



CAULFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

PLAYGROUND SAFETY POLICY

POLICY NO. 4.4

Rationale:

Play is fundamental for children's growth, development and learning, and complements the 'formal' curriculum in schools. The school playground is a place that provides children with the opportunity to engage in free play, and is therefore an integral part of a stimulating learning environment. Play-based experiences in the playground enhance friendships, relationships and personal awareness. They also provide opportunities to participate in physical activity, master physical and creative play skills, and develop the important skill of risk assessment. Children move about more freely in the school playground, and so are more prone to accident and injury there than in the classroom. Although injuries cannot be totally avoided in school playgrounds, their frequency and severity can be minimised.

Personal accident insurance is not provided to school students in Victoria. Parents who wish to insure their child against injury are advised to take out private insurance cover.

Policy statement:

Caulfield Primary School has a duty of care to provide a safe and supervised environment where children can engage in play. This means taking reasonable measures to reduce the risk of injury, and to prevent injuries that can be reasonably foreseen. While the school aims to provide a playground environment where children are able to explore their physical and social abilities, in line with its duty of care the school provides:

- Safe playground equipment
- Supervision i.e. yard duty

Playground Equipment:

Caulfield Primary School complies with the DET Guidelines for School Playgrounds. These guidelines include types of approved equipment, playground design, site selection and positioning, shelter from elements, and inspection and maintenance schedules. The guidelines are available on-line at: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/principals/infrastructure/schoolplaygroundguide.pdf>

In accordance with these guidelines:

- Only playground equipment approved by DET will be erected in the school grounds
- All school playground equipment will comply with current Australian Standards for playground equipment
- Any rubber or synthetic soft-fall material will also comply with current Australian Standards
- All school playground equipment will be designed, manufactured, installed and tested by playground equipment professionals
- Inspection, maintenance, improvements to and replacement of playground equipment are the responsibility of the School Council (Buildings & Grounds Sub-committee)
- Any unsafe equipment will not be available for use until it is either repaired or removed

In addition, all playground equipment must cater for the needs of the children, complement the existing school environment, and be affordable and manageable.

Yard Duty:

At Caulfield Primary School children playing in the schoolyard and using playground equipment, are supervised at all times during school hours to ensure that they are engaging in appropriate and safe games and activities.

Staff members are rostered on to yard duty to supervise students at recess and lunch time, and immediately before and after school.

- Staff share yard duty responsibilities as determined by the principal
- Where possible staff on yard duty are first aid trained

Yard duty staff:

- Patrol the schoolyard to ensure that students remain in designated play areas, and are abiding by Caulfield Primary School's Student Code of Conduct.
- Wear high visibility vests or jackets so that they can be easily located and identified
- Periodically check playground equipment and report any
 - Potentially dangerous or faulty equipment
 - Vandalism to equipment
- Report any hazards in the schoolyard
- Refer unknown visitors to the school office

Yard duty staff deal with minor matters while on duty e.g. queries, disputes, accidents. Other matters may need to be referred elsewhere.

- Students requiring first aid should be escorted to the school office by a third party while the staff member remains on duty
- If a child cannot be moved then the red card system, or a staff mobile phone will be used to alert the office
- Poor or dangerous student behaviour may require an incident report to be lodged
- Good student deeds may be acknowledged to promote positive behaviour

Yard duty begins before school at 8:45am, and ceases at 3:45pm after school.

- Parents should ensure that children are not in the school grounds outside these hours, unless they are attending the out of school hours care service
- Children who remain in the school grounds outside these hours, will have their parents contacted, and at the school's discretion, will then be taken to the after care service until they are collected, at parents' expense.

Other:

- Stairways, doorways, toilets and areas deemed to be 'out of bounds' are NOT play areas. Buildings, access points or equipment in these areas are not for play activities.
- During wet or extreme weather conditions the playground environment may not be safe due to wet and slippery surfaces, extreme heat or other weather-related factors. In these circumstances the Wet Weather Timetable may be announced, requiring students to remain in (or return to) their classrooms during playtime. Staff will then arrange for supervision as per the Wet Weather Timetable.

Date of approval: 2016	Date of review: 2019
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