



Playground Policy

Policy ratified by Board of Management: 21/10/22
Reviewed: 30th January 2023
Reviewed: 23rd October 2023

School Patron: The Right Rev. Dr. Paul Colton,
Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross

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Chairperson: Mr Daniel Emerson

Principal: Ms Jill Horan

Morning Break: 10.50 – 11.00

Lunch Break: 12.30 – 1.00

- Pupils eat at their desks for 10 minutes at lunch break before going outside
- Teachers on duty must be out to supervise promptly. Provision has been made for the supervising teacher to have a quick break while the children are eating. Special Education Teachers will supervise their class during this time.
- When pupils are not allowed on the grass, the following rota will be in place:
- Ball games rota (only 2 balls per day allowed during the second break)
 - Monday: Free play – no play zones allocated
 - Tuesday: Prioritising Basketball
 - Wednesday: Free play – no play zones allocated
 - Thursday: Prioritising Soccer
 - Friday: Free play – no play zones allocated
- On any given day, a maximum of 2 balls are allowed for pupils in 4th – 6th class.
- Pupils with illness or injury, who need to remain inside, must have a note/email from parent/guardian to request same. Pupils will sit in the foyer area to ensure supervision by staffroom.
- No cartwheels or handstands are allowed.
- No rough play is allowed: no Bulldog, wrestling games, shooting or war games.
- Pupils must not lift or carry other children during break times.
- Pupils are not allowed to bring personal toys out to the playground: skipping ropes, hoops and other active equipment is allowed.
- During the 12:40 – 1:00 pm lunch break, pupils must ask the teacher's permission to use the school skipping ropes. Skipping is only permitted on the circular tarmacked area at the front of the school. The skipping ropes must be returned to Ms Horan's classroom after break.
- Pupils must ask a most senior teacher for permission to go inside during break time: i.e. to use the toilet, to get a jacket, drink, etc.
- All emergency exit doors are closed during break. The only entrance point is through the main entrance door.
- When the bell rings, all pupils line up silently in their allocated lines. The two teachers on duty supervise the pupils until their class teachers arrive.
- Class teachers must retrieve their pupils promptly when the bell rings.
- Teachers on duty must never send a class in unsupervised.
- Teacher on duty must lock the front door following break time.
- Teachers on duty decide whether pupils can play on the grass on damp days or whether they remain inside when it is wet. Teachers must be vigilant on days when pupils are inside.

- Teachers must ensure feet are wiped on the mat and shoes are checked for mud.
- Teachers/SNAs on duty must ensure that all areas of the playground are supervised – it's important to move around the different areas.
- Teachers on duty must inform the class teacher of any incidents/accidents during the break.
- SNAs must inform the teacher on duty of any incidents they observe. The supervising teacher will then reprimand/deal with any arising incidents.
- Serious incidents/accidents must be written up and signed by the supervising teacher. Parents/guardians should be contacted if an injury needs to be treated by a doctor. All head injuries must be communicated to parents/guardians.
- There are plasters, bandages, antiseptic wipes and ice packs available in the event of an injury – teachers must tell the staff safety officer, deputy principal, when supplies are running low – do not wait until there are none left.
- Should a visitor arrive during break time, they should be directed to the office or staffroom by one of the staff members on duty.
- If a teacher knows he/she is going to be absent on the day of his/her duty, he/she is responsible for swapping duty days with another teacher.
- If a teacher is unwell and not in school, the principal or member of the management team will arrange cover of their duty.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chairperson of the Board of Management