



# IRONSIDE STATE SCHOOL

Ironsides State School  
9 September 2026

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

## **Re: Changes to Oval and Playground Equipment Arrangements**

We are writing to provide further information regarding recent changes to sporting equipment and playground arrangements during break times.

### **Background**

At the start of this year, the school introduced a rule requiring balls to be kicked or thrown below shoulder height. Three terms on, and despite the addition of extra staff on duty to help manage the issue, the number of incidents has not slowed and is resulting in serious hazards for students and staff.

A particular concern is that we currently have up to fourteen games of soccer running at the same time on a single soccer court during each break. In this confined space, the gap in ability between a Year 3 and a Year 6 student is genuinely dangerous, and students are being injured because of balls being kicked above shoulder height.

### **Our Approach**

Our goal is not to reduce opportunities for students to be active. Rather, we are seeking to broaden and diversify the equipment and activities available to students, so they can engage in a wide range of physical experiences while ensuring the safety of all students during break times.

As part of this approach, the school is providing access to a variety of sporting and recreational equipment that promotes the development of different movement skills, muscle groups and physical competencies, including gross motor development, coordination, balance, agility and teamwork.

Students will continue to have access to many of the activities they currently enjoy, including basketball, soccer and running games. In addition, students will be encouraged to participate in activities such as handball, skipping, and throwing and catching games, which provide valuable opportunities for movement and skill development.

We will also continue to run Three-Pin in the hall during break times throughout next term. This remains a highly popular activity that encourages active participation, teamwork, strategic thinking, dodging, running, throwing and catching skills, while fostering positive social interaction and camaraderie among students.

### **Working Together**

Student safety and inclusivity for all students remain our number one focus. We remain fully committed to promoting physical activity, healthy lifestyles and positive play experiences for every student, and we will continue to monitor the effectiveness of these arrangements. This is where we would greatly appreciate the support of parents and caregivers in helping students understand why these changes have been made.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact the school office to arrange a time to meet.

Thank you for your continued support and your commitment to the wellbeing of all our students.

Kind regards,

**Ironsides State School**