



YARD POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The aim of playground time is to ensure that each child is afforded the opportunity of playing with other children in a safe and non-threatening environment in the school playground.

“Play is the business of the child”

The importance of play cannot be underestimated in the life of the child. Children learn the art of the social interaction in school, particularly in the playground. Life in the playground and the friendships made and lost there can assume great importance to individual children.

Our school encourages children to run, jump, play and have fun safely at break times. We do not impose a walk-only rule while children are at play. Parents / guardians are advised that, from time to time, children will have accidents on the playground.

YARD RECREATION TIMES:

- **Early Break:** 10.30a.m.-10.40a.m. **Lunch Break:** 12.15p.m.-12.45p.m.

YARD GUIDANCE FOR TEACHERS / SUPERVISERS:

AR MAIDIN / MORNING PRE SCHOOL TIME

- Supervision begins at 8:40a.m. This is when gates are opened and girls may enter yard and place their school bag in their designated líne/line. However, if they have a scooter/bicycle, these are placed at rear of school in relevant rack first. For safety purposes we do not allow jumping over school bags, ball games or skipping in yard at this time
- Bell rings at 8.50a.m.

ROIMH AM SOSA, LÓIN / BEFORE BREAK TIME / LUNCH

- **Girls are to use the bathroom before going to the yard**
- **Girls are to eat their lunches.** Popcorn not allowed out to yard.
- No skipping ropes at small break
- Girls proceed to yard quietly, holding onto the banister if coming downstairs
- **No eating** on the stairs

AM LÓIN / LUNCH TIME

Supervising teacher will open Astro gates and close gate to boys school if necessary
4th, 5th, and 6th girls stand to side of Astro gates, on tarmac, if eating lunch

YARD SUPERVISION:

- Two Teachers act as yard supervisors (assisted by SNA's as required)
- On exceptional occasions, one Teacher supervises and is accompanied by an SNA/Classroom Assistant/Secretary as second supervisor
- The yard roster is organised by the School Principal

- When two teachers supervise each covers a specific area of the yard, as agreed between them
- Supervising Teachers remain vigilant and observant at all times
- Supervising Teachers will encourage active play and exercise
- If it begins to rain during yard time, supervising teachers will send two girls to staffroom requesting assistance for supervising children going back to classrooms
- We make every effort for children to be outside so, if children are indoors at yard time and the weather improves, assistance will be sought to supervise children in going to the yard

YARD REMINDERS FOR PUPILS:

- Be as active as possible during yard time
- Remember good behaviour towards each other
- Help to make sure that nobody is excluded
- Play only in designated areas
- Out of bounds:
 - Area behind Portacabin where you are unseen
 - Ramp and railings at Portacabin
 - Steps at back of yard
 - Infant Girls' School yard boundary fence
- **Obey instructions of supervising teachers**
- We do not allow the following:
 - climbing or pulling on Goalposts, basketball posts, nets, gates, fences
 - climbing near walls to back gardens
 - standing on window-sills
 - rough play
 - cartwheels, gymnastics or lifting each other
 - footwear to be removed
- Be careful not to bump into anyone else
- No litter to be dropped. Use skin bin in yard for organic waste
- Girls are forbidden to be inside at yard-time without permission
- If you have an accident please report this to supervising teacher
- Injured girl, may be sent indoors with another girl to seek assistance from a member of staff, she may be allowed to remain sitting outside staffroom for the remainder of the break. Her class teacher /principal will be informed
- See Accident / Injury Policy
- If your daughter is unable to go to the yard, she must bring a note requesting this
- Nobody should need to go inside at yard-time. Should a girl need to go in to the toilet, she must get permission/pass from a teacher on duty and report back to the teacher on her return

RULES SPECIFIC TO USE OF GAA ASTROTURF:

- No food of any kind is to be taken into the field
- Trainers or flat shoes should be worn
- No muddy shoes are allowed on the Astroturf

- Do not interfere in any way with the surface materials of the Astroturf
- Football/ball games permitted in designated area without overhead net
- Higher kicks allowed at target wall only

YARD ACTIVITIES:

- Soft basketballs are used for shooting practice
- Each classroom has a consignment of balls for football or other yard games
- Football allowed on Astroturf only
- Small balls (not tennis or sliotar) are allowed – girls are responsible for their own
- Skipping allowed on tarmac only. Classes on Astroturf may use the tarmac area beside the Portacabin on the way to the garden. Girls must stay visible at all times

SPECIAL DUTIES:

- Teacher and Class in Room 4 are responsible for bringing out the cloakroom skin bin and returning the bin at the end of yard time
- Portacabin class will put out cones at small break to zone off bicycle area
- Cones moved near to Portacabin for big break by Portacabin class

END OF YARD TIME PROCEDURES:

- 1st bell girls stop and remain silent
- 2nd bell girls move to line / line
- 3rd bell only to be rung when all the girls are off the Astro and not moving to their relevant line
- Silence is now expected
- If someone is persistently talking/misbehaving they are put to top of the line/line, and the class teacher is informed, and if necessary the Principal
- Lost property is held up by Supervising Teacher at the end of Yard time. If not claimed, it can be given to School Secretary /placed in Lost Property box on the corridor
- Girls encouraged to participate in Active Flag Activity
- Supervising Teachers remain on duty until all classes have gone in and then escort their own class
- Each Teacher is responsible for bringing in their own class.
- Supervising Teachers have their own lunch after yard time. Classes are supervised as arranged by Yard Roster. Work is pre-set for children.

WET DAYS:

- **Children MUST remain seated in the classroom**
- Class teacher in portacabin escorts class to computer room where there are wet days games for them
- Each Teacher arranges wet day games and activities for their class
- Use of scissors/knitting needles/crochet hooks are not allowed
- Supervision of classes as per Yard Roster
- Class Teachers are requested to make sure that the children have indoor exercise during the day if they cannot go out at yard time e.g. Bizzy Breaks; Move your body, Stretch your mind (AIB)

RELEVANT POLICIES www.belgroveseniorgirls.ie

- Accident / Injury Policy
- Code of Behaviour
- Anti Bullying Policy
- School Policy Regarding Mobile Phones/Devices

Dáta: Feabhra 2017