



STREATHAM & CLAPHAM PREP SCHOOL

Prep School Playtime Policy

Person(s) responsible for this policy		Assistant Head Prep	
Last review by	J Hayes	Review date	September 2019
Date of next review		September 2020	

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.
- 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.

Playtime Provision

The tarmac playground area has netball courts and posts. There are benches and a small play house for the younger children. One bench has a game board for chess or draughts. Games and number tracks are marked on the playground surface.

Bikes are available for Reception to Year 3 only. There are hoops, balls and skipping ropes stored in a flip-top unit. There are benches for quiet activities.

To the rear is an open grass area with a few trees where the girls are free to explore. The nature garden is also located next to the tarmac area. Plants and vegetables are planted by girls as part of the Outdoor Learning club. The girls are welcome to explore the nature garden under adult supervision.

Foundation Stage

The courtyard play area outside the Nursery door has a colourful soft play surface and climbing equipment including a slide. There is a wooden wendy house in for games and imaginative play. There is a small raised garden which is planted with herbs and some flowers. There are opportunities for the girls to make musical sounds and an area for some insect wildlife to live. There are also two

“talking flowers” for the children to use to talk and listen to each other from a distance. Sand and water trays are used in fine weather. 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. Year 1-6 are in the Sports Hall.

When it is rainy during lunchtime play, Nursery and Reception children stay inside in the EYFS, children in Years 1 - 3 play in the Assembly Hall and children in Years 4 - 6 go to the top corridor (one classroom becomes a ‘quiet’ room). There are members of staff on duty in all areas.

Playtime sessions and supervision

A rota of staff on duty is available in group/staff/teachers admin/timetables and there is a copy on the staffroom board.

There is also a rota for first aid duty at break and lunchtimes, and the school nurse is available part-time as per her timetable. 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 interact with the children and initiate games, encouraging participation in group games.
- They patrol the toilet / changing area as well as the playground.
- They may be asked to monitor particular children by a 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 are 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 in the accident book. 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.

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 badges and caps 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 report to class teachers or the pastoral leader significant problems or patterns of misbehaviour.

Evaluation and Review

The school aims to further improve the outdoor play spaces. A new playground surface now provides a safer area for the children to run around on as well as playing sport on. New playground equipment will be ordered 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.