

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. Knox Park Primary School recognises that it has a responsibility to provide and maintain a safe play environment for all students through the careful management, installation & maintenance of all playground equipment.

AIM

- To provide safe, exciting, challenging and adventurous playgrounds which comply with Australian Standards.
- To minimise the occurrence of injury in the playground through systematic hazard identification, risk assessment control and prevention education strategies.

IMPLEMENTATION

- An annual audit of trees will be completed during first term each year – this will be completed by a qualified tree feller with dangerous limbs and trees removed (with reference to Knox City guidelines).
- When needed, class teachers will instruct children in the appropriate use of playground equipment, this will include the use of certain equipment by certain grades.
- Where possible the provision of shade for all items of equipment will be provided through the appropriate planting of suitable trees or the installation of shade sails.
- The development and maintenance of playgrounds will be the responsibility of the Principal in consultation with the School Council.
- All staff, students and parents are to report any damage/repairs that need to be undertaken to the Principal for action.
- All new play equipment will comply with the Australian Standards.
- Soft landing areas that comply with the relevant Standards will be installed and maintained under and around all play equipment.
- A maintenance plan for all outside play areas will be developed and implemented and will include regular formal inspections.
- Full formal documentation and storage of all inspection reports will be maintained.
- 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 or removed.
- Weekly visual inspections will be carried out in case of vandalism or other damage.
- Children using play equipment during school hours will be supervised at all times.

EVALUATION

This policy was last reviewed in 2018 and is scheduled for review in 2021.

Reviewed:	2018	No. of Pages:	Page 1 of 1
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