. **Immediately** advise Principal, BM and School's Officer.
2. **Contact Snake Advice and Relocation** ph. 0413 028 081.

First aid for snake bites (A detailed First Aid sheet for Snake Bites is located in the First Aid Room)

If you or another person are bitten: -

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

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

help prevent the spread of the venom through the body. Do not remove the bandage. It is often easier to go over the top of clothing such as jeans rather than remove clothing. In an emergency, strips of clothing or pantyhose can be used instead of a bandage.

- **Immobilise the limb with a splint.** Lie down and keep the limb completely still until help arrives. Do not elevate the limb or attempt to walk or run. Movement will encourage the spread of the venom through the body.

- **Do not attempt to catch the snake.** All too often, the snake will bite again if an attempt is made to catch it. Identification of the snake species can be obtained through samples of the patient's blood or urine, and from venom around the bite area. If the species of snake still remains uncertain, a poly-antivenene may be used, which is suitable for treatment of all venomous snake bites

- **Do not wash the wound.** Venom left on the skin will help doctors identify the snake and administer the appropriate antivenene.

- **Do not cut the wound.** This will spread the venom into the bloodstream and can cause more serious injuries than the snake bite itself.

- **Seek medical help.** An anti-venene may be required.

Further information can be found at the following sites:

- **Preventing and Managing:**

<https://education.qld.gov.au/initiativesstrategies/Documents/fact-sheet-preventing-managing-snake-bites.pdf#search=Snake%20Bites>

- **Snake Removal Services:** <http://www.snakeremovals.com.au/>

- **Frequently asked questions:**

http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/snakes/frequently_asked_questions.html#keeping_snakes_away_from_your