



## PLAY POD POLICY

### Rationale:

- Play based learning at Truganina South Primary School is a total approach to teaching and learning which combines the need for children to be active participants through hands on and creative exploration and investigation. This sits alongside formal instruction and quality play opportunities are an integral part of our stimulating learning environment. Through play, children interact and make friends, engage in role - play and extend their creativity; they test themselves physically and master skills, improve their fitness and health, and engage in self-directed activities that aid individual development towards independent adulthood.
- Where there is a satisfying range of play settings for children of different ages and interests, students' behaviour is likely to be easier to manage, conflicts and vandalism may also be reduced, and staff may be able to transfer some physical activities out of doors. There may also be benefits to students' self-image and to the image of the school in general.
- Playgrounds are essential pieces of school equipment, 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.
- We recognise the value of loose parts play, moveable parts that can be manipulated by children increases the value and types of play they can engage in.

*Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that: "Parties recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts."*

The All Things Play - Play Pod, enhances play opportunities for students to learn through play at our school.

### Aims:

- To encourage children to take responsible risks and create opportunities for divergent thinking and problem solving skills whilst fostering social skills and interactions with other students in a safe play space.

### Implementation:

Truganina South Primary School uses the All Things Play program which includes a Play Pod.

**Risk assessments** will be conducted of the school environment using a risk assessment tool for this purpose.

- Play Pod risk assessments are regularly up-dated and are an addendum to this document.
- TSPS will be using a Risk Benefit Model to assess Pod equipment which compares the likelihood of risk against the play value of that item.
- We will continue to identify key policy documents related to safe site management (eg OHS, fire prevention)
- Monitor and refine site management policy in light of any changed circumstance.
- Effective risk and safety management processes and procedures will be implemented to ensure that all pod equipment is:
  - 'safe to use' (when the technical aspects related to site, lay out, functional design and maintenance meet the requirements of these Guidelines)
  - 'used safely' (principals develop, implement and regularly review practices in relation to staff responsibilities and student behaviour).

Supervision roster (or yard-duty roster) and responsibilities code will be reviewed annually.

- The principal is under a duty of care to provide a roster and ensure that it is implemented.

- Individual staff members are under a duty of care to implement the supervisory responsibilities allocated to them.
- The school provides guidelines so that all staff know their responsibilities when rostered for yard duty.
- Replacement teachers will be rostered in other yard duty areas, swapping TSPS staff to the Pod area when necessary.
- Links and appendices connected with this policy is the DEECD Student Supervision Policy.

**Rules for use of Pod and equipment will be regularly reviewed.**

- Identified maintenance issues will be prioritised for attention and dated on the relevant inspection report when completed by DTZ.
- The principal will ensure that any unsafe equipment is prevented from being used until it is repaired, replaced or removed.
- Regular visual inspections by teaching and support staff will be carried out in case of vandalism or damage.
- Children using pod equipment during school hours will be supervised at all times.

Play Pod Manager in conjunction with OHS Manager to develop appropriate rules for the safe use of the Play Pod.

**RULES:**

1. POD Scrap can touch POD scrap but POD Scrap *never* touches people
2. If you take it out of the POD, you have to put it back into the POD
3. If the POD isn't cleaned up properly, it doesn't get open for play the next day

These rules are considered a working document and will be changed as the Play Pod grows and develops within Truganina South Primary School.

Pod Zone needs to be re-evaluated at the end of every term by the Play Pod Manager to determine scheduling and physical area of play.

**Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed annually and/or after any significant pod accident or incident using the Pod Risk Management Form.

Monitor Pod scrap levels and refill when needed from Authorised supplier. Any donated materials to be approved by Pod Manager.

**Ref:**

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/infrastructure/Pages/sitesafety.aspx>

<https://edugate.eduweb.vic.gov.au/Services/Schools/Infrastructure/Pages/default.aspx>

[www.safeschoolshub.edu.au/safe-schools](http://www.safeschoolshub.edu.au/safe-schools)

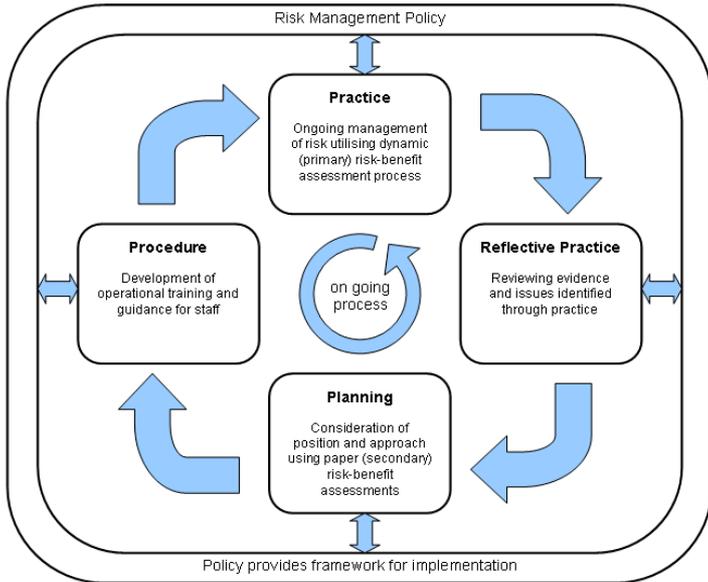
**Children's right to play**

[http://www.playfulcommunities.org.uk/why\\_play\\_matters/childrens\\_right\\_to\\_play.aspx](http://www.playfulcommunities.org.uk/why_play_matters/childrens_right_to_play.aspx)

This policy underpins our risk management system and provides the context within which our employees can operate. A risk management cycle then exists within this framework and incorporates:

- The professional practice and judgements of individuals
- Experience gained from personal and team reflections on practice
- Our ability to plan our approach to future practice
- The training and guidance produced to inform professional practice

Each element of this cycle is informed by, and can inform, every other element, and any future policy developments. Together these elements form an ongoing process, continuously improving our ability as an organisation to appropriately manage risk in services and facilities for children and young people.



- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

November 2016