Purpose
To develop and implement strategies to ensure that Westgarth Primary School becomes a falls-safe school.

Definition
A falls-safe school is one in which the physical environment is constructed/modified to be as safe as possible; the movement of people traffic and work organisation follows falls prevention principles and administrative systems provide the necessary support for the policy to be implemented.

Guidelines
Westgarth Primary School supports and will follow these principles:
- All people working in, attending and visiting the school are entitled to do so without fear of falling because of some preventable environment hazard.
- All people have the same entitlements regardless of age or ability.
- The school will provide staff with guidelines detailing acceptable falls-safe behaviour. Management and staff recognise joint responsibility for falls-safe behaviour.
- The school recognises that people with varying physical abilities have particular needs that need to be addressed.
- The school encourages staff and students to wear safe and sensible footwear.

Implementation
- All new facilities operated by the school will be designed to be as falls-safe as possible.
- Existing facilities in the school will be progressively modified to make them as falls-safe as possible.
- The school will comply with building regulations and requirements to ensure that new and existing buildings are as falls safe as possible.
- Educational programs and services provided will have guidelines which optimises their falls-safety and these guidelines will be publicised.
- The school staff including school management will have the opportunity to undertake in-service training in relation to falls preventions.
Falls Prevention Policy

• The school will make available curriculum materials and will encourage falls-safety education for students.

• The school will encourage their students to take falls prevention messages home.

• The school will provide outside contractors with an OHS checklist, which will include falls prevention measures.

• Identification of falls hazards will occur on a regular basis within the physical environment audit.

• The school community will be encouraged to report falls of both a serious and less serious nature and near misses.

• The school will continue to implement the footwear policy for students and school management will promote functional footwear for staff.

Evaluation
• Any incidents reported involving falls will be followed up to identify prevention measures.

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