

St Joseph`s Catholic School Playground Policy



Mission Statement:

At St Joseph's we welcome all as members of our school family.

We learn and care for each other as brothers and sisters; enriched by the teachings of Jesus.

We encourage Creativity; valuing our unique talents and skills as gifts from God.

Working alongside pupils and parents/ carers, we can all succeed and realise great things.

Serving the communities within the Parish of St Joseph's and St Francis and beyond, we reach out to all.

We respect each other, our different cultures and faiths celebrating our richness and diversity.

Through worship and prayer we show our love; striving to achieve our very best.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Behaviour policy

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. The adults are responsible for facilitating play activities, which encourage social interaction and cooperation. We are proud of the dynamic, child centred ethos this creates.

Aims

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

Short term objectives

Children need to learn how to:

- Share
- Play fairly and cooperate
- Relate positively to each other
- Deal with conflict
- Deal with acts of unkindness from others
- Show compassion
- Have an understanding of others' needs
- Show assertiveness, but not to the detriment of others

Our policy is underpinned by the following principles

Our agreement must be simple and clear

- While there are reasons for poor behaviour there are no excuses. We feel that rules should be applied consistently but we recognise that some behaviour is the result of emotional and academic needs. We make every attempt to look beyond the behaviour and meet these needs
- Our policy and agreement should be displayed clearly and shared with all members of the school community
- All members of the school community have rights and responsibilities. We all have the right to an orderly school where pupils and adults are well behaved and we must all take responsibility for our roles.
- The policy is intended to strengthen working relationships between pupils, adults in school, parents/carers and outside agencies.

Staff Responsibility

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

Mrs Cox is the Midday Meals Supervisor; she is the line manager for the Midday Meals Assistants (MMAs). Mrs Cox is responsible for daily monitoring of the lunchtime provision. She will inform Head teacher of issues as they arise.

Our Learning Mentor has a key role in supporting vulnerable children and ensuring that all pupils are included.

Inclusion is an ongoing process that celebrates diversity and involves the identification and minimising of barriers to learning and participation that might be experienced by any pupils, irrespective of age, ability, gender, ethnicity, language and social background, and the maximising of resources to reduce these barriers.

Playground staff are to meet at least termly, to discuss playground and lunchtime provision. Meetings will include: feedback from the previous meeting, issues arising, children causing concern and AOB.

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. Playground staff will be invited to these assemblies. We aim to set a good example by encouraging mutual respect and using positive reinforcement rather than punitive methods.

Children misbehaving during assemblies or class time will miss their playtime in the classroom where the teacher is to supervise. Alternatively the child is to stand against the wall on the playground during playtime.

We expect the children to behave well and treat each other with respect when they are in the playground; following the Golden Rules (see **appendix A**). Some children find it more difficult to behave well during unstructured time; which is why playground behaviour can be an issue for some. At St Joseph's there will be zero tolerance for behaviour that threatens the safety or well being of others.

See Appendix B for Playground Behaviour Protocol

Children who seem to become angry or frustrated could also be asked to take some time out on the time by the shelter. This should not be seen as a sanction.

If poor behaviour persists and being sent to the wall has not been a sufficient sanction then the child can be sent to the time out bench which will be supervised by the mentor.

The Learning Mentor's role is to provide a complementary service to existing teachers and pastoral staff in schools, addressing the needs of pupils who need help to overcome barriers to learning both inside and outside the school, in order to enable these pupils to achieve their full potential, enable schools to improve attendance and raise standards of achievement and behaviour of pupils across all key stages.

At St Joseph's we have a Learning Mentor, Mrs Arnold, who supports pupils during lesson time and during playtimes. For some pupils, playtime can be a very difficult time, and so the Learning Mentor is there to support, guide and facilitate cooperative play and friendships.

Mrs Arnold, may take a child off the playground at anytime if she believes they could harm themselves or someone else.

Lunch time staff are to report incidents that happen in the playground to Mrs Cox or Mrs Arnold in the first instance, who will report it on if need be. Playground incidents will be recorded in the incident log (see **Appendix C**). If the incident needs to be followed up immediately, the Deputy or the Head must be located personally. If the incident needs to be followed up, but is not urgent, please report to the class teacher.

A member of the Leadership will briefly patrol the playground and hall during lunchtime, at the MMAs request.

Playground activities

Mrs Cox, working with the MMAs, will arrange for play activities during the lunchtime period. Where staffing permits, she may arrange lunchtime clubs.

Rainy Days “Wet Playtimes”

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).

Equipment from home

No I pods or electronic toys are allowed in school. St Joseph’s staff will not be responsible for any loss or damage to items brought from home.

Health and Safety

- Children must not leave the school premises without an adult.
- All accidents should be reported to the First Aider, Mrs Messenger, who will deal with the incident and record in the accident book. .
- A list of children with serious medical conditions/allergies, will be kept in class registers and displayed in medical room.
- A first aid box is kept in the office.
- Children are not allowed to remain in the school building unless supervised by an adult- Mrs Cox must be informed of this by means of a permission card
- Children must not enter school during playtimes
- Children needing to go to the toilet KS1 need a band, KS2 on trust
- 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; teachers must walk their class to the playground and stay with them until playground staff arrive.
- Staff placed strategically around the playground wearing high visibility jackets.
- The office is to be informed if the teacher on playground duty is not in the playground
- We must ensure that all children are happy to be in the playground. If there is a child who complains about a problem, this may mean that the child is being bullied. All possible incidents of bullying must be reported in the first instance to the class teacher.
- Asthma pumps are kept inside the office.

Lunch time Provision

FS/KS1 children have their lunch play between 12.00 and 1 pm, and KS2 between 12.15 and 1pm. Lunch 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. Children are not allowed to bring fizzy drinks, or sweets and chocolate. Chocolate biscuits are not allowed.

Additional points

- It is particularly important to administer sanctions fairly and to ensure that particular groups of children are not inadvertently discriminated against.
- It is vital that all of our procedures are understood by all adults in the school, by children and by parents. The behaviour policy is put on the school website and is communicated to children at the beginning of each year.
- Mrs Cox /Mrs Arnold to be made aware of children's names if 'concerns have been raised' (i.e. home issues etc which might effect a child's behaviour). These will be recorded on the Egg Shells board in the staff room.

Monitoring of policy:

This policy will be reviewed at the start of every school year to clarify points, make small changes and make new staff aware of policy and practice. Small reviews may be undertaken throughout the school year but must happen through structured consultation.

Appendix A

Rights and Responsibilities:

Our whole school Golden Agreement	
RIGHTS	RESPONSIBILITIES
I have the right to be safe	I have the responsibility to be kind and gentle
I have the right to be heard	I have the responsibility to listen to others
I have the right to work in a pleasant environment	I have the responsibility to look after the school environment
I have the right to be treated fairly	I have the responsibility to treat others fairly
I have the right to learn	I have the responsibility to work to the best of my abilities

Appendix B- Playground behaviour protocol (applies to all playtimes) – Zero Tolerance

Behaviour	Sanction	Comments
Running in corridors, down stairs and lower playground	Child sent back to where they started to run and asked to walk sensibly	Teacher to discuss with child/class
*Winding Up / Really annoying behaviour	1 st verbal warning, 2 nd warning sent to the wall for 2 minutes	Inform class teacher
Using bad or abusive language or homophobic or racist name calling	Lunchtimes: Mrs. Cox first who will then report to LT Sent straight to Senior member of staff. <i>See Behaviour Policy</i>	Sent to Senior Member of staff – Gill Foan or Fran Morrison. If continuous then informal meeting with parents. Recorded on behaviour log.
*Ignoring or back answering members of staff.	Sent on the wall for 5 minutes. Continuous back answering child to be taken off of the playground and sent to senior member of staff	Recorded in incident/behaviour logs. Talk to the class teacher
Physical abuse- (Malicious or unprovoked) including fighting, pushing, or kicking.	Lunchtimes: Mrs. Cox first who will then report to SLT if necessary. Child to be sent off playground for rest of play. Child to spend time with senior member of staff during lunch time depending on the severity	Child to be sent to DHT or HT
Bullying-all types	Child to be sent straight to HT or DHT in her absence	Incident recorded by the Head Teacher.