



Tree Climbing Policy

Aims

- A. To prioritise student safety by ensuring guidelines for safe tree climbing are met
- B. To facilitate and promote healthy risk taking.
- C. To provide opportunities for children to develop their physical, sensory, and emotional strengths and needs.
- D. To provide opportunities for students to connect with nature

Scope and Application

This policy is available on the school website and applies to:

- A. Employees
- B. Students
- C. Community members

Definitions

- A. **Arborist** – a tree surgeon; a person who specializes in the care and maintenance of trees.
- B. **Arboriculturist** – a person who studies the structure and function of trees and cultivates and manages plants.
- C. **Risky play** – thrilling and exciting activity that involves a risk of physical injury; and play that provides opportunities for challenge, testing limits, exploring boundaries and learning about injury risk.
- D. **Soft fall** – a soft surface surrounding and beneath the tree. Surfacing types include lawn, mulch/sand and vinyl covered foam mats.

Principles

- A. Students will be educated on self-assessing risk when climbing trees.
- B. Trees will only be climbed by students during active supervision sessions such as break times.
- C. Safety will be prioritised through maintenance.

Responsibilities

- A. Board

1. Review and update this policy in consultation with relevant parties.

B. Principal

1. Oversee the implementation of this policy.
2. Oversee tree maintenance program, and the scheduling of professional arboriculturists to conduct tree inspections and arborists to maintain trees.

C. Admin Staff

1. Schedule regular tree inspections by a professional arboriculturist and maintenance of trees as per maintenance schedule and arboriculturist recommendations.

D. Teaching Staff

1. Be familiar with the requirements of this policy.
2. Educate students on tree-climbing safety (see *Tree Climbing Procedures*).
3. Supervise students tree climbing.

E. Parents/adult members of the school community

1. Report any concerns to teacher/Principal.

F. Students

1. Use safe practices when tree-climbing (see *Tree Climbing Procedures*).

Related Legislation

- A. Occupational Health and Safety Act 1984
- B. Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 1996

Resources

- A. [Kidsafe SA Tree Climbing Info Sheet](#)
- B. [Risk in Play and Learning: Ubud-Höör Declaration](#)

Related Kerry Street documentation

- A. Procedures and Forms including:
 1. Tree Climbing Procedure
- B. Kerry Street policies, including:
 1. Buildings and Grounds Policy
 2. Duty of Care Policy
 3. Excursion, Incursion, Camp and Activities Policy
 4. Risk Management Policy

Contact Person

Enquiries relating to this policy should be directed to the Principal or the Board Chair.

Breaches of this Policy

Any breach of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of contract.

Authorisation and Review

- A. This policy established Aug 2012
- B. Passed by council 2012
- C. Reviewed June 2018
- D. Reviewed November 2022
- E. To be reviewed S2 2025

Revision History

| Date | Revision | Detail |
|---------------|------------|---|
| June 2018 | V.2 | Policy reviewed. Procedures separated from policy |
| April 2021 | V.2.1 | Formatted. Policy list updated. |
| November 2022 | V.3 | Updated aims, added legislation |