



St. Matthew's CE Primary School School Playground Policy

1 Aims and expectations

1.1 It is a primary aim of our school that every member of the school community feels valued and respected, and that each person is treated fairly and well. We are a caring community, whose values are built on mutual trust and respect for all. The school playground policy is therefore designed to encourage the way in which all members of the school can play safely and happily together. It aims to promote a play environment where everyone feels happy, safe and secure.

1.2 The primary aim of the playground policy is a means of promoting health, well-being and good relationships, so that children can play imaginatively, creatively and co-operatively.

The school aims:

- To provide pupils with a safe, active and secure environment
- To enable pupils to enjoy rewarding and constructive play
- To promote positive social interaction
- To ensure a consistent approach to playground supervision by all staff

1.3 Our school behaviour policy applies to the playground. The school expects every member of the school community to behave in a considerate way towards others. Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their behaviour and to recognise the consequences of inappropriate behaviour

1.4 The **school rewards good behaviour at playtime**, as it believes that this will develop an ethos of kindness, co-operation and self-respect. This policy is designed to promote good behaviour, rather than merely deter anti-social behaviour in the playground.

2 Playtimes

2.1 Playtime takes place in the morning between 10.00 and 10.15 am on two playgrounds. **Years 1, 2 and 3** use the KS1 playground accessed by the doors next to Year 2. **Years 4, 5 and 6** use the KS2 playgrounds accessed by the doors along the office corridor.

2.2 Reception are supervised in their own play area. There is no specific time for their play outside. The children's use of the outside play area is part of the 'free – flow' of their learning both in the classroom and outdoors. Appropriate clothing and footwear enables access to outside in dry and wet weather conditions.

2.3 During fine weather, children are encouraged to use the hard playground, the grass and the trim trails. **If the weather is wet** or has been wet before playtime, children play on the hard surfaces only. At no time should children play around or behind the bike shed. If the weather is so bad that children cannot use the playground, a decision will be made by the most senior member of staff on duty and a message will be sent to all classes. Children will be supervised in their classroom.

2.4 Snacks, which are purchased from the hall, can be taken outside during playtime. Children are responsible for placing litter in the bins provided.

2.5 **Children** are always encouraged to wear sensible clothing outside. They are also encouraged to **take responsibility for their coats**, which should not be taken off during playtime. If children do remove items of clothing because they become hot, they are reminded to collect their belongings at the first bell.

3 Playtime supervision

3.1 Four members of teaching staff are responsible for supervising and encouraging co-operative play each morning. Two members of staff supervise the KS1 playground and two staff supervise the KS2 playground. All staff should remain mobile and vigilant at all times. **Both trim trails are monitored by members of staff at all times during playtime.** Those members of staff who are on duty must ensure that they are outside promptly at 10.00 am and children should not go out to play unless they see a member of staff on duty on their playground.

3.2 **At the end of playtime**, a hand bell rings. This is a signal for all children to stand still and listen. When all children are quiet and still, the bell rings for a second time and children are expected to walk to their collection point. Adults escort their children back into classroom in a calm manner.

3.3 **Disagreements** are dealt with by members of staff on duty, who support children to resolve their conflict in a calm manner. If there is a **serious disagreement**, this is **reported to the teacher who will record it in the class behaviour log and inform parents.** On very rare occasions, **some disagreements will need to be reported to a senior member of staff** and will be logged with the date, the pupils involved and the consequence.

3.4 If a **child is taken ill or has a minor injury**, a first aider will be called, escorting the child to the first aid area to deal with the injury. This is logged in accordance with the Safeguarding Policy. If there is a serious injury, trained first-aid staff must be called to help in according with the Safeguarding Policy.

3.5 Children's co-operative, helpful behaviour is noticed at playtime and is positively rewarded through:

- verbal praise
- house points

4 Lunchtimes

4.1 Children play outside before and after going into the hall for lunch. They are supervised at all times and play on the same playgrounds as at playtime. Lunchtime supervisors are expected to stay mobile, positioned so that they can pre-empt any dangerous situation and be vigilant. The trim trails are supervised at all times.

4.2 Reception children play in their own play area under supervision. During the second half of the summer term they are introduced to the KS1 playground to help support transition to Y1.

4.3 In order to maintain continuity for the children, the same rules of access to grass areas and the trim trail apply. **In wet weather**, children may be limited to playing on the hard surfaces. At no time should children play around or behind the bike shed. If the weather is so bad that children cannot use the playground, children will be supervised in the classroom and senior leaders will support supervision in the following areas:

KS1 Miss Thompson

KS2 Dr Osborne

4.4 Children have access to a range of play equipment specifically for lunchtime and supervisors promote positive social interaction, suggesting and supervising games. Children are expected to help tidy away play equipment before the bell rings.

4.5 Respect for the playtime areas is encouraged at all times. If weather permits, children can eat outside in the picnic areas, rather than in the hall. Children are expected to leave the picnic area tidy, placing litter in the bins. Children may also volunteer to be 'litter pickers' using the equipment which is available from the supervisors.

4.6 **At the end of lunchtime**, a hand bell rings. This is a signal for all children to stand still and listen. When all children are quiet and still, the bell rings for a second time and children are expected to walk to their collection point. Teachers escort their children back into classroom in a calm manner. This routine is identical to the morning playtime to ensure a consistent approach.

4.7 **All children (except Reception) should always use the Year 3/4 toilets during lunchtime.** This area is supervised by the member of staff responsible for first aid. As Reception children are supervised in the Reception play area, they use the toilets attached to their classroom.

4.8 **If a child has a minor injury or feels unwell**, s/he will be taken to the first aid area outside the Year 3/4 classrooms. A member of staff will deal with the injury in line with the Safeguarding Policy, making a brief note of the type of injury and the treatment. If a child has bumped his/her head, s/he will be given a sticker so that the lunchtime supervisors and teachers can monitor the child during the rest of the afternoon. If there is a serious injury, the child must be supervised. Trained first-aid staff must be called to help in according with the Safeguarding Policy.

4.9 **Disagreements** are dealt with by supervisors, who support children to resolve their conflict in a calm manner. If there is a **serious disagreement**, this is **reported to the teacher who will record it in the class behaviour log and inform parents**. If pupils need time out to calm down or need thinking time, they are sent inside to the first aid area. The reason for this is logged in the lunchtime behaviour book. This enables patterns of behaviour to be monitored. On very rare occasions, **some disagreements will need to be reported to a senior member of staff** and will be logged with the date, the pupils involved and the consequence.

4.10 **Children** are always encouraged to wear sensible clothing outside. They are also encouraged to **take responsibility for their coats**, which should not be taken off during playtime. If children do remove items of clothing because they become hot, they are reminded to collect their belongings at the first bell.

Children's co-operative, helpful behaviour is noticed at playtime and is positively rewarded through:

- verbal praise
- house points

Policy Owner: Paulette Osborne

Date agreed by the Governing Body: 14.11.18.....

Signed: (Chair of the Governing Body)

Date of next Review: December 2020