Rationale:
Establishing a well-structured playground that promotes opportunities for positive interactions will have a beneficial effect on both social and cognitive development. Therefore, it is important that teachers encourage positive playground behaviours and respect for their play areas. Teachers need to model the behaviours that they wish students to adopt. It is most important that playground duty is carried out efficiently to ensure that students are safe and respectful at all times. Teachers must keep a watch out for unsafe situations and to endeavor to keep the playground calm by encouraging co-operative play. It is important, whilst encouraging active participation in play, to diffuse situations which could result in injury, violence, bullying or aggression. It is also important that students learn to respect the playground environment.

Strategies for effective playground management:

- Have a clear understanding of the school’s rules, expectations regarding students’ behaviour and behaviour management practices.
- Know the layout of the school, its boundaries and designated areas of play and ensure that you are in the area that you have been assigned.
- Be punctual in assuming duties. An accident during a teacher’s absence from duty may place the teacher in an indefensible position.
- Be on time if you are scheduled to relieve another teacher on duty. Report to the teacher that you are replacing so that that teacher is assured that someone else now has duty of care.
- Be mobile. Keep on the move. You cannot effectively supervise a playground sitting down.
- Be noticed by students. Use playground duty to learn about your students.
- Observe them and talk to them.
- Encourage safe play and stop dangerous play.
- Report accidents immediately.
- Leave the playground free of litter. Set an example by helping students clean up areas. Pick up a piece of litter when you ask a student to help. It is usually much more effective than issuing a direction and is less likely to lead to confrontation.
- Encourage students to take care of the natural environment and report damage to trees etc.
- Follow up any student complaints. Don’t ignore them.
- Make sure those students seeking to leave the school grounds have written permission from a member of the senior executive.
- If your playground duty is adjacent to a public space, always watch for any
• ‘Over the fence’ contacts with students.
• Report intruders immediately.
• Encourage students to cease play when it is appropriate and to assemble on time.

Links to other policies
Student welfare
Student Management
Code of Conduct
Sun Protection Policy
Environmental Education Policy

General Playground Rules
• Only K-4 students on the equipment at lunch time
• The quiet areas (area near office) and handball courts are shared areas
• The Oval is only for 5-8 students
• The grass area alongside the equipment is for K-4 students only.
• No Hat No play policy – or stay in the shade for primary students
• No tackling games permitted.
• Safe play encouraged at all times
• Out of bounds areas include- inside buildings and the car park
• Children wait on the asphalt area at the conclusion of recess and lunch for their class teacher

Instructions to Students
• All students need to be made aware of the designated playground areas and areas which are out of bounds.
• Students need to be aware of what constitutes safe and unsafe play activities.
• Students need to be aware of procedures for seeking assistance and where the rostered teacher is likely to be found.