



PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT POLICY

RATIONALE:

- Pascoe Vale North Primary School's playgrounds provide 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. The selection of fixed playground equipment, therefore, is an important function for school communities.

AIMS:

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

IMPLEMENTATION:

- Pascoe Vale North Primary school strives to have attractive and exciting playgrounds for our children.
- The development and maintenance of playgrounds is the responsibility of School Council.
- A School Council sub-committee will coordinate duties in relation to playgrounds and equipment including fund raising, installation and maintenance.
- The committee, in consultation with a professional consultant, will design playground concept plans that cater for the needs of the children, that complement the existing environment, and that are affordable and manageable.
- Students are recognised as significant contributors in the process of playground design.
- Fully documented site plans of the proposed playground development may 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 playground equipment manufacturers, and will comply with Australian Standards.
- Similarly, 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 also be developed, implemented and funded.
- 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 by a school council nominated Playgrounds coordinator.
- 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 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 holiday period.

EVALUATION:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle. This policy was last updated in July 2019 and is scheduled for review in June 2022.