



# **REGENT PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **Playground Policy**

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Reviewed by HODs: August 2022  
Previous Review: August 2020

Approved by the Board:

## **RATIONALE**

Play is fundamental for children's growth, development and learning, and complements the formal curriculum in schools. The school playground is a place that provides children with the opportunity to engage in free play and is therefore an integral part of a stimulating learning environment. Play-based experiences in the playground enhance friendships, relationships and personal awareness. They also provide opportunities to participate in physical activity, master physical and creative play skills, and develop the important skill of risk assessment. Children move about more freely in the school playground, and so are more prone to accident and injury than when in the classroom. Although injuries cannot be totally avoided in school playgrounds, their frequency and severity can be minimised.

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

The Regent School has a duty of care to provide a safe and supervised environment where students can engage in play. This means, taking reasonable measures to reduce the risk of injury, and to prevent injuries that can be reasonably foreseen. While the school aims to provide a playground environment where students are able to explore their physical and social abilities, in line with its duty of care the school provides:

1. Safe playground equipment
2. Supervision i.e., Staff on rostered duty

## **PLAY AREAS**

At The Regent School, we are fortunate to be able to provide a range of play areas for students from Playgroup to Year 6.

Below is a description of break and lunch play areas which are accessible for students in specific Year Levels;

- Playgroup – Playgroup enclosed yard
- Nursery – Nursery enclosed yard
- Reception – Reception enclosed yard, Lower Primary Grassed Area and Junior Playground in third term
- Year 1/2/3 – Lower Primary Grassed Area, Junior Playground, Football Field
- Year 4/5/6 - Upper Primary Grassed Area, Football Field, Senior Playground.

## **BREAK AND LUNCH DUTY**

At The Regent School, students playing in the play areas and using playground equipment, are supervised at all times during school hours to ensure that they are engaging in appropriate and safe games and activities.

Staff members are rostered on duty to supervise students at break and lunch time. The playgrounds are 'out of bounds' before and after school. As a school we have play equipment, we allow students to use that equipment only at certain times of the day and under strict supervision. This is because of the foreseeable risk posed by the use of such equipment. If you choose to use the equipment, or allow your child/ren to use the equipment outside of these circumstances, you bear responsibility for them.

**Duty staff;**

1. Share duty responsibilities as determined by the Headmaster and Duty Supervisor.
2. Supervisors to ensure that all the staff on duty are out on time and in their designated positions throughout the duty session.
3. Where possible, are first aid trained.
4. Are to report to their duty area 5 mins prior to the commencement of break/lunch.
5. Patrol the schoolyard (not hide in the shade) within the allocated duty area in accordance with the duty roster to ensure that students are safe and are abiding by the rules.
6. Wear high visibility vests so that they can be easily located and identified.
7. Periodically check playground equipment and report any potentially dangerous or faulty equipment and vandalism to equipment.
8. Report any hazards in the schoolyard to a member of the Leadership Team and/or the Facilities Manager and record it on the Maintenance Register.
9. Refer unknown visitors to the School Office.

Duty staff deal with minor matters while on duty e.g., queries, disputes, accidents, minor first aid.

Other matters may need to be referred elsewhere.

- Students requiring first aid should be escorted to the Nurse's Office by a third party while the staff member remains on duty.
- If a child cannot be moved a staff mobile phone will be used to alert the Office/Nurse.
- Poor or dangerous student behaviour and swearing or bad language will require attention by the duty teacher and/or a member of the Leadership Team and is to be followed up by the classroom teacher if necessary.
- Good student deeds are to be acknowledged to promote positive behaviour.
- Duty staff will record incidents of poor behaviour or requiring first aid on Scholarpack.

During wet or extreme weather conditions, the playground environment may not be safe due to wet and slippery surfaces. In these circumstances, Wet/Extreme Weather Procedures may be announced or enacted, requiring students to remain in (or return to) their classrooms during break or lunch.

Duty begins before school at 7:30am and ceases at 2:45pm after school.

- Parents should ensure that children are not in the school grounds outside of these hours, unless they are attending the out of school hours' clubs/activities or are supervised by a parent or guardian.
- Students who remain in the school grounds outside of these hours, will have their parents contacted, and will then be taken to the late pick-up room until they are collected, at parents' expense.

**PLAYGROUND RULES**

Playground rules are established for the safety of all our students; game rules are established to promote fairness.

Playground rules are explicitly taught at the beginning of the school year by the classroom teacher and during Physical Education lessons. In addition to the playground and game rules, we expect our students to abide by the following.

Students are to;

- Demonstrate excellent sportsmanship when games are played.
- Follow the directions of all staff and duty staff.
- Play ball games on the Football Field.
- Demonstrate respect for 'games-in-play' by walking around, not through the activity.

- Play only in the designated, supervised play areas.
- Notify duty staff when play equipment needs to be retrieved from an out of play area (over the fence, on the roof, etc.). Students are not permitted out of the designated play areas without permission and one-on-one supervision.
- *Stop, Look and Listen* when a staff member on duty rings the bell or is talking to them and are to respond to directions given.
- Display respect towards themselves and others and are to speak and play with one another in a respectful manner.
- Use the play equipment responsibly (feet-first on slides, no jumping from play equipment, no chase or running games on or around play equipment, etc.)

Equipment, balls, toys, collectables, etc. brought from home are not permitted and are to remain in the student's school bag or withheld for the day by the classroom teacher.

Classrooms, toilets and areas deemed to be 'out of bounds' are NOT play areas. Buildings, access points or equipment in these areas are not for play activities.

Students are expected to conclude play, pack equipment away and return to their line up location when the bell rings or as directed by the staff on duty. All students are expected to walk respectfully and responsibly back to their classrooms / line up location.