

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.



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the school office

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) and/or the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) 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 this policy

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. This will be managed on the DET portal called the Asset Information Management System (AIMS)
- 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 change because of tree age, environmental incidents or site developments.
- All tree works will be funded through the school maintenance budget.
- The principal must approve of any trees being planted or removed.

Evaluation

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

Document Status

Policy last reviewed	19 th July 2019
Consultation	2019- 6 May Principal & Sustainability & Grounds Sub committee 2022- 18 August- Principal, 4 October Education & Future Directions
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	August 2025