



**Newton British School**

[www.newtonschools.sch.qa](http://www.newtonschools.sch.qa)

*An international community of learners striving for excellence and celebrating success*



## **Playground Policy**

### **Our Vision**

‘An International community of learners striving for excellence and celebrating success’

### **Our 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, 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.

## **Rationale**

It is of paramount importance that whilst our children are at school the activities that they experience are those that will help them to grow and develop as caring members of our school and community. Playtimes/Break times are times when interactive skills between others are needed, when children are learning how to deal with the many problems that relationships with others bring.

## **Aims**

- To ensure that all children have equal opportunities whilst using play areas.
- That no child will be victimized and left unhappy due to the acts of others
- To develop : social skills, gross and fine motor skills and an enjoyment of outside activities
- To 'let off steam'

## **Short term objectives**

Children need to learn how to:

- Share
- Care
- Play fairly
- Co operate
- Relate positively to each other
- Deal with conflict
- Deal with acts of unkindness to others
- Show compassion
- Have an understanding of others' needs
- Show assertiveness, but not to the detriment of others

## **Issues arising**

As staff we should aim to set a good example by:

- Talking to children politely, not shouting (This should be our Modus Operandi in the classroom too).
- Trying to avoid conflict by rephrasing a request- e.g. - not - don't shout at me but - please talk to me quietly, I don't shout at you
- Trying to suggest an alternative activity rather than saying 'Don't...'
- Encourage positive activities and play games

## **A Code of Practice for encouraging Positive Behaviour**

Staff are to report incidents that happen in the playground that are a cause for concern. If the incident needs to be followed up immediately, the deputy or the head must be located personally. If the incident needs to be followed up but is not urgent, please report to the class teacher.

Discussion of duties and general playground issues should be carried out as a matter of course whenever necessary during whole staff and key stage meetings. Meetings should include: feedback from the previous meeting, issues arising, children causing concern and AOB.

There will be regular reinforcement of playground and lunchtime codes and rules (see appendix) in order to maintain a positive ethos, through assembly items and in the classroom.

## **Playtime and lunchtime award system:**

Each member of staff on duty at break time can award house points to children who have shown positive behaviour. It might be best to use some kind of sticker for this. The children are to show these to their class teacher or simply tell them that they have been awarded a house point.

## **Playground activities**

Children are encouraged to share games where possible. We have to be aware that sometimes younger children get pushed out of games, and this needs to be avoided.

## **Restrictions**

- Students are to wear hats at all times when outdoors. NBS has a strict 'No Hat no Play' rule.
- Footballs will only be used on the field. Staff also need to be aware of the kind of football the students are using and ensure that the indoor soccer balls are only used in the gym.
- Skipping ropes are to be used for skipping and nothing else. .
- No play fighting.

## **Indoor play (for inclement weather)**

Class teachers are to make available equipment and quiet activities that can be used during these periods.

*Suggested ideas:* Board games, paper, pencils and crayons, comics and magazines

Children are to be occupied quietly in their classrooms during wet play times, and should be sitting down with an activity.

## **Equipment from home**

Children may bring toys from home as long as they are not expensive. NBS staff will not be responsible for any loss or damage to items brought from home.

## **Playtime Rotas**

There are playtime rotas for KS1 & 2 which split the following activities on a playtime or daily basis. It is important that all classes and teachers are familiar with this and adhere to it. (See Appendix)

## **Water Bottles**

All children must take their water bottles to the playground with them if they want to have a drink. They can place it in their designated box and collect it again at the end of play. These water boxes will remain in the designated areas and should not be carried by children as a box containing 20 or more water bottles is very heavy and becomes a health and safety issue.

## **Picnic Tables**

Picnic tables area available for children to use during break. These are ideal for reading and children are very welcome to take a book out with them. What they cannot be is a break time working area as children may not take writing implements of any kind to the playground during break as it becomes a health and safety issue.

## **Health and Safety (see separate Health and Safety Policy)**

- Children must not leave the school premises without an adult.
- All accidents should be reported to the Nurse, and recorded in the accident book. The accident book is in the nurse's office.
- A list of children with serious medical conditions/allergies, will be kept in the Nurse's office. For some children these are also in the classroom.
- All visitors must report to the office. No unauthorized adult should be on the playground.
- Children are not allowed to remain in the school building unless supervised by an adult.
- Children must not enter classrooms during playtimes, unless on a message from the staff on duty outside.
- Children must not run in and out of the school buildings.

- All staff must ensure that they are in the playground on time for the duty.
- Staff should not walk around the playground together, but space themselves around to ensure supervision of the playground.
- The Principal or Deputy is to be informed if the teacher on playground duty is not in the playground.
- We must ensure that all children are happy to be in the playground. If there is a child that complains about a problem, this may mean that the child is being bullied. All possible incidents of bullying must be reported
- Asthma pumps should be readily available to children who need them during break times.

### **Staff Responsibility**

*The role of the Principal:* The Principal has the ultimate responsibility for the playground and should have a clear overview of the planning structure and organisation of the playground, during break times.

*The role of the Deputy Principal:* The Deputy Principal shall be responsible for the organisation and management of the playground, and ensure that the playground policy is adhered to. She/he will be responsible for organising courses, in-service and meetings for the staff involved, and also to keep the staff informed of current issues in school which relate to them.

### **Break time Schedules:**

#### **KS1 & 2**

**Break 1: 9.40 - 10.10**

**(KS1 play 9.40-9.55 then eat 9.55-10:10)**

**(KS2 eat 9.40-9.55 then play 9.55-10:10)**

**Break 2: 11.40 – 12.10**

**(KS1 play 11.40-11.55 then eat 11.55-12.10)**

**(KS2 eat 11.40-11.55 then play 11.55-12.10)**

#### **EYFS**

#### **Pre-school**

**Break 1: 8.00 - 8.40**

**Break 2: 10.20 – 11.00**

#### **Reception**

**Break 1: 8.50 – 9:30**

**Break 2: 11.10 – 11.45**

### **CURRENT DESIGNATED PLAY AREAS:**

- ❖ **Foundation:** Shaded Outdoor Play Equipment Areas (2 Areas) on road and sand.
- ❖ **Key Stage 1 & 2:** playground, basketball court, field, climbing wall and large games area.
- ❖ **All play areas are marked by a clear yellow line.** This lets children know where they can and cannot play.

### **Term 3:**

**During the summer term and the start of the autumn term (Terms 1, 3. Exact dates decided on by SMT) the students will have the option of going to the Gym if it is too hot. The Gym will be a designated quiet cool area where children can sit, play small group games and chat if they find it too hot outside. It is not a direct alternative to playing outside.**

### **Some alternative suggestions:**

- One of the specialist rooms, with less specialist equipment is made into an additional 'Play room'.
- 1 teacher in each stage level opens their classroom for quiet games (cards, board games etc). This should be done on a Rota basis. **As the numbers continue to grow and if there is a continued desire to have students indoors during this break then this will need to be increased to two teachers in each stage level.**

The breaks are seen as a social time, when children can talk to their friends, but when they are inside they are encouraged not to shout or move around excessively. If they want to ask anything of an adult then they need to put up their hand, and wait.

Reviewed By: Mr. James Houston - Principal and Mr Conor Hayes – Deputy Principal  
June 2021  
Next Review Date: June 2022

## **Appendix A**

### Strategies and sanctions in the Playground

#### Level 1

- appropriate ignoring
- giving verbal warnings
- reasoning
- apology if necessary
- using - 'stop, wait, calm down, carry on'
- sitting down on bench - no more than 5 minutes ( in the shade)

#### Level 2

- verbal warning and stating consequences
- standing by adult's side
- removing child from situation
- sitting down on the bench, no longer than 10 minutes ( in the shade)
- reporting to class teacher or other appropriate adult
- time off next play

#### Level 3

- report to the Deputy or the Principal

## **Appendix B**

Rota to follow