

## **Caroline Chisholm School – Chisholm Preschool Unit**

### **Working with Potting Mix Procedure**

Caroline Chisholm School – Chisholm Preschool Unit aims to raise awareness about potential risks of students and staff using potting mix. The following procedure is designed to reduce any risk to individuals associated with using potting mix.

Potting mixes may contain bacteria that can be harmful to adults and children.

- Purchasing a product that complies with the Australian Standard (AS 3743).
- Reading the manufacturer's instructions printed on the bag before using the mix.
- Being careful not to inhale airborne particles before exposing the potting mix to children. In the case of airborne particles wear a paper mask that fits over the mouth and nose.
- Opening the bag slowly prior to the children arriving.
- Dampening the mixture with a light spray of water to reduce the risk of airborne particles.
- Placing the potting mix in a tray to enable the children to scoop it into pots or onto plants.
- Always wearing gloves when handling potting mix. Rinse or dispose of gloves afterwards.
- If children are using the potting mix, provide children with adequate fitting gloves if available. Alternatively, encourage children to use tools such as a trowel, spade or old spoon.
- Washing hands thoroughly with soap and water after using potting mix.
- Storing potting mix securely away from children.

*Reviewed November 2020*