



Playground Supervision of Children Policy

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| Person(s) Responsible: | Headteacher Assistant Head |
| Formally adopted by the Governing Body: | November 2025 |
| Review date: | November 2026 |

This policy also applies to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Purpose

To provide guidance for all adults supporting children in school on their duties and obligations in regard to the supervision of children when they are on the playground.

The aim of break times is for our children to:

- have a break between lessons
- develop their social skills
- learn to play together
- develop new skills - take exercise
- explore
- be themselves

We want our children to enjoy break times and at the same time, to keep physically fit. We believe that play is a fundamental part of a child's development. To a child, 'play' is an important part of their learning. We encourage children to tell us how they feel about the play opportunities that they have at school, so that we can improve our provision and evaluate how well play contributes to the wellbeing and development of our pupils.

Key responsibilities

The Headteacher will:

- Ensure adequate staff are timetabled to supervise
- Ensure all staff are aware of their responsibilities whilst on duty
- Ensure this policy is shared with all adults supporting children in school
- Review and evaluate this policy annually

All adults will:

- Ensure they know where and when they are due to supervise children in the playground and arrive in a prompt timely fashion
- Support the implementation of this policy at all times
- Report any concerns about supervision to the Headteacher
- Follow school policies on First Aid, Accidents and Positive Behaviour Management

Parents/Carers will:

- Respect the arrangements made for the supervision of children on the playground
- Discuss any concerns over incidents during playground activities openly and constructively with the class teacher or member of staff who supported the children at the time.
- Parents/carers should be aware that school is not responsible for supervision of their children outside of the school day. Children are the responsibility of their parent/carer at all times other than those stated in this policy.

Key principles

Playground supervision needs to:

- **Be mobile.** Adults position themselves in places that ensure all areas of the playground are covered and not remain in one place. Supervisors are encouraged not to talk to each other unless it is directly related to an immediate supervision issue
- **Be vigilant** while on duty and try to pre-empt problems before they occur.
- **Support** social interaction of children through reminding children of behaviour expectations and providing a role model for all children
- **Ensure children are supervised** at all times. If additional assistance is needed, a responsible child should be sent into the school building to a member of staff with a message for assistance or use the radios.
- **Investigate** reports of injuries or pupils in distress. In the event of a minor accident, first aid can be administered on the playground. Where more serious first aid is needed, pupils should be sent to the office with a responsible child.
- **Assist** and remind pupils to keep our playground area tidy and free from rubbish.
- **Check** out of bounds areas regularly, to prevent problems occurring. See appendix 1 for details of areas.
- **Remind** pupils that the certain forms of “play” are considered to be dangerous and are not permitted, such as any form of body contact sports or games, i.e. wrestling, play fighting.
- **Ensure** the first aid kit and radio are on the playground for break and lunchtime.

Staffing

KS1 playground - At least 3 members of staff are on the playground during playtime and lunchtimes. This would be a combination of teachers and teaching assistants on duty, both inside and outside the school building.

KS1 playground - At least 4 members of staff are on the playground during playtime and lunchtimes. This would be a combination of teachers and teaching assistants on duty, both inside and outside the school building.

All teachers go on to the playground just before the end of break, to line up their classes ready to go back into the school building.

Equipment and games

All adults on duty must ensure that all equipment provided for children to use on the playground is appropriate for the age of the children and is safe to use. Adults should support children in the correct use of the equipment, modelling its use where possible. If children are not using equipment appropriately they must be reminded of how to use the equipment.

Children should be given the opportunity to engage in a range of games and activities whilst on the playground. Adults on the playground should engage in games and activities with children encouraging good social interaction and supporting children's physical skill development. Where the equipment is broken or lost staff should inform SLT and site manager. The site manager will ensure that the equipment is made safe or removed.

Playleaders

Year 6 should be given the opportunity to apply to be a playleader for the KS1 playground and provided with training. Once the training has been completed, they can organise games on the playground with adult supervision. There will be a clear rota so staff and Year 6 know who should be on the playground at any time.

Behaviour

Children's behaviour should be managed in line with the school behaviour policy. A positive approach to behaviour management should always be taken. In cases where behaviour is not positive children must be spoken to in a respectful way and any necessary sanctions must follow the school behaviour policy. For phase 2 behaviour, pupils can stand next to an adult for a timeout and for Phase 3 behaviour, the child should be sent to SLT.

Safety

The safety of children is paramount in school. Periods when the children are on the playground are such that children are at greater risk of injury. Adults must ensure the playground and all equipment is safe before use. If at any time the environment becomes unsafe adults must make adjustments to ensure safety is maintained.

Adults must ensure they complete their timetabled duty arriving on the playground on time. If adults are not on duty when timetabled this must be reported to the Headteacher. If there is a reason why an adult cannot complete their duty, for example attending a course off site, they must inform the DHT to make arrangements for their duty to be covered as soon as the absence from duty is known.

Whilst on the playground children may disclose a safeguarding concern or an adult may observe a safeguarding concern. Normal procedure would apply in this instance. If the child is not at risk of significant harm immediately then after duty a cause for concern form should be completed and given to the DSL. If the adult feels the child is at risk of significant harm immediately then the DSL must be informed straight away.

First Aid

Basic first aid equipment is available on the playgrounds and minor injuries can be dealt with quickly by adults on the playground. If an injury occurs that needs a higher level of first aid treatment children must be sent/taken to the school office with a brief description of the injury and how it occurred. Radios can be used to alert the office if necessary.

Wet Play

During wet play, staff timetabled for duty will provide supervision inside:

KS1: 3 members of staff across the key stage

KS2: 3 members of staff across the key stage

Provision will be made in the classrooms to ensure children have engaging activities including art, crafts, board games and construction i.e. Lego.

A first aid trained member of staff will always be available in each building as per the normal duty rota.