

P

LAYGROUND SAFETY POLICY

St. Agnes' Primary School



RATIONALE:

At St Agnes, we recognise the importance of maintaining playground safety. The playground environment offers opportunities for students to develop positive social and physical skills and values. The playground environment must be a safe environment.

Under the Work Health and Safety Act, 2011 (the 'Act') employers must have an obligation to ensure health, safety and welfare of persons at work to protect them from risks to health and safety arising from work activities. The employer must:

- Maintain the premises in a condition that is safe and without risks to health.
- Provide or maintain means of access to and exits from the premises, that are safe
- Ensure that students are not exposed to risks to their health and safety while at school.

The Act requires that all staff members must:

- Take responsible care of health and safety of students who may be affected by the teacher's actions or omissions at work.
- Cooperate with any requirements imposed in the interests of health and safety by the employer or any other persons under the Act, so far as it is necessary to enable the requirements to be complied with.

Under the Act, students or visitors may not:

- Intentionally or recklessly interfere with or misuse anything provided in the interests of health, safety and welfare in accordance with the Act or associated legislation.
- Wilfully hinder or obstruct, attempt to hinder or obstruct, or refuse any reasonable request to assist in the giving or receiving of first aid in respect of illness or injury of a person at work, or do any act or thing to avoid or prevent serious risk to the health and safety of a person at work.

These obligations and requirements are specific to the Work Health and Safety legislation. They identify more specifically the responsibilities of teachers and school authorities to:

- Take all reasonable care to provide suitable and safe premises.
- Provide an adequate system to ensure that no child is exposed to unnecessary risk of injury.
- Provide an adequate system that includes specific documentation policy, procedures and monitoring processes.
- Take all reasonable care to see that the system is carried out.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Maintenance of Playground Equipment:

The playground will be inspected on a regular basis by the Principal or Assistant Principal. Duty teachers will also monitor the condition of the playground and equipment and report any potential hazard to the Principal or assistant Principal (Refer also to the Risk Management Policy)

If any of the following conditions are noted they should be removed, corrected or repaired immediately to prevent injuries:

- Missing or damaged equipment components
- Deterioration and corrosion of structural components which connect to the ground.
- Scattered debris, litter, rocks or tree roots
- Raised surfaces, markers
- Grate covers over drains removed/ broken

Protective surfacing around the Adventure Playground equipment must be inspected regularly and maintained at the appropriate depth. Sandpits must be checked and/or raked before use.

At St Agnes', ongoing efforts are made to make our playgrounds attractive and interesting for students. Such initiatives encourage students to take pride in their playground and to play in a positive and constructive way with one another. Initiatives include:

- Adventure playground
- Primary hand-ball courts
- Sandpits
- Ball game equipment
- Indoor games, paper and pencils for wet weather
- Landscaping
- Undercover areas
- Student seating
- Passive play Area

Supervision of Students on the Playground:

Teachers rostered on playground duty have a duty of care to the students they are supervising. Teachers have a responsibility to be prompt to their duty, and to remain on duty until they are relieved by another teacher. Teachers must circulate within the duty area ensuring that all parts of the playground are adequately supervised, including toilets. Teachers must not be caught up in playground conversation, which would take away from adequate supervision. Teachers must take all reasonable care to ensure and maintain student safety on the playground, particularly by upholding the school rules.

Variations to duty may be required in special circumstances in order to ensure the safety of students at all times.

Specialist classes: Teachers at times may volunteer to run special groups and classes during lunch times for example chess, craft, speech & drama, guitar etc. Students will meet these teachers at a designated classroom or area. Teachers operating these classes are responsible for supervising them during this time.

School Rules

The school rules of St Agnes' are regularly reinforced by the school staff. It is the responsibility of all staff to consistently uphold the school rules, particularly those relating to maintaining safety within the school.

Accident Report Form- CCI

In the event of an accident on the playground, the teacher on duty is required to completely fill in the Accident Report Log through SafetyNet online and the CCI School Care Claim Form (kept in the office / downloaded from CCI website). This includes follow-up with the child on the following day and consulting with the secretary to fax the form to CCI. The Principal and/or Assistant Principal must also be informed.

Playground Duty

All teachers must be prompt to their duty and remain on duty until they are relieved by another teacher. Attachment 1 shows the Playground Roster / Supervision. It is a requirement that all staff employ adequate forms of sun protection whilst on Playground Duty.

<i>Reviewed:</i>	<i>February 2011</i>
<i>Ratified:</i>	<i>February 2011</i>
<i>Reviewed:</i>	<i>February 2014</i>
<i>Ratified:</i>	<i>February 2014</i>
<i>Updated:</i>	<i>November 2015</i>
<i>Next Review:</i>	<i>February 2018</i>