



SANDRINGHAM EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL

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 DEECD 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.
- School Council Facilities Sub-committee', which will carry out or coordinate duties in relation to playgrounds and equipment including installation and maintenance.
- The committee, in consultation with a professional consultant, will design playgrounds that caters for the needs of the children, that complements the existing environment, and that is affordable and manageable.
- Fully documented site plans of the proposed playground development will be submitted to the Playgrounds Association of Victoria for comment.
- 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 that comply with the relevant Standards will be installed and maintained under and around all play equipment.
- The school maintenance plan will include regular visual, maintenance and annual inspections as per the *Guidelines for School Playgrounds: Playground Safety Management – February 2005*', including full documentation and storage of all reports in a 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.
- Visual inspections by grounds staff will be carried out in the 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.

References:

Guidelines for School Playgrounds:

http://www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/edulibrary/public/propman/facility/PlaygroundGuidelines_2005.pdf

Vic Govt Schools Reference Guide - http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/referenceguide/index/atoz_p.htm

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was ratified by School Council – June 2011