

Gaelscoil Eoghain Uí Thuairisc



Supervision Policy

Introduction

This policy was originally formulated in Gaelscoil Eoghain Uí Thuairisc in June 2012. It applies to all staff and children during school hours, break times, and on all school related activities.

Rationale

The rules for National Schools 121(4) and 124(1) obliges teachers to take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of pupils and to participate in supervising pupils during school time and during all school related activities.

Legislation such as the Health Safety and Welfare at Work Act and recent Court judgments have placed a "duty of care" and accountability on schools that must be underpinned by a policy covering all possible eventualities.

Relationship to the Characteristic Ethos of the School

This policy is in keeping with the school ethos of providing a safe and secure environment for learning for all pupils and the wider school community.

Aims and Objectives

- To develop a framework that effectively ensures, as far as is practicable, the safety of children while at play on the yard or while engaged in school related activities
- To observe and monitor behavioral patterns outside the confines of the classroom
- To contribute to effective school management and comply with relevant legislation.

School Procedures

- It is the policy of the school to supervise the school yard at all times during regular lunch breaks i.e. 11.00am to 11.10am and 12.45pm to 1.15pm. Teachers assume a duty of care at 9.10am. The Board of Management informs parents that the school does not accept responsibility for pupils dropped off earlier than 9.20am or after 3pm.
- A Rota for supervision is drawn up in consultation with Principal/staff and this Rota is displayed on the staff room notice board.
- Rules of the school yard are reviewed and revised continually and communicated to children regularly
- Supervision duties are compulsory and teachers do not have the option of opting out unless in exceptional circumstances accepted by the Board of Management. The Principal is responsible for maintaining the Register of Supervision and making returns to the Department of Education in relation to the 37 hour contracts
- If parents indicate a worry about a particular child on the yard, all teachers rostered for yard duty are informed of the concern so that the particular concerns can be addressed satisfactorily
- Teachers on yard duty in the infant yard remain with the classes until the class teachers return from break. Teachers who know that they will be absent may swap supervision duties with a willing colleague. If a teacher is unexpectedly absent, a volunteer colleague will assume his/her duties in a reciprocal arrangement, otherwise the rota for extra periods of duty is implemented
- Special Needs Assistants are on duty during lunch breaks. While these Assistants provide individual supervision for designated Special Needs children, they can act in an observing and reporting capacity, bringing instances of misbehaviour to the

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attention of the teacher on yard duty. The schools anti-bullying/code of behaviour policies cover incidents of misbehaviour

- Children with injuries/complaints are dealt with directly by the teacher on yard duty. Children are not permitted to report directly to the staff room if there is an incident on the yard unless in exceptional circumstances
- First Aid boxes and Accident Report books are kept as a matter of procedure (See Accident and Injury Policy). Seomra 8 is used to supervise or deal with sick/injured children
- If a child/ren remain/s uncollected after 3.00 pm, or 2.00pm in the case on Infant classes (unless attending extracurricular classes after school), the school ensures that a duty of care is provided until a parent/guardian calls.

Special Provisions

- a) Out of school activities such as games, swimming, tours, back up provisions are put in place to ensure adequate levels of supervision are put in place. The level of supervision is usually one adult per 20 children with individual teachers in charge of specific groups
- b) If a teacher is called from his/her classroom to meet with a parent or needs to leave the classroom for a short period, another member of staff may be released to cover. Otherwise the teacher in the adjacent classroom supervises the class, both classroom doors being left fully open. However, it is school policy to request parents to make appointments
- c) On wet days, children remain in their classes under the normal supervision Rota. Children from senior classes assist the class teachers
- d) When visiting teachers such as P.E., Music, Language, take over a class, the school expects teachers to maintain a presence. Neither SNA'S or pupils are left in sole charge of a class
- e) The school Safety Statement lists all hazards on the school yard and supervisors are accordingly briefed
- f) Parents may request that their children be allowed leave during the school day due to health commitments etc. The parent/ adult collecting the child signs the book in the secretary's office, noting the date and time of collection. If the child returns to school afterwards, the parent/adult signs the book again, noting the time of return.

Success Criteria and Review

- Ensuring a safe child-friendly school yard
- Providing well organised and safe out of school activities
- Re-enforcing school rules termly
- Reviewing supervision duties yearly
- Altering or adjusting procedures deemed to be inoperable

References

1. Primary Education Management Manual – Thompson Roundhall
2. Insurance, Safety and Security in the school – Church & General