



Robertson National School Supervision Policy

Introduction

This policy was originally formulated in 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 in the playground or while engaged in school related activities.
- To observe and monitor behavioural 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 playground at all times during regular lunch breaks i.e. 11.00 a.m. to 11.10 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. to 1.00 p.m.
- The Board of Management informs parents that the school does not accept responsibility for pupils dropped off earlier than 9.00 a.m.
- A Rota for supervision is drawn up by the secretary in consultation with Principal/Staff and this Rota is displayed on the staff room notice board.
- Rules of the school playground are reviewed and revised continually and communicated to children regularly.
- Supervision duties are not compulsory and teachers have the option of opting out if they so desire.
- If parents indicate a worry about a particular child on the playground all staff undertaking playground duty are informed of the concern so that the particular concerns can be addressed satisfactorily.
- Teachers taking a course day can 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.
- The schools anti-bullying/code of behaviour covers incidents of misbehaviour.
- Children with injuries/complaints are dealt with directly by the staff member on playground duty. Children are not permitted to report directly to the staff room if there is an incident on the playground.
- If children remain uncollected after 3.00 p.m., the school always ensures that a duty of care is provided until a parent/guardian calls.

Special Provisions

- a) On out of school trips provision is made to ensure adequate levels of supervision. The level of supervision is usually at least one adult per 15 children.
- b) On wet days children are supervised in main entrance area, computer room and the two classrooms near the staffroom.

- c) When visiting teachers and visitors are working with a class, teachers maintain a presence.
- d) An annual school Health and Safety Audit identifies all hazards on the school playground.

Success Criteria and Review

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

Implementation

This policy has been in operation since March 2012 when it was ratified by the Board of Management