

Tree Risk Management Policy

Background

Huntingdale Primary School has many trees on its property of varying types and ages. We acknowledge the significant benefits the trees provide our school including shade, beautification of grounds and educational opportunities for children. Trees are living and dynamic and can present risks during varying stages of their life cycle. The school is committed to ensure that within the grounds the Health and Safety of all students, staff and visitors is the highest priority and to balance the issues of tree health, amenity, heritage and environmental issues.

Purpose

To ensure Huntingdale Primary School:

- Has a specialist tree risk management program.
- Maintains and manages the trees on our property and removes or reduces the risks that trees pose.
- Follows Department of Education (DET) Guidelines and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) laws.
- Adheres to the DET Values of accountability, leadership, respect, impartiality, integrity, human rights and responsiveness when implementing the international students program.

Implementation

- The Principal has the overall responsibility of implementing this policy and will delegate certain roles to suitably qualified staff/arborist.
- The school will have a tree inspection each year and be given a report.
- An inventory of the trees to be managed including the tree location, species, size, structure, age, health, hazards and risks.
 - Assessment of individual trees based on the perceived likelihood of failure and the potential consequences of such as failure taking into consideration the tree's location, proximity to buildings and people and the potential to cause damage and/or injury.
 - Based on the tree hazard assessment, a risk condition is assigned to individual trees, and corrective maintenance works are scheduled in order of risk priority. Corrective maintenance is ordered from Critical, Urgent, High, Medium, Low and Very Low to Negligible over an appropriate time frame.
 - Ongoing monitoring of tree works, incidents, removals and re-plantings which will create an ongoing history and audit trail of the trees at the school.
 - Scheduling of re-assessments of risk status and re-classify trees after corrective works have taken place or a status changes because of tree age, environmental incidents or site developments.
- Any trees that need removal due to an Occupational Health and Safety risk will be funded by the school maintenance budget.
- Any trees being planted or removed for beautification purposes will be funded through the Sustainability and Grounds Beautification Budget.



Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's 3 year cycle or as needed to comply with DET policy changes.

Document Status

Reviewed	School Council Ratification	Next Review
May 2016	19 th July 2016	19 th July 2019
6 May 2019- Principal May- Sustainability & Grounds Sub-Committee		August 2022