



STREATHAM & CLAPHAM PREP SCHOOL

Prep School Playtime Policy

Person(s) responsible for this policy		Deputy Head Prep (Pastoral) Head of EYFS/ Lower School	
Last review by	H Loach S Dowler	Review date	August 2024
Date of next review		September 2025	

We recognise that playtime is a vital part in every child's day at school. To a child 'play' is an important part of their 'work'.

Aims for Playtimes

Playtimes at Streatham & Clapham Prep give children the opportunity to:

- Have a break from structured routines.
- Learn to resolve any issues that may occur outside the structure of the classroom, with supervising staff employing Emotion Coaching language to model how to interact with others and resolve conflict.
- Develop new skills, find new challenges and take new risks.
- Explore and discover things about the world in which they live.
- Take exercise and improve their fitness and health.
- Talk to other members of staff.
- Be themselves. To have place and time where they can choose to be alone, be private or be with friends. It can be a time to recognise their own individuality and be responsible for their own actions.
- Have a snack, drink and go to the toilet.
- Make new friends.
- Learn to play together and mix with other year groups.

We aim for children to "enjoy playtimes" and to be active.

We encourage children to say if they are unhappy at playtimes and our adults are vigilant in constantly scanning the playground to ensure no one is being left out or is having difficulty joining in. Interventions

Playtime Provision

The all-weather playground area has a variety of lines on it for different sports, and netball posts for the girls to access. There are benches and a variety of equipment for the children. Games and number tracks are marked on the red surface of the AstroTurf as well as two table tennis tables.

Bikes are available for Reception to Year 2 only. There are hoops, balls and skipping ropes stored in accessible sheds around the playground. There are benches and the playground pod for quiet activities.

To the rear is an open grass area with an activity trail for the girls to climb over as part of their physical development and to encourage risk taking while having fun. There is a rota to ensure each year group has access with their peers to this area. Girls are only allowed to climb as far as the first

branch on the trees, where they may sit but not stand up. They can jump and swing from lower branches, one at a time. Girls may not lift or assist another child to reach the branch or climb the trees. There is also a gazebo that the girls can sit or play in. There is an outdoor learning area at the rear of the grassy area; the girls may access this area for quiet reading or quiet talking time if there is an adult in the grass area to supervise them. Plants and vegetables are planted by girls and other outdoor learning experiences can also take place here. The outdoor learning environment can also be used as a teaching area and there is a fire pit.

There is also a pod in the playground where the girls may sit to read or talk to each other quietly. This provides a space where girls may feel more secure if they find the playground a difficult space to navigate emotionally.

Foundation Stage

The courtyard play area outside the Nursery door has a colourful soft play surface and climbing equipment including a slide. There are wooden blocks and crates for the girls to use for construction games and imaginative play, alongside a wooden wendy house. There is a raised garden area which is planted with herbs and some flowers, as well as a mud kitchen. There are opportunities for the girls to make musical sounds and an area for some insect wildlife to live. Sand and water trays are used in fine weather and there is a permanent water wall for the girls to experiment with. Two sheds are used to store playtime equipment such as bikes, hoops and balls. These are available at every playtime. There is a fixed glass canopy that extends from the wall of the Nursery itself to provide some shelter as required.

The Nursery children use the courtyard play area at every break time. Reception children join the school in the main playground at morning break but share the courtyard area with Nursery at lunchtime and afternoon break.

Inclement Weather

When the weather is inclement at morning playtime Nursery and Reception children stay inside in EYFS. Years 1-6 are in their classrooms.

When it is rainy during lunchtime play, Nursery and Reception children stay inside in the EYFS, children in Years 1 - 6 go to their classrooms (one classroom becomes a 'quiet' room in each year group). There are members of staff on duty in all areas.

Playtime sessions and supervision

A rota of staff on duty is available in the Teams Virtual Staffroom under Rotas and there is a copy on the staffroom board.

[Autumn duty rota 2024 \(DRAFT\).docx](#)

There is also a rota for first aid duty at break and lunchtimes, and the school nurse is available. First aid equipment is taken to the playground to treat minor wounds.

Staff responsibilities during playtimes

- The members of staff on duty need to be in the playground promptly at the beginning of playtime.
- Staff will observe girls playing in the grassy area to ensure safe practice and that rules are followed.
- Staff interact with the children and initiate games, encouraging participation in group games and modelling Emotion Coaching language.
- They patrol the toilet / changing area as well as the playground.

- They may be asked to monitor particular children by the pastoral leader and report back to her or the class teacher.
- If staff have concerns about individual children at playtimes they share that with the class teacher.
- At the end of playtime, a bell is rung and pupils stand still and are quiet they then walk to their class line.
- The teachers on duty will ensure the children line up quietly, and then teachers come out to collect their classes and ensure they return to class calmly and quietly.
- One person will monitor the door / corridor area and one will remain in the playground until all the children have entered the building.

First Aid Procedure

Pupils requiring first aid can receive basic first aid using the medical kit that is taken outside at each playtime. If further aid is required, the child is sent to the office or nurse's office with an older child if it is practical for them to be moved.

First aid treatment is recorded on CPOMS. Parents/guardians and teachers are informed of any serious injuries. Letters are sent home to inform parents of any head injuries.

Playground rules

Children are expected to follow the playground rules:

- They will act in a friendly and considerate way to all members of the school community. Children are encouraged to look out for and make friends with children who are by themselves.
- They will keep the playground tidy and look after and use properly all the playground equipment.
- They will share the equipment fairly.
- They will only bring in toys from home when this has been agreed.
- They will climb the trees only as high as the first branch and will not assist another girl to climb/access the trees.

Children will be rewarded for positive behaviour and good manners, helpful behaviour and positive play. This may be through stickers or verbal praise.

Children are encouraged to seek solutions to minor squabbles through explaining their feelings and point of view and then listening to the other person. They are encouraged to seek help if it is needed.

Playground buddies are selected on a rotating basis termly. The playground buddies wear sashes and make themselves available to help other children make friends, join in and find someone to play with on the playground.

The adult on the scene will deal with incidents of misbehaviour in a fair and proportionate way in accordance with the behaviour and anti-bullying policies. They will use Emotion Coaching language as befits our restorative conversations approach. They will report to class teachers or the pastoral leader significant problems or patterns of misbehaviour and also record these on CPOMS.

Evaluation and Review

The school aims to further improve the outdoor play spaces. The all-weather surface provides a safer area for the children to run around on as well as playing sport on. New playground equipment will be ordered regularly as required to improve both the main playground and the Nursery courtyard.

The playground policy will be reviewed on an annual basis to allow for changes to be made and Pupils Voice will be involved in any discussions re new equipment or other changes to playground practice.