

The Federation of the Church Schools of Shalfleet and Yarmouth

Achieving Together for a Brighter Future



PLAYGROUND A STATEMENT OF POLICY

Approved by	CW
Portfolio	Safeguarding
Approved on	Summer 2021
Review date	Summer 2024
Review Cycle	3 Year
Policy Type	Non- Statutory
Ratified/FGM Date	

Signed _____ Date _____

Playground Policy

We recognise that playtime is a vital part in every child's day at school.

Playtimes need to:

- Enhance the quality of play in the playground
- Develop any playtime areas to their full potential
- Ensure that all staff involved in playtime supervision are aware of their role and routines.

Aims

Our playground and school grounds are places where children have the opportunity to:

- Have a break from structured routines
- Develop new skills, find new challenges and take new risks
- Explore and discover things about the world in which they live
- Take exercise and improve their fitness and health
- Talk to other members of staff
- Be themselves, a place where they can choose to be alone, be private or be with friends.
- Make new friends
- Learn to play together and mix with other year groups

We aim for children to "enjoy playtimes" and to keep "physically fit" and we take the issue of time spent at play seriously - to a child 'play' is an important part of their learning . We encourage children to say if they are unhappy at playtimes.

We believe that:

- Children have the right to play in a safe, stable and supervised environment.
- Parents have the right to expect that their children will be safe while at school.
- Teachers and other staff have the right to expect that the playground is a safe and peaceful place to work.
- All pupils have equal access to the playground resources and spaces.
- Children know the areas that are 'Out of Bounds' and are aware of the importance of caring for each other in the playground.
- Children have access to active play spaces, equipment and quiet areas.
- All children are responsible for the cleanliness of the playground.
- All staff will maintain confidentiality when dealing with playground issues.

Our expectations of playground behaviour

At all times we expect pupils to play safely and sensibly, avoiding the use of bad language, inappropriate gestures, rough or aggressive behaviour and the exclusion of other pupils. Everyone will have opportunities to enjoy playing with the playground resources, and will share in the giving out and tidying up of the resources on the days that they are in use.

Toilets and Cloakrooms

The toilets and cloakrooms are not part of the playground environment. Children must not access these areas for play. Pupils are expected to use the toilet facilities appropriately and to respect the fixtures and fittings in these areas.

Children should not interfere with another child's belongings.

Children must not bring valuable items to school unless invited to do so by an adult.

Managing Playground Behaviour

Please see our Behaviour Policy

Playtime Provision

Hard playground areas

Fields

Trim trail

Football

Other outside activities and games

Field

- The field will be used during summer months and the members of staff on duty will decide if the children will use the field. Staff must supervise at both ends of the fields including the boundary next to the road or drop off area.

Trim trail

- The trim trail is to be supervised by the adult.
- The trail will only be used when it is not slippery.

Playtime sessions and supervision

- A rota of staff on duty is available, there should be suitable staff ratio on duty at all times.
- The member of staff on duty needs to be on the playground promptly at the beginning of playtime. The staff on duty will remain on the playground until all children have left the playground.
- Staff should not stand together talking but engage with the children, moving around the areas to ensure complete supervision.

First Aid

- First aid treatment is recorded in the accident book.
- Parents/ carers and teachers are informed of any serious injuries.
- Texts are sent home to inform of any head injury.

What parents can do to help

- Be familiar with the expectations the school has of playground behaviour
- Be supportive of the school if it is necessary to apply sanctions for inappropriate behaviour
- Approach the issue of playground squabbles sensibly and calmly; encourage children not to blow such issues out of proportion
- Encourage children to play appropriately in the playground, taking account of the needs and rights of others
- Re-iterate the school message that using bad language is totally unacceptable.
- Contact the class teacher first to arrange a meeting if there are any concerns.