
SAINT NICHOLAS SCHOOL

PLAYGROUND POLICY

Note: This policy applies to all sections of the school including EYFS

Reviewed Oct 2019

Review Date Oct 2021

Related policies - Behaviour Policy, Rewards & Sanctions Policy, Health & Safety Policy, Playground Policy and Anti-bullying Policy.

1. PHILOSOPHY

It is of paramount importance that whilst our children are at school the activities that they experience are those that will help them to grow and develop as caring members of our school and community. Playtimes are times when interactive skills between others are needed, when children are learning how to deal with the many problems that relationships with others bring.

2. AIMS

- To ensure that all children have equal opportunities whilst using the playground
- That no child will be victimized and left unhappy due to the acts of others
- To develop social skills, gross and fine motor skills and an enjoyment of outside activities

2.1 Short term objectives

Children need to learn how to:

- share
- care
- play fairly
- co operate
- relate positively to each other
- deal with conflict
- deal with acts of unkindness to others
- show compassion
- have an understanding of others' needs
- show assertiveness, but not to the detriment of others

2.2 Issues arising

We would aim to set a good example by:

- staff to talk to children politely
- avoiding conflict by rephrasing a request - e.g. - not - don't shout at me but - please talk to me quietly, I don't shout at you
- suggesting an alternative activity rather than saying 'Don't...' say 'Let's try...'
- encouraging positive activities and play games

3. CODE OF PRACTICE FOR ENCOURAGING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Staff are to report incidents that happen in the playground that are a cause for concern. If the incident needs to be followed up immediately, head of section must be located personally. If the incident needs to be followed up but is not urgent, please report to the class teacher.

There will be regular reinforcement of playground and lunchtime codes, and rules, in order to maintain a positive ethos, through assembly items and in the classroom.

3.1 Strategies and sanctions in the playground

Level 1

- appropriate ignoring
- giving verbal warnings
- reasoning
- apology if necessary
- using - 'stop, wait, calm down, carry on'
- stand by the wall - no more than 5 mins
- pick up litter - if appropriate – must wear gloves.

Level 2

- verbal warning and stating consequences
- standing by adult's side
- removing child from situation
- standing by wall, no longer than 10 mins
- reporting to class teacher or other appropriate adult
- time off next play

Level 3

- Report to class or form teacher

3.2 Playtime and lunchtime award system

Each member of staff on duty at playtime and lunch-time can award house points to children who have shown positive behaviour. These will be kept by the playground staff and passed to the class teacher when appropriated.

4. PLAYGROUND ACTIVITIES

Children are allowed to play with balls at break and lunch time but not before or after school. Children are encouraged to share games. There is a quiet area in which children can use construction toys. Climbing apparatus is used at the discretion of the teacher on duty.

4.1 Restrictions

- Skipping ropes are to be used for skipping and nothing else
- Skipping ropes/sponge balls will be stopped on days when it is wet underfoot
- No jumping in puddles
- No play fighting.

5. INDOOR PLAY

Class teachers, are to make available equipment and quiet activities that can be used during these periods. Teachers will provide wet play rules for their class.

Suggested ideas: Board games, paper, pencils and crayons, comics and magazines

Children are to be occupied quietly in their classrooms during wet play times, and should be sitting down with an activity. They will not be allowed to use scissors, the interactive whiteboard or the computer (due to supervising internet access).

6. SAFETY ON THE PLAYGROUND

- Children must not leave the school premises without an adult
- Children who suffer head injuries must go straight to the main office.
- All serious accidents should be reported to the First Aid representative, and recorded in the accident book. The accident book is housed in the office. Minor injuries are noted in a book which is kept in Margaret Jones House and a note of the injury is sent home with pupils.
- A list of children with serious medical conditions/allergies, will be kept in the staff room, dining hall and office. For some children these are also in the classroom.
- First aid equipment is available at key points around the school.
- Any visitor without a visitor's badge should be reported to the office.
- Children are not allowed to remain in the school building unless supervised by an adult.
- Children must not enter school during playtimes, unless given permission from a member of staff.
- Children must not run in and out of the school building.
- All staff must ensure that they are in the playground on time for the duty.
- Only one person on playground duty should be inside dealing with cuts and bruises.
- Staff should not walk around the playground together, but space themselves around to ensure supervision of the playground.
- The office and Head of Section is to be informed if the teacher on playground duty is not in the playground.
- Asthma pumps are retained by the class teacher or in the case of older pupils with the pupil themselves.

7. STAFF RESPONSIBILITY

The role of the Head: The Head has the ultimate responsibility for the playground and should have a clear overview of the planning structure and organisation of the playground, during playtimes and lunch times.

7.1 The role of the Co-ordinators

The Deputy Head shall be responsible for the organisation and management of the playground, and ensure that the playground policy is adhered to. The Deputy Head will be responsible for organising courses, training and meetings for the staff involved, and also to keep the staff informed of current issues in school which relate to them.

The Deputy Head in conjunction with the Heads of Sections shall be responsible for ensuring the smooth running of the playground policy, and the daily monitoring of the lunchtime provision.

8. LUNCH TIME PROVISION

The sessions are seen as a social time, when children can talk to their friends, but they are encouraged not to shout across the tables, or get up. If they want to ask anything of an adult then they need to put up their hand, and wait.