

Positive Playground Behaviour Policy & Procedure April 2021

Reviewed by: Sarah Fox
Reviewed on: April 2021
Next review: April 2022
Related Policies: Prevention of Bullying Policy, Positive Behaviour and Discipline Policies (Early Years & Lower School)

Endorsement

Full endorsement is given to this policy by:

Name: Alessandra Tosi

Position: Cambridge Steiner School Trustee

Signed:



Date: April 2021

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. No football except by special arrangement with teachers (Class 5 upwards).
10. Outdoor clothing needs to be kept on in cool or cold weather.
11. No child leaves the playground without teacher's consent.
12. If you want to play with water ask the teacher.
13. No going behind the container or into the outdoor classroom workshop.
14. No tackling.
15. Digging only in the digging area.

16. Sticks are only for play (not weapons); walking only with sticks pointing down.
17. Any ball play on the patio must avoid the pool window - balls must not hit the window.

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.

At the end of each playtime the bell is rung twice. The first time signals 3 minutes of tidying time (placing tyres back in their area, putting other equipment away i.e. balls, hoops, cones) and at the second bell the classes should line up on the patio to go inside.

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 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.

Tree Climbing

There are four main climbing trees in the Lower School garden - these are marked with a red ribbon and have wood chips underneath. Pupils must check with a teacher before they start climbing to help those on duty monitor the playground safely.

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 - Andor will oversee (see outdoor education main risk assessment for more details)

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.