

Playground Policy

Introduction

St John's Primary School recognises the unique contribution playground activities make to the wellbeing of the children at our school. Providing a safe and supportive environment, the playground offers children opportunities for play, creativity, fun and enjoyment.

We recognise that increased levels of physical activity not only improve children's health and fitness, but also have a significant impact on ensuring positive behaviour and attitudes.

Playgrounds are used for different activities and can become hectic and busy; it is our aim that our playgrounds are well organised and everyone feels happy and safe in the playground.

We want all the children to be able to enjoy their relaxation and recreation time.

Aims

Through our playground activities we aim to promote and develop:

- Physical activity
- Citizenship
- Inclusion
- Co-operation, consideration, sharing and fair play
- Self-esteem and confidence
- Language and listening skills

Responsibilities

Our Safeguarding, Anti-bullying, Behaviour and Equality Policies apply to all playground activities.

Headteacher and Deputy will:

- Ensure adequate staff are available to meet the supervision requirements
- Ensure that staff are aware of their responsibilities and have enough training and guidance
- Monitor and manage levels of risk associated with playground activities, including the regular inspection of any equipment
- Ensure that playground time offers pupils a variety of experiences.

Employees should:

- Support the implementation of this policy
- Apply the school's Behaviour Policy consistently
- Report any supervision concerns to the Deputy Headteacher.

Parents/Carers should:

- Respect the arrangements provided for the supervision of their children and acknowledge the times at which provision is available
- Understand that in order to promote the aims of this policy there will always be an element of risk, but that the school will manage this appropriately

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- Inform the school of any changes to the arrangements for the collection of their child.

Supervision / Provision

The level of supervision will vary according to the age and number of the children, the activities they are engaged in, the size of the space they are using, the experience/role of the supervisors and any particular individual needs of the children. There will always be at least two adults outside for break/lunchtime. Before and after school, parents are responsible for their own children but there will be a member of staff outside before the bell in the morning.

On both sites activities include, but are not limited to:

- Ball games, including football
- Quieter spaces for reading, talking etc.
- Climbing opportunities and other physical challenges appropriate to the age of the children
- Space for 'free play'
- Areas for role-play and creativity.

Periodically, the range of provision will be evaluated, usually through the School Council to ensure it matches the needs, number and interests of our pupils.