

# PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

## POLICY

### **Rationale:**

- Playgrounds are essential pieces of school equipment, providing children with opportunities to develop physical and creative play skills, as well as providing unique experiences for children to develop relationships, friendships and personal awareness.

### **Aims:**

- To provide safe, exciting, challenging and adventurous playgrounds which comply with Australian Standards and Department of Education requirements.

### **Implementation:**

- We strive to have attractive and exciting playgrounds for our children.
- The development and maintenance of playgrounds is the responsibility of school council.
- Students are recognised as significant contributors in the process of playgrounds design.
- Due to potential legal liability issues, all of our new play equipment will be designed, manufactured, installed and tested by professional playgrounds equipment manufacturers, and will comply with the Australian Standards.
- Similarly, soft landing areas of at least 25cm depth that comply with the relevant Australian Standards will be installed and maintained under and around all play equipment.
- A corresponding maintenance plan for all outside play areas will also be developed, implemented and funded.
- The school maintenance plan will include regular visual, maintenance and annual inspections.
- Identified maintenance issues will be prioritised for attention and dated on the relevant inspection report when completed.
- The principal will ensure that any unsafe equipment is prevented from being used until it is repaired, replaced or removed.
- Weekly visual inspections by grounds staff will be carried out in case of vandalism or damage.
- Children using play equipment during school hours will be supervised at all times.
- As the equipment is likely to be used by the community during vacation periods, equipment checks will be carried out before and after each vacation period.

### **Evaluation:**

- This policy will be reviewed at the completion of each tender period, and after any significant playground accident or incident.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on....

**February 2015**