

St Matthias C.E. School

Playground Policy

As a church school we model our behaviour policy on the example of Jesus' teaching. Caring for one another, showing each other respect and friendship, solving conflicts calmly and in a problem solving manner are at the heart of what we are called to do. Where children fail to live up to this high standard, we remember that all staff are here to *teach* children how to behave in this way through modeling the above behaviour to them. Just as Jesus forgives us whatever we do, we also must be ready to forgive children and to help them learn how to forgive one another.

It is our Policy that:

Children have the right to play in a stable, safe and ordered environment. Parents have the right to expect that their children will be safe while at school.

Children have the responsibility to play in safe and friendly ways by keeping the school playground rules.

Children have the right to make mistakes and be forgiven afterwards. They are still learning how to behave well. As in learning any skill, some children will take a lot longer to learn than others. Labeling a child as having a 'bad' reputation only makes that learning process longer.

Children have the responsibility to own up to bad choices, to apologies to those they have hurt and to accept any punishment without complaining.

Teachers and Support Staff have the right to expect that the playground is a safe, friendly and peaceful place to work. Both girls and, boys and children of any racial group have equal access to the playground facilities and spaces.

Teachers and Support Staff have the responsibility to ensure the playground is safe, friendly and peaceful by diligent supervision, promoting of positive play and modeling of calm, non-aggressive conflict resolution strategies.

Children are aware of the areas that are 'Out of Bounds'

Children are aware of the importance of caring for each other in the playground.

All students have a range of strategies for managing any conflict, which may arise in the playground.

Children have both active and passive play spaces.

All children are responsible for the cleanliness of the playground.

Playtime Rules

- Be polite to all children and adults - don't hurt each other's feelings.
- Find an adult to help you sort out problems that you can't - don't become a 'policeman plod'.
- Be gentle - don't hurt anyone.
- Be honest - don't cover up the truth.
- Walk away from wind-ups - don't get involved.
- Play well with others - don't spoil each other's games.
- Line up safely and calmly - don't continue playing in the line.
- Keep your hands and feet to yourself - don't lift people up, kick, pull or headlock others.

* These rules should be displayed in the playground and classroom.

Playtime Safety Rules

- Only school balls allowed in the playground.
- Line up and use only shots at the basketball net.
- One ball for King ball.
- One ball for Champ.
- Ask permission to go to the toilet.
- Only fruit can be eaten in the playground.
- Drink milk on the quiet side.
- Cough sweets are not allowed in school at all.
- No running/chasing around the ball wall.
- Do not run under the basketball net.
- No running or chasing allowed on the quiet side.
- Do not play near the shed or anywhere you cannot be seen.
- Keep games away from the water fountains.
- 'Home' is the mesh fence and never the hall wall.
- No games that involve fighting or play fighting.
- Do not lift up others.
- Do not kick or pull others.
- Do not pick the flowers.
- Do not play on or up and down the ramps.
- Bulldog and play-fighting are not allowed at all.

* These safety rules should be displayed in the playground and classrooms.

Procedures at Playtime

Playground Duty

Playtime starts at 10.30am and the adults on duty must be out at that time. Infant break in the afternoon starts at 2.45pm and the same procedures apply.

- Teacher circulates and carries a whistle.
- One member of the support staff on the quiet side
- One member of the support staff by the toilets and responsible for administering first aid (only adult allowed to leave the playground during break).

It is the responsibility of the adults on duty to reinforce the playground rules and safety rules. Adults must make sure that they do not have drinks outside with them; in the interests of Health and Safety.

End of Playtime

- Teacher on duty blows the first whistle (ONE LONG whistle) at 10.42am (3 minutes before end of playtime). Or likewise for infant break.
- Adults on duty make sure that the children STOP playing and eating, get a DRINK of water (no milk) and go to the TOILET and/or LINE UP.
- The friendship squad (or year 6) must, at that time, put away balls and any equipment.
- The teacher on duty blows the second whistle (TWO LONG whistles) at 10.45am.
- The adults on duty ensure that each line is calm, orderly and quiet.
- The teacher on duty ensures that no children are left unsupervised in the playground as the classes go in.

It is important to note that playtime finishes promptly regardless of the time assembly finishes. Playtime should not run over 10.45am unless otherwise stated by the HT, DHT or other member of the SMT.

Lunchtime

Lunchtime starts at 12.30pm for the ks1&2

The same procedures apply at lunchtime breaks. However, where only two adults are outside it is necessary for one adult to monitor the toilet area and therefore stay by the door and the second adult to circulate the playground.

Lunchtime staff are permitted to have a quick snack at the start of lunchtime and have finished this by 12 45pm; in the interests of Health and Safety. No hot food or snacks permitted in the playground.

The first long whistle blows at 1.25pm to mark tidy up time (see rules for playtime). Teachers come to meet their line at 1 25pm and help to settle lines.

Lunchtime finishes at 1.30pm prompt.

Rewards and Sanctions at Playtime and Lunchtime

It is the responsibility of the adults on duty to promote positive behaviour at playtimes. The playtime rules and safety rules are displayed in the playground for this purpose. Staff need to actively supervise playspaces, circulating throughout the entire space, being especially mindful of likely trouble spots. Staff should interact with children and organize activities for them to join in. Children should be praised for keeping the playground rules and their teacher informed.

Staff need to be mindful of the need to model calm and respectful conflict resolution strategies and therefore keep calm and respectful at all times, even under provocation. **At no point should any adult raise their voice or make disparaging remarks about a child.** This will only make the situation worse. Our language needs to be clear and controlled. Children make choices about whether to follow rules or not. Poor choices result in consequences.

Where a child or group of children are misbehaving the following procedure should be followed by adults on duty:

- 1st time: Verbal warning: calmly point out the rule that has been broken and reminding the child they have a choice to stop breaking the rule or to choose to go on the wall for 10 mins.
- 2nd time: calmly tell the child that as they have chosen to break the rule, they need to be on the wall for 10 mins, to help them think about making good choices. Child then has maximum of 10 mins (no longer) time out on the wall.
- 3rd time or persistent bad behaviour: calmly tell the child that because they keep on making poor choices they will need to be sent in to see a member of the SMT
- Fighting, racism or nasty behaviour suspected of being bullying must not be permitted and that child or children must be sent into a member of the SMT

immediately. However, it is still important to stay calm, to refrain from shouting or making disapproving comments and simply tell the child/children involved that you are sending them in to discuss the problem.

- Children should **never be placed on the wall as a sanction because of behaviour in class - you must use the procedure in the behaviour policy and not invent your own sanctions!**

*Children should only be placed on the wall by the staff on duty.

**Those children excluded, by the SMT, on a 3 day ban from the playground will report to the library for detention and be supervised by a member of the SMT.

What to do when a child's behaviour 'gets' to you.

It is never easy to stay calm when someone is shouting, swearing or hurting you. However, as paid professionals, this is what we are expected to do at all times, however provoked. If you find yourself becoming angry, ask a colleague to take over and remove yourself from the situation. Take some deep breaths and remind yourself that this is not a personal attack on you. If necessary, and if your colleagues can manage without you, go inside and have a drink or find yourself some space. Your colleagues can request that another member of staff covers you temporarily. All staff on breaks must be willing to give up their break time to do this - these incidents do not happen very often.

Your colleague will escort the child/children to the head's office. If this proves difficult, then send in a child to find the HT or other senior staff to fetch the child/children.

After you have calmed down, return to your normal duties. The angry child will be being dealt with by the SMT - do not involve yourself any further in the situation. However tempting, do not mention the behaviour to the child again or let it affect how you behave towards them in future.

Accept any apology graciously - this may not be forthcoming for several days after the event. It is ok to tell the apologizing child that 'you did really hurt my feelings' and/or 'I think your behaviour towards me was really

unfair because...' as long as this is done calmly and in the spirit of reconciliation.

You may want to meet with the SMT member afterwards to find out more about the incident and what is happening as a result. Sometimes it is tempting to want 'revenge' on the child for upsetting you. However understandable that feeling is, our professional duty is to help the children develop self control and revenge has no part in that. Where the SMT decides to punish a child in line with our behaviour policy, that is to help the child develop self control by reinforcing that their behaviour was unacceptable and that if they cannot control themselves, then we will have to control them.

Children who have poor anger management skills are not 'bad' children. They are children who have a specific learning problem that we all need to help them overcome. Usually they are delayed in learning good anger management because they do not have it modeled at home - that is hardly their fault! The best way to do this is by modeling good anger management skills ourselves.

Friendship Squad

Children in Year Six may become a member of the Friendship Squad. The children are interviewed and selected by the learning mentor.

The FS provides games on the quiet side of the playground and aims to encourage a range of choices of activity at playtime in order to make playtime interesting and also to support those children who are lonely or having friendship difficulties.

The friendship Squad need support from the staff on playground duty and are not there in order to sort out difficulties between individuals or groups.