

Playground Safety Policy

Excellence, Diversity, Learning, Integrity,
Community



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By – SLT
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Playground Safety Policy

Rationale:

Playgrounds are essential in providing 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 in a safe, supported and supervised environment. Supervision of students in the schoolyard is a requirement of the school's duty of care to provide a clear understanding to the community around expectations, processes and procedures for encouraging students and teachers to understand health and safety within the school environment.

Aims:

To provide a safe, exciting, challenging and adventurous playground with appropriate supervision of students in the schoolyard.

Implementation:

- At VISS we strive to have attractive and exciting playgrounds for our students and the development and maintenance of playgrounds is the responsibility of the school. The Maintenance Team will coordinate duties in relation to playgrounds with their installation and maintenance.
- The school wide playgrounds cater for the needs of the children from Pre - KG to Senior school. To compliment the existing environment, the equipment is designed, manufactured, installed and tested by professional playgrounds equipment manufacturers, and is of an excellent standard.
- The school maintenance plan includes regular visual, maintenance and annual inspections. Identified maintenance issues will be prioritised for attention and dated on the relevant inspection report when completed. The School Maintenance Team will ensure that any unsafe equipment is prevented from being used until it is repaired, replaced or removed.
- Supervision of students is the responsibility of all VISS staff and a school wide yard duty timetable supports this. Yard duty supervision includes before school, recess, lunch breaks, and after school. Parents are regularly informed that our duty of care begins at 7.50 am each morning and concludes at 3.15pm. Children using play equipment during school hours will be supervised at all times as per a duty roster.
- Zoned areas throughout the school are allocated to students of different grade levels and these are designated for grade levels, for both primary and secondary, to support a safe environment.

- Parents are discouraged from sending their children to school before 7.50 am and are required to make sure that have collected their children or have left the school grounds. After school supervision for primary school students is provided to students who have yet to be collected by 3 pm and after 3.30 parents are called to collect their child.
- Yard Duty Staff must wear high VIS jackets. (Primary staff are provided with a bum bag containing basic first aid supplies, pad/ pencil and Medical Centre passes). First aid kits are also located in designated offices throughout the school (Secondary/Primary).
- Staff members who are aware that they cannot fulfil their yard duty obligations due to appointments or excursions etc. are required to either make a swap with another staff member, or discuss the matter with the coordinating daily operations manager.
- After 8.30 am all visitors to the school are escorted to the relevant Administration office by the security staff to sign in. In the event this does not occur Staff are directed to approach visitor's people and direct them to the appropriate office or notify Leadership of any safety concerns. Staff members must be prompt at arriving at their yard duty location on time, and must ensure that all students have left the yard before completing their roster.
- In the event of an injury in the playground, students are sent directly to the medical centre to see the nurse or the doctor. Staff are directed to send any student with an injury directly to the medical centre where first aid is given and parent contact is made. If required, Medical staff will go to the injured student. In relevant circumstances further medical attention will be advised.
- In the event that there is a physical altercation or a fight in the yard the students are to be withdrawn from the yard immediately. The yard duty teacher investigates, documents and arranges disciplinary action appropriate to the incident. In very serious situations the student or students will be sent to the Assistant Principal/Deputy Head in charge of Wellbeing/discipline.
- Extreme climate conditions are taken into consideration throughout the year and alternate play areas are designated through the yearly calendar. The school responds to climatic events that may affect the child's health and wellbeing. In the Primary and Secondary, indoor play is calendared during the hotter months and in Ramadan the playground/sports fields are closed. Indoor areas are available for students throughout the year in the secondary school.
- Children without hats will be restricted to play in designated shaded areas. Children who habitually don't bring a hat may be restricted from playing outside.
- At the beginning of each year, and regularly throughout the year, staff are briefed on the safety requirements related to their duty of care both in and outside of the classroom.

Policy Review

This policy is to be reviewed annually.