

Positive Playground Behaviour Policy & Procedure January 2023

Reviewed by: Sarah Fox
Reviewed on: January 2023
Next review: January 2024
Related Policies: Prevention of Bullying Policy, Positive Behaviour and Discipline Policies (Early Years & Lower School), Supervision of Children Policy

Endorsement

Full endorsement is given to this policy by:

Name: Joel Chalfen

Position: Cambridge Steiner School Trustee

Signed:



Date: January 2023

Introduction

- Every child has the right to enjoy a positive outdoor play experience.
- Outdoor play should be adequately supervised.
- Children should feel safe.
- Children should not be coerced into games.
- For children to feel safe, adults on duty need to be respected and obeyed.
- The environment should be enjoyed and treated respectfully.

Playground Rules

1. Children need to be respectful and take care of one another in the playground.
2. Adults on duty have to be listened to and obeyed.
3. No running with, or throwing of, hard objects.
4. Buildings, sheds, fences and gates are not to be climbed.
5. Only certain trees may be climbed, and only with permission (see more below).
6. STOP means STOP!
7. Flower beds are not for jumping on or over.
8. Play equipment is to be treated respectfully.
9. Football only by special arrangement with teachers.
10. Outdoor clothing needs to be kept on in cool or cold weather.
11. No child leaves the playground without the teacher's consent (only allowed in to use the toilet, front entrance only).
12. If you want to play with water ask the teacher.
13. No going into or behind the outdoor classroom workshop.
14. No tackling.

15. Digging only in the digging area.
16. Sticks are only for play (not fighting/rough play) - stick length for play should not exceed leg length, longer sticks being carried should be dragged behind; walking only (no running) with sticks pointing down.
17. Any ball play on the patio must avoid the pool window - balls must not hit the window.

Here are the **Golden Rules** for the gardens and the wildlife pond:

The wildlife pond

The creatures in the pond can be observed from the grass on its edge. We are not going into the water or stepping on the stones or logs that are in and around the pond. This might damage the pond lining.

All the creatures that live in the pond want to stay in the water. They feel safe there and it is their home. They do not like unexpected visitors or to be disturbed by being taken out of the water or taken away from the pond; they do not like foreign items floating in their homes as they get scared.

The gardens

The hazel fence is not strong enough to be sat on, stood on, or pushed against

The gardens are open for walking using the garden path only

The creatures that live in the garden do not like to be taken away; the garden is their home and they help the plants and the soil stay healthy

All the produce in the garden is for sharing and we pick only during gardening lessons to make sure that everyone has their fair share

Fruit trees are not for climbing

Playground Culture

- Children should be encouraged to enjoy the outdoors, explore their environment and to play imaginatively, alone or in groups.
- Children should be encouraged to manage, with help when necessary, their social situations positively and independently – without unnecessary interference from adults.
- Children should feel if they need help they can ask for it.
- Games sometimes come in fads, may be played with a great deal of enthusiasm before sometimes leading to negative behaviour. If this happens the adults on duty may have to ban the game from the playground for some time.
- Adults need to cultivate a consistent approach to discipline in order for the children to feel safe.
- Adults on duty need to oversee and be vigilant of the children's activities. One adult should always aim to supervise from the top of the little hill which gives a good view of the main garden areas.

At the end of lunchtime the bell is rung and the classes should line up on the patio to go inside (Class 1/2 enter their

classroom from their own patio). If apparatus has been used, the staff member on duty should ensure that those responsible have tidied away. The teacher taking the next lesson collects their class from the patio.

The garden can get extremely muddy during the winter months. From after the October half term pupils are expected to wear a waterproof coat and trousers at play time each day. All children should have a pair of wellies that are kept at school. Children without waterproofs need to stay on the patio. From Class 5/6 the daily wearing of waterproofs is discretionary, providing this freedom is not abused. Older pupils need to ensure they still have waterproofs and wellies/hiking boots in school each day, should the need to wear them arise.

All children should spend breaktime outside (if a staff member makes a one-off arrangement with a child/class to remain inside, they must take full responsibility for that child/class). Break duty rota indicates which adults are responsible for supervising pupils during break and lunchtimes. See also 'Supervision of Children Policy'. Note: if assistance is needed, ask an older child to get help - there is always an indoor colleague on call.

Tree Climbing

There are four main climbing trees in the Lower School garden - these are marked with a red ribbon and have a protective surface beneath (where required). Pupils must check with a teacher before they start climbing to help those on duty monitor the playground safely. Supervising adults should not help a child into a tree and should observe from somewhere you can see them clearly (not underneath) so if a child falls you are aware of how they fell/ how serious etc.

Basic rules for safe tree climbing:

- there shouldn't be anything underneath the tree, no logs or things protruding from the ground
- branches being climbed should be thicker than the child's arm
- climbing height is x3 body heights of the child
- always have 3 points of support, always holding with two hands and one leg, or two legs, one arm.
- supervising staff member must be aware that trees are being climbed - pupils must check with whoever is on duty before climbing
- no messing around
- all trees are risk assessed and maintained - (see outdoor education main risk assessment for more details)
- no more than 2 children in a tree at any one time

Negative Playground Behaviour

Unkindness to a child either by individuals or groups of children, wilful physical or verbal abuse, towards any child or adult will not be tolerated. If any such behaviour occurs:

1. The victim may be encouraged to put a stop to the behavior themselves by saying 'stop' if they feel able, but more usually either another child or adult will make it clear to the perpetrator that this behaviour is unacceptable. This may not be sufficient; if so
 - a. The child may be asked to sit out of the game or play and reflect on their behavior for a few minutes; or
 - b. The child may be sent indoors to a teacher with an older child or other adult and given a task to complete for the remainder of break.
 - c. The child may be asked to make reparations to the victim – card, letter of apology etc.
2. The child's parents will be notified either verbally, in person or by telephone or via email, of their child's behavior.
3. The incident must be recorded on MyConcern, noting those involved and any action taken/ further action required
4. Incidents are monitored by the DSL.

5. There is a rolling agenda item at department meetings where current playground issues or incidents/things to be particularly aware of can be shared with all relevant staff.

Serious Playground Incidents

A serious incident is one in which a child gets significantly hurt, either physically or emotionally, by another child/ other children, whether deliberate or otherwise, or, when a group of children are involved in serious fighting.

- The adult on duty should ask for the assistance of another adult – ask an older child to get a second adult.
- Ensure that the children stop fighting and are safe.
- Assess injuries and calm the situation.
- Ascertain briefly what occurred.
- Children involved must be accompanied inside to calm down, have injuries attended to.
- If complex situation, teacher involved may need to be relieved from teaching, while situation is dealt with ie. details taken of exactly what occurred, who was involved etc.
- Incident report filed ASAP.
- The narrative of, and responsibilities around, the event may not be easy to ascertain if not witnessed by an adult. However, the account needs to be written as accurately as possible, recorded on MyConcern.
- Remedial action decided upon as appropriate.
- The parents of those children involved should be notified the same day.
- If concerns arise re bullying, these need to be addressed in relation to our Prevention of Bullying Policy.
- Class assembly/school assembly may be necessary to address the issue.
- Playground behaviour is reviewed weekly at the department meeting.