



PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT SAFETY POLICY

Rationale

- Schools must abide by the Guidelines for School Playgrounds 2012 as well as the following standards.
 - Australian Standard AS 4685 Playground equipment and surfacing**
 - Part 0 – Development, installation, inspection, maintenance and operation (New August 2017)
 - Part 1 – General safety requirements & test methods
 - Part 2 – Additional specific safety requirements & test methods for swings
 - Part 3 - Additional specific safety requirements & test methods for slides
 - Part 4 - Additional specific safety requirements & test methods for runways
 - Part 5 - Additional specific requirements & test methods for carousels
 - Part 6 - Additional specific requirements & test methods for rocking equipment
 - Part 11 - Additional specific safety requirements & test methods for spatial networks
 - Australian Standard AS 4422: Playground surfacing - Specifications, requirements and test method**
 - Australian Standard AS 1428: Design for access and mobility**
 - Part 1 - General requirements for access - New building work
 - Part 2 - Enhanced and additional requirements - Building and facilities
 - Part 3 - Requirements for children and adolescents with physical disabilities
 - Part 4 - Means to assist the orientation of people with vision impairment – Tactile ground surface indicators
 - Part 5 - Communication for people who are deaf or hearing impaired
 - Australian and New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 8124 Part 6 (ISO 8124-4:2014, MOD) Safety of toys - Swings, slides and similar activity toys for indoor and outdoor family domestic use**
 - Australian and New Zealand Standard AS/NZS ISO 31000: Risk management - Principles and guidelines**
 - Australian Standard AS 4989: Trampolines for domestic use - Safety aspects**
 - Indoor playgrounds**
 - Australian Standard AS 3533**
 - 4.2: Amusement rides and devices. Part 4.2: Specific requirements - Contained play facilities.
- These Australian Standards can be purchased through Sai Global Limited on <http://www.saiglobal.com/online/script/search.asp>.
- The main risks of injury are associated with:
 - Hard surfaces under equipment
 - Inadequate fall zones and playground surfacing
 - Lack of maintenance, broken or faulty equipment
 - Inadequate supervision
 - Potential entrapment hazards
 - Pinch points and sharp edges
 - Protrusions and tangling hazards
 - High platforms without barriers
 - Inappropriate use or play
 - Trip hazards
 - Overcrowded play areas, and;
 - Contamination with dangerous items such as broken glass and syringes
 - Careful planning, design and maintenance can assist in avoiding these hazards and preventing or reducing the severity of playground injuries.
 - Any new work or refurbishment for schools (which includes playgrounds) must also meet the requirements of the Department of Education and Training's *Building Quality Standards Handbook*.

Purpose

- To ensure Footscray North Primary School complies with site and safety requirements.

- To ensure the school complies with DET policy and guidelines and OH&S legislation.
- To improve children's safety, while reinforcing that the primary objective of play equipment lies in its value for play and adventure.

Implementation

- This school will follow the Guidelines for School Playgrounds 2012. The following summarises the main points within the guidelines.
- The development and maintenance of playgrounds is the responsibility of the School Council. Council will identify an appropriately skilled person to ensure that all inspections, maintenance and improvements are carried out in accordance with the Guidelines.
- To comply with OH&S requirements, the school will use the Playground Inspection and Structures Inspection Checklist.
- The school will keep a compliant register of all playground equipment. Clause 9 of the Standards specifies the components required.
- Council recognises that the life of playground equipment is finite.
- There are some doubts about the safety of CCA treated timber constructions. Existing CCA treated timber equipment need not be removed or replaced but hands should be thoroughly washed after contact with any outside surfaces, especially prior to eating and drinking, as part of sound general public health advice. Food should not come into direct contact with CCA treated timber.
- New playground equipment will not be constructed of CCA treated timber.
- 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 as above.
- Similarly, soft landing areas that comply with the relevant Standards will be installed and maintained under and around all play equipment.
- The school will only incorporate approved playground equipment (and must not use seesaws, swings, maypoles, merry-go-rounds, roundabouts and flying foxes).
- The School Maintenance Plan will include regular visual, maintenance and annual inspections as per the Guidelines including full documentation and storage of all reports in a compliant Register of Playground Equipment.
- 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.
- The school will establish the 'rules' associated with the use of playground equipment.
- Children will be instructed in the safe use of playground equipment and will participate in an introductory program whenever new equipment is installed.
- Equipment will be positioned where it can be supervised by staff on duty, is reasonably accessible from exits, does not obstruct pedestrian or vehicular traffic and can be lit at night.
- Children using play equipment during school hours will be supervised at all times.
- The school will report any incident via CASES21. Any serious injuries will be reported immediately to School Emergency Management.
- Following an incident or injury, the circumstances will be reviewed to establish whether or not action to improve the safety of the equipment can be taken.
- School playgrounds also fall under the OHS risk management legislation.
- Please refer also to the school's *Risk Management Policy* and the *Accident Recording & Reporting Policy*.

Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle or if guidelines change (latest DET updates August 2016 (OHS) and mid-November 2018).

This policy was ratified by School Council 25/3/2019.

References:

www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/infrastructure/pages/sitesafety.aspx

and

Kidsafe Victoria, The Child Accident Prevention Council of Australia

www.kidsafevic.com.au