



Safe Use of Playground Equipment

This policy aims to establish guidelines for the safe use of the playground equipment and aims to set out the responsibilities of staff and students.

Introduction

Children can benefit from physical activity on playground equipment that provides an appropriate degree of challenge to enhance their development. The playground equipment in the K-2 and the 3-6 playgrounds at Avoca Beach Public School is intended for the safe use and enjoyment of students.

What Is Inappropriate Use?

The use of equipment in such a way that threatens, or is likely to threaten, the safety or wellbeing of any child using it is inappropriate. Inappropriate use will be dealt with under the school's Student Wellbeing Policy.

Guidelines For Use

Students

1. The equipment is unavailable for student use before school and after school.
2. The equipment is unavailable for student use until teachers arrive for duty at recess or lunch.
3. The **Keep Your Hands and Feet to Yourself** rule must be followed at all times on the equipment.
4. Walk at all times when in the playground equipment area.
5. Students need to follow all supervising teacher's requests.

Teachers

6. Conduct induction on playground equipment for all students in their class early Term 1 every new school year and to new students throughout the year upon arrival to the school.
7. Discuss the Safe Use of Playground Equipment policy with all students in their class in the first two weeks of school and to new students throughout the year upon arrival to the school.
8. Playground supervising teachers will complete a visual check as well as feeling the bars for moisture to determine level of safety when arriving for duty before allowing students on the bars.
9. The playground equipment will be closed in circumstances of wet or very hot weather or when a hazard is identified.
10. Hazards are to be reported through the school's WHS reporting system via a Hazard Notification Form.
11. Teachers must ensure all children are playing safely.
12. Teachers should be aware of potential risks to students of falling due to fatigue, overcrowding and developmental level of children and take appropriate action as required.
13. Teachers implement DoE and school procedures/policies including duty of care, playground supervision, sun protection, duty roster, wet weather procedures and student injury.

Principal

14. Informs community of policy in newsletter early Term 1 every new school year and places on school website for easy community access.
15. Monitors the implementation of the recommended playground equipment maintenance schedule.

Ratification:

School Executive: Ben Thomas (Principal), Nikki Tobin (Assistant Principal)
P & C President: Laura Day (President)

Next Review Date: March, 2024