



# COMMUNITY USE OF FACILITIES POLICY

## **Rationale**

Research has shown that student learning and the health, wellbeing, safety and economic security of all community members can be enhanced when communities have close links with their schools (Schools as Community Facilities, The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, 2005). The Victorian Government encourages schools to share their facilities with their community and has authorised School Councils to hire and licence school facilities, where these are not required for ordinary school purposes and are to be used for recreational, sporting or cultural activities.

## **Purpose**

Abbotsford Primary School sees itself as an important part of the local community and as such may make certain areas of the school available for hire to the community where considered practicable.

## **Guidelines**

The needs of the Abbotsford Primary School must take precedence, therefore facilities must not be used for activities that interfere with student learning, or are against the ethos of the school.

This includes activities that:

- infringe on the delivery of school programs;
- might bring the school into disrepute;
- are likely to cause damage or risk to students, school buildings or property;
- create excessive noise or pose a nuisance to nearby residents
- may involve the use of firearms
- or are illegal.

Community groups wishing to use school facilities should discuss the matter with the Principal prior to applying in writing to the School Council. In considering an application for the hire of school facilities, the security of the school must be a major factor for consideration.

The School should not be financially disadvantaged as a result of community use of facilities. Successful applicants must take out their own public liability insurance.

Community groups using school facilities will pay such charges as set down by the School Council, including a bond to cover any additional charges incurred by the school, as a consequence of the use of its facilities.

Community groups using school facilities will be responsible for rectifying any damage caused by such use, and for any additional cleaning resulting from this use.

Community groups will need to agree to, and sign, Abbotsford Primary School's Terms & Conditions for Hire and Use of School Premises before a booking can be confirmed.

## **Evaluation**

This policy was last ratified by School Council in September 2016.

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