



Student Duty of Care

Playground Supervision and Inspection Policy and Procedures

Policy Introduction

We are committed to meeting our Student Duty of Care obligations.

Purpose

This Policy describes CESL's arrangements for supervising, inspecting and maintaining playgrounds to ensure that they are safe for children and young persons.

Serious injuries from accidents in the school's playground/s can occur from inadequate supervision, inappropriate games, lack of maintenance of playground equipment, overcrowded play areas and contamination from dangerous items such as broken glass and syringes. Each hazard has the capacity to pose a risk to the safety of children and young persons.

Scope

This Policy applies to all staff, volunteers and contractors at the school.

Roles and Responsibilities

All staff must:

- be diligent and attentive when on playground duty
- enforce playground rules consistently, fairly and equitably
- respond appropriately to any playground incidents, accidents or injuries.

Policy Statement

St Mary's School, Echuca is committed to providing a safe environment for all our children and young persons.

It is our policy that:

- playgrounds are regularly inspected for potential safety hazards and suitably maintained
- playgrounds are supervised by staff immediately before and after school, during recess and lunch
- first aid facilities are readily available at all times
- children and young person injuries and any near misses are recorded via our online Safety Incident Form on Assurance.

Procedures

Inspections and Maintenance

The school has implemented the following preventative measures to minimise the risk of playground accidents and injuries:

- risks associated with playground accidents are regularly assessed
- regular playground inspections are undertaken
- any dangerous items such as broken glass or syringes are promptly removed
- playground furniture and equipment are properly maintained.

Refer to our policy on Buildings, Facilities and Grounds for more information on how our school ensures the state of the premises is maintained to minimise the risk of harm to children and young persons.

Related Safety Policies

The school has also developed a set of related safety policies that may be applicable to incidents and/or accidents that occur in playgrounds. These policies can be found in our Occupational Health

and Safety Program.

Playground Supervision

Playground activities before and after school, during recess and lunch are supervised by teaching staff to minimise the risks of playground accidents and injuries.

First Aid

In the event an accident occurs and a children and young person is injured, supervising staff should follow the procedures as set out in our First Aid Policy and Procedures.

Implementation

This Policy is implemented through a combination of:

- risk assessments
- playground inspections
- staff and children and young person training
- effective playground supervision
- effective communication and incident notification procedures
- the availability of first aid facilities
- effective record keeping procedures
- initiation of corrective actions where necessary

Policy Administration

This policy is scheduled for review 3 yearly or more frequently where appropriate. All policies have been reviewed and approved by the relevant Executive Leadership Team member.

Reviewed date: 2025