

LEAS PARK JUNIOR SCHOOL

POLICY FOR SAFE PLAY IN OUR PLAYGROUND October 2024

Play should be an important part of every child's day. Play is not only a vehicle through which young children learn, but should also provide children with opportunities to develop socially and physically.

Aims:

- To keep children as safe as possible in structured and unstructured play situations
- For children to learn alongside each other, respecting the rights of the individual within co-operative and social situations
- To ensure that each child has ownership of the rules for safe play and is able to accept the parameters laid down

Roles and Responsibilities:

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for this policy and its implementation. The class teachers, midday supervisors and teaching assistants will also assume responsibility for the children they supervise on the playground, field and play equipment.

These responsibilities include:

- Policy development and review
- Promoting safe play within our school
- Ensuring appropriate and rigorous supervision at playtimes and lunchtimes
- Reporting any unsafe play to the appropriate member of staff, and to parents where appropriate

Guidelines for Safe Play:

- Games played by large groups of children are to be positively encouraged, but supervising adults must be prepared to intervene if the game becomes too rough or hinders the games of the other children. This is

particularly relevant during the winter months when all children are on the hard play areas.

- Football is only to be played on the two days NFFC attend unless a member of staff supervises the game and it is agreed.
- Children must wear suitable footwear that will provide secure traction between them and play equipment
- Some equipment will be suitable when children are dressed for winter conditions. However, gloves and mittens are not suitable for play on climbing frames etc. Where equipment is sited on grassed areas it should be kept out of use in wet weather and for some time afterwards to allow the ground to be sufficiently dry to avoid rapid wear of activity spots and the creation of ruts and muddy puddles
- Equipment should not be used during wet or icy conditions, this can make equipment dangerous as ice or mud can reduce traction and cause hands and feet to slip
- Staff must be familiar with the apparatus and know what activities can be reasonably allowed as safe
- Play on equipment must be orderly arranged, adequately controlled and supervised
- Older children must be prevented from interfering with or endangering younger ones. Playtime and lunchtime rotas allow for less children playing at one time
- The number of children allowed on each item at any one time must be monitored and will depend on the type of equipment and the activity taking place
- Supervising adults must familiarise themselves with areas on the school grounds that require more localised supervision
- Rough play will not be accepted (please see Behaviour policy)

- Any incidents on the playground will be fully investigated and reported to the appropriate member of staff, and to parents when appropriate
- Members of staff who are playground duty must be outside promptly at the beginning of play / lunchtime
- Play equipment will be routinely inspected and any issues reported to the Senior Leadership. Remedial work will be organized as soon as possible, and this may mean the play equipment being out of use until the work is completed.

Links with other policies:

In encouraging and promoting safe play at Leas Park, we are also mindful of links to other policies:

- Behaviour policy
- Anti Bullying policy
- Health and Safety policy (including first aid)