



Supervision Policy

Introduction

This policy was originally formulated in 2013, redrafted and updated in 2017. It applies to all staff and children during school hours, break times, and on all school related activities.

Rationale

The rules for National Schools 121(4) and 124(1) oblige teachers to take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of pupils and to participate in supervising pupils during school time and during all school related activities.

Legislation such as the Health Safety and Welfare at Work Act and recent Court judgments have placed a "duty of care" and accountability on schools that must be underpinned by a policy covering all possible eventualities.

Relationship to the Characteristic Ethos of the School

This policy is in keeping with the school ethos of providing a safe and secure environment for learning for all pupils and the wider school community.

Aims and Objectives

- To develop a framework that effectively ensures, as far as is practicable, the safety of children while at play on the yard or while engaged in school related activities
- To observe and monitor behavioural patterns outside the confines of the classroom
- To contribute to effective school management and comply with relevant legislation.

School Procedures

- It is the policy of the school to supervise the school yard at all times during regular lunch breaks i.e. 11.00am to 11.10am, 12.30pm to 1.00pm and 2.00pm to 2.05pm. Teachers assume a duty of care at 9.10am. The Board of Management informs parents that the school does not accept responsibility for pupils dropped off earlier than 9.10am
- A Rota for supervision is drawn up by the principal in consultation with staff and this Rota is displayed in the staff room.
- Rules of the school yard are reviewed and revised continually and communicated to children regularly
- Supervision duties are compulsory due to the Public Service Stability Agreement 2013 – 2016 (Haddington Road Agreement) so teachers do not have the option of opting out if they so desire. The Principal is responsible for maintaining the Register of Supervision and making returns to the Department of Education in relation to the 37 hour contracts – once this is reinstated.
- If parents indicate a worry about a particular child on the yard all teachers rostered for yard duty are informed of the concern so that the particular concerns can be addressed satisfactorily



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- Teachers on yard duty remain with the classes until the class teacher returns from break. Teachers taking a course day can swap supervision duties with a willing colleague. If a teacher is unexpectedly absent a volunteer colleague will assume his/her duties in a reciprocal arrangement
- A Special Needs Assistant is on duty during lunch breaks. While this Assistant provides individual supervision for designated Special Needs children, they can act in an observing and reporting capacity, bringing instances of misbehaviour to the attention of the teacher on yard duty. The schools anti-bullying/discipline policy covers incidents of misbehaviour
- Children with injuries/complaints are dealt with directly by the teacher on yard duty. Children are not permitted to report directly to the staff room if there is an incident on the yard unless expressly told to by the teacher on yard duty.
- All full-time teachers will complete 1 hour of yard duty each week.
- First Aid boxes and Accident Report books are kept as a matter of procedure (See Accident and Injury Policy). All accidents where there is injury involved should be noted in the Accident Report Book by the teachers on supervision or by the relevant class teacher. Where teachers suspect that a child is unwell, parents are alerted, usually by phone.
- If children remain uncollected after 3.00pm, the school always ensures that a duty of care is provided until a parent/guardian calls
- At all other times each teacher is responsible for the supervision of all children under their care.
- *The Principal supervises the playground for the ten minutes preceding the start of the school day. This is done without prejudice, as the school does not officially take responsibility for children before admission time of 9:20am.*
- At dismissal time in the evening the class teachers supervise the outside of the school and down the avenue, to see children safely off the premises. No supervision is provided outside the school gate.
- Unless unavoidable, teachers should never leave their classroom unsupervised.
- Children who are withdrawn from their mainstream classroom for Resource, Learning Support or Language Support should be collected at the classroom door by the relevant teacher.

Special Provisions

- a) For out of school activities such as games, swimming, tours, back up provisions are put in place to ensure adequate levels of supervision are present. The level of supervision is usually one adult per 15 children with individual teachers in charge of specific groups
- b) If a teacher is called from his/her classroom to meet with a parent, another member of staff may be released to cover. However, it is school policy to request parents to make appointments
- c) On wet days children remain in their classes under the normal supervision Rota.
- d) When visiting teachers such as P.E., Music, Language, take over a class, the school encourages teachers to maintain a presence.
- e) The school Safety Statement lists all hazards on the school yard and supervisors are accordingly briefed
- f) Parents may request that their children be allowed leave during the school day due to health commitments etc. These requests must be made in writing to the school and a will be kept, by the school for the duration of 1 year.



- Ensuring a safe child-friendly school yard
- Providing well organised and safe out of school activities
- Re-enforcing school rules termly
- Reviewing supervision duties yearly
- Altering or adjusting procedures deemed to be inoperable

Implementation

This policy has been in operation since 2013 when it was ratified by the Board of Management

References

1. Primary Education Management Manual – Thompson Roundhall
2. Insurance, Safety and Security in the school – Church & General

Signed: _____

Chairperson

Signed: _____

Principal

Date: _____

Date: _____