

PADIHAM ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
PLAYGROUND POLICY

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Next Review Due: July 2027

Policy Lead: Luke Smith

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1. Vision and Values

At Padiham St. Leonard's Church of England Primary School, we believe that play is a fundamental part of childhood and an essential element of a

child's development. Playtimes provide opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, socially, spiritually and intellectually whilst fostering positive relationships and a sense of belonging within our school community.

As a Church of England school, our approach is underpinned by our core values:

- Faith
- Relationships
- Uniqueness
- Intellect
- Treat Others with Respect
- Salvation

These values guide our expectations of behaviour and interactions during playtimes. We strive to create a playground environment where every child feels safe, valued, respected and able to flourish.

We recognise that positive play experiences contribute significantly to pupils' wellbeing, readiness to learn, attendance, behaviour and overall school experience.

2. Legal Framework and Related Policies

This policy should be read alongside:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
- Equality Act 2010
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- SEND Code of Practice
- Behaviour Policy
- Relational Practice Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy

This policy reflects the school's statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils.

3. Purpose of the Policy

The aims of this policy are to:

- Provide a safe, secure and stimulating environment for all pupils.
- Promote positive relationships and respectful interactions.
- Encourage active, imaginative and purposeful play.
- Develop resilience, independence and social skills.
- Ensure consistency in the management and supervision of playtimes.
- Promote inclusion and equality of opportunity.
- Support children's physical and mental wellbeing.
- Minimise risk and maintain high standards of safeguarding.
- Establish clear expectations for pupils and staff.

4. Playground Expectations – PLAY SMART

All pupils are expected to follow our PLAY SMART expectations:

P – Polite Words Only

Use kind and respectful language at all times.

L – Line Up When You Hear the Bell

Respond promptly to signals and follow adult instructions.

A – Ask Before You Go Inside

Always seek permission before entering the school building.

Y – Your Manners Matter

Demonstrate courtesy, kindness and consideration.

S – Stay in the Right Place

Remain in designated zones and follow playground routines.

M – Make Safe Choices

Use equipment correctly and avoid unsafe behaviour.

A – Always Help Others

Show compassion, include others and seek help when needed.

R – Respect Adults and Rules

Listen carefully and follow instructions immediately.

T – Teamwork Makes Play Work

Share, cooperate and resolve disagreements positively.

These expectations are explicitly taught, regularly revisited and consistently reinforced.

5. Supervision and Staff Responsibilities

Effective supervision is essential for maintaining a safe and positive playground environment.

All staff on duty must:

- Arrive promptly and remain on duty throughout the allocated period.
- Actively supervise assigned areas.
- Position themselves strategically to maximise visibility.
- Engage positively with pupils.
- Promote inclusion and participation.
- Intervene early to prevent escalation of conflict.
- Reinforce school expectations consistently.
- Respond appropriately to accidents and incidents.
- Follow safeguarding procedures where concerns arise.

- Report significant incidents to relevant staff in accordance with the Behaviour Policy

Playground supervision is everyone's responsibility and should never be viewed as passive observation.

6. Playground Organisation and Zoning

The playground is organised to support both safety and engagement.

Designated areas may include:

- Active sports areas
- Ball game zones
- Quiet play areas
- Friendship spaces
- Reflection areas
- EYFS and KS1 continuous provision zones

Where appropriate, timetables may be used to allocate particular spaces or equipment fairly.

Senior leaders reserve the right to adapt zoning arrangements according to weather, staffing or operational requirements.

7. Equipment and Resources

The school provides equipment and resources that encourage active, cooperative and imaginative play.

Pupils are expected to:

- Use equipment safely.
- Follow staff instructions.
- Share resources fairly.
- Return equipment to storage areas.
- Report damaged equipment.

Equipment will be inspected regularly to ensure it remains safe and suitable for use.

Any unsafe equipment will be removed immediately.

8. Inclusion, Equality and Safeguarding

We are committed to ensuring that every child can access meaningful play opportunities.

Staff will:

- Promote inclusion and belonging.
- Support pupils with SEND.
- Make reasonable adjustments where required.
- Encourage participation from all pupils.
- Challenge discriminatory language and behaviour.
- Monitor vulnerable pupils carefully.

Children who experience difficulties during playtimes may receive:

- Additional adult support.
- Wear Hi Visibility vests where appropriate
- Structured play opportunities.
- Access to quieter areas.
- Individual support plans where appropriate.

Safeguarding remains paramount during all playtimes. Any concern regarding a child's safety or wellbeing will be reported in line with school safeguarding procedures.

9. Behaviour and Restorative Practice

The playground provides valuable opportunities for children to learn social skills and conflict resolution.

Minor incidents will be addressed through restorative conversations which encourage children to:

- Reflect on their choices.
- Consider the impact of their actions.
- Repair relationships.
- Identify better choices for the future.

More serious incidents may result in:

- Reflection time.
- Temporary removal from activities.
- Behaviour support interventions.
- Communication with parents.
- Recording on CPOMS.
- Involvement of senior leaders in accordance with the Behaviour Policy

Repeated concerns will be monitored and appropriate support implemented.

10. Accidents, Injuries and First Aid

All accidents will be managed according to the school's First Aid Policy.

Staff must:

- Assess the situation promptly.
- Seek assistance where necessary.
- Record accidents appropriately on medical tracker.
- Inform parents when required.
- Escalate serious incidents immediately.

First aid equipment will be readily available during playtimes.

All head injuries will be reported to parents in accordance with school procedures.

11. Wet Play Procedures

When weather conditions make outdoor play unsafe, indoor play arrangements will be implemented.

During wet play:

- Pupils remain under supervision at all times.
- Appropriate activities are provided.
- Behaviour expectations remain consistent.
- Staff maintain calm and purposeful environments.

Activities may include reading, drawing, puzzles, games, construction activities and collaborative tasks.

12. Partnership with Parents and Carers

Positive relationships between school and home support successful behaviour and wellbeing.

The school will:

- Communicate significant concerns appropriately.
- Share successes and achievements.
- Involve parents in supporting behaviour where required.
- Seek parental views when reviewing playground provision.

Parents and carers are encouraged to reinforce school values and expectations.

13. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored through:

- Senior leader observations.
- Behaviour records.
- CPOMS analysis.
- Accident logs.
- Pupil voice.
- Staff feedback.
- Parent feedback where appropriate.

Success indicators include:

- Safe and orderly playtimes.
- Positive pupil behaviour.
- Reduced incidents of conflict.
- High levels of pupil engagement.
- Positive pupil wellbeing.

The policy will be reviewed annually by school leaders and governors.

Appendix A – Staff Playground Expectations

Staff should:

- Be visible.
- Be proactive.
- Be approachable.
- Be vigilant.
- Be consistent.
- Be positive.
- Promote inclusion.
- Model excellent behaviour.

Staff should avoid:

- Gathering in groups.
- Extended conversations with colleagues.
- Using mobile phones.
- Remaining stationary for prolonged periods.

Appendix B – Restorative Questions

For the child whose behaviour caused concern:

- What happened?
- What were you thinking at the time?
- Who has been affected?
- How have they been affected?

- What could you do differently next time?
- How can you make things right?

For the child affected:

- What happened?
- How did it make you feel?
- What has been the hardest part?
- What do you need now?
- How can we help put things right?

Appendix C – Playground Risk Reduction Measures

The school will:

- Maintain appropriate supervision ratios.
- Complete regular site inspections.
- Carry out equipment checks.
- Review accident trends.
- Ensure staff know emergency procedures.
- Adapt provision where risks are identified.
- Regularly review safeguarding arrangements.

Approved by Governing Board: _____

Headteacher: _____

Policy Lead: Luke Smith

Chair of Governors: _____

Date: July 2026

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