



St. Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School

EDUCATE; CREATE; WITNESS: CHRIST AT THE CENTRE

POSITIVE PLAYGROUND BEHAVIOUR POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

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 their instructions followed.

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 must be listened to and their instructions followed.
3. No running with sticks or throwing of hard objects.
4. Trees, buildings, sheds, fences and gates are not to be climbed
5. STOP means STOP!
6. Play equipment is to be treated respectfully and with care.
7. Outdoor clothing needs to be kept on in cool or cold weather.
8. No child leaves the playground without the teacher's consent.

Playground Culture

Children should be encouraged to enjoy the outdoors, explore their environment and 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 that they can ask for help when needed. If any game leads to unsafe or negative behaviour, 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.

Negative Playground Behaviour

Unkindness to a child either by individuals or groups of children and wilful physical or verbal abuse towards any child or adult will not be tolerated.

If any such behaviour occurs:

The victim may be encouraged to put a stop to the behaviour 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. If this is not sufficient:

- The child may be asked to sit out of the game and reflect on the behaviour for a few minutes.

- 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.
- The child may be asked to make reparations to the victim – card, letter of apology etc
- Parents could be informed verbally in person, depending on the incident.

Serious Playground Incidents

A serious incident is one in which a child gets significantly hurt, either physically or emotionally, by another child(dren), 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 second adult.
- Ensure that the children stop fighting and are safe.
- Assess injuries and calm 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 i.e. details taken of exactly what occurred, who was involved etc.
- Incident report filed as soon as possible.
- 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.
- Remedial action decided upon by the teacher and, where appropriate, with the help of the Head Teacher or the School Leadership Team.
- 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 Bullying Policy.
- Class assembly/school assembly may be necessary to address the issue.

Thank you for taking the time to read this Positive Playground Behaviour Policy and Procedure.

September 2022

Reviewed September 2025.