Newton International Academy, Barwa

Playground Health and Safety Policy (EYFS & Primary)

An International Community of Learners, Striving for Excellence and Celebrating Success

Approved by: Senoir Management Team
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NEWTON INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY | BARWA

Vision
An international community of learners striving for excellence and celebrating success.

Mission
We aim to provide the highest quality of education possible for students of all abilities. In doing so, we aim to positively encourage each student to achieve academic excellence at their level, enjoy creative diversity, develop critical thinking skills and become lifelong learners and responsible citizens.
To achieve this, we will provide a diverse education in a safe, supportive environment that promotes self-discipline and motivation. We will provide and maintain a calm, trusting and caring atmosphere where teaching and learning are meaningful and developed. We will work in partnership with our staff, students, parents and wider community to achieve our vision.

Newton Group Values

Aim
This policy outlines clear procedures and responsibilities to ensure the playground is a safe, inclusive, and positive environment for all children during break times and outdoor play.

Rationale
Outdoor play is a vital part of children's physical, emotional, and social development. At Newton International Academy Barwa, we are committed to maintaining a safe and well-supervised playground environment that encourages respectful behaviour, promotes wellbeing, and prevents accidents through proactive supervision and structured routines.

Our playground policy has been developed to help create a safe and caring ethos in the playground. At NIA we set high standards and expectations about the curriculum and the spiritual, moral and social environment in which children work. Staff see their role as enabling children to be successful learners and to deal with and resolve the complexities of life in positive and socially responsible ways.

Safety on the playground, and helping to protect students from injury, require planning, thought, training, and deliberate action. Proper selection, placement, and maintenance of playground equipment, along with effective supervision of playground activities, can help prevent accidents or reduce their severity.

To ensure safety of playground users in all phases of playground administration, consider the following areas of playground safety:

- Adequate, trained, equipped, and attentive playground supervision.
- Students instructed on how to properly play on the playground equipment. Written playground
- safety rules taught to all students and consistently enforced.
- Performing regular preventative maintenance of playground equipment. Performing routine
- playground equipment inspection to identify hazards in the equipment and the playgrounds, and
- correcting those hazards.

Break-time supervision

- Stay Alert and Attentive.
- Move through the playground area, avoid staying on the outskirts of the playground
  area.
- Stay involved with the children on the playground, do not use playground time as a time for socialising with other adults or for doing paperwork.
- Observe all children and the "secret" places where they could hide.
- Realise a child can wander into a hazardous situation in less than a minute.
- Use direct eye contact with children to help prevent inappropriate behaviour.
- Ensure you have an adequate number of adults supervising the number of children.

Safeguarding and Duty of Care

Playground supervision is a key part of our safeguarding strategy. All staff on duty are expected to uphold the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. Staff must be vigilant, attentive, and maintain active supervision. Students must never be left unsupervised. Any concerns about a child's wellbeing, behaviour patterns, or disclosures during break times must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) immediately.

Hazards

- Evaluate the playground for potential hazards that could cause serious or fatal injuries to children.
- Watch for hazards like loose or protruding nuts or bolts, broken parts, exposed concrete, and shallow protective surfacing that occurs through the children's regular use of equipment.
- If you spot problems that you can remedy yourself, like picking up trash, correct the problem. If you observe other safety problems like broken equipment, contact the Principal and Head of Health and Safety, request that it be fixed, or taken out of service.
- Equipment that is deemed a safety issue should be taken out of service immediately.

Inclusion and Support for Additional Needs

The playground must be an inclusive space where all children feel safe and supported. Staff must be aware of students who require additional supervision or modified play options (e.g. students with AESN, medical needs, or physical challenges). Alternative quiet spaces and support must be available when needed. Teaching Assistants and SEN staff should ensure that relevant students have access to appropriate resources and support during break times.

Knowing Safe Playground Rules:

- Teach children the safety rules of the playground.
- Agree on rules before children are allowed on equipment to prevent confrontations on the playground.
- Instruct children to keep their hands to themselves-no hitting, pushing, punching, kicking or biting.
- No sand throwing

When Inappropriate Behaviour Occurs:

- Warn children verbally about inappropriate behaviour; intervene between fighting children immediately to prevent injury.
- Enforce rules firmly and consistently; Pushing, throwing objects, and hitting other children can lead to serious injury.
- Follow the behaviour Policy at all times.

Being Prepared

- Keep a first aid kit stocked and easily available in case an injury occurs. First aid kits should be maintained by nurse/office staff and include latex gloves.
- Try to ensure at least one playground supervisor is certified in first aid and CPR.

Heat and wet weather duties
A decision about heat and wet weather conditions is to be made by the Head of Health and Safety in collaboration with the Principal/Deputy Principal.

Strategies to promote positive student behaviour on the playground
The following procedures are in place on the playground at NIA to ensure it is a safe place with adequate teacher supervision at all times. Teachers are not to dismiss students into the playground unsupervised on the assumption that other teachers are there. Students are not to play in the cafeteria and are to remain seated.

Playground Aims
- To ensure that pupils are safe.
- To give pupils opportunities to develop their social skills through playing and interacting with other pupils and adults in a stimulating and caring environment.
- To have a consistent and effective reward and sanction system.
- To encourage and support the Playground Friends and Mediators.
- To employ a direct approach which focuses on problem solving and enables pupils to take an active role in finding a solution to the problem.

Playground/school accident procedures
If an accident occurs on the playground, the following procedures should be followed:

1. Keep other children away from the area.
2. Check for injuries and secure proper medical assistance (Nurse or First Aid Trained staff member).
3. Always suspect a neck and back injury with head injuries, until proven otherwise.
4. DO NOT MOVE THE STUDENT IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBTS. However, if the injury is not of a serious nature, help the student to the clinic or office.
5. If the accident is due to defective equipment, make sure that the other students stay away from the equipment until it is repaired or replaced.
6. Notify the Principal and Head of Health and Safety of defective equipment.
7. Obtain the names of all witnesses.