

### PLAYGROUND POLICY

#### 1. **Rationale:**

- 1.1 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.

#### 2. **Aims:**

- 2.1 To provide safe, exciting, challenging and adventurous playgrounds which comply with Australian Standards and DEECD requirements.

#### 3. **Implementation:**

- 3.1 We strive to have attractive and exciting playgrounds for our children.
- 3.2 The development and maintenance of playgrounds is the responsibility of school council.
- 3.3 School Council will form a 'Buildings and Grounds Committee', which will carry out or coordinate duties in relation to playgrounds and equipment including installation and maintenance.
- 3.4 The committee, in consultation with a professional consultant, will design a playgrounds concept plan that caters for the needs of the children, that complements the existing environment, and that is affordable and manageable.
- 3.5 Students are recognised as significant contributors in the process of playgrounds design.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.8 Similarly, soft landing areas that comply with the relevant Standards will be installed and maintained under and around all play equipment.
- 3.9 A corresponding maintenance plan for all outside play areas will also be developed, implemented and funded.
- 3.10 The school maintenance plan will include regular formal inspections as per AS/NZS 4486, including full documentation and storage of all inspection reports.
- 3.11 Identified maintenance issues will be prioritised for attention and dated on the relevant inspection report when completed.
- 3.12 The principal will ensure that any unsafe equipment is prevented from being used until it is repaired or removed.
- 3.13 Daily visual inspections by grounds staff will be carried out in case of vandalism or other damage.
- 3.14 Children using play equipment during school hours will be supervised at all times.
- 3.15 As the equipment is likely to be used by the community during vacation periods, equipment maintenance checks will be carried out before and after each vacation period.

#### **4. Evaluation:**

4.1 This policy will be reviewed at the completion of each tender period, and after any significant playground accident or incident. This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle. This policy was ratified by School Council on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013.