Play and Playtime Policy

Hillborough Infant and Nursery School

Owned and Written by: Assistant Headteacher – Mrs S Barber	**Date:** February 2026
Approved by: Full Governing Body	**Date:** February 2026
Next Review:	**Date:** February 2028
This policy has been updated to reflect the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018, and it supersedes the HM Government Information Sharing Guidance for Practitioners and Managers published in March 2015.	

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1. Rationale

We believe that play is vitally important to pupils' healthy all round development. It is an essential process of doing, exploring, problem solving, overcoming difficulty, succeeding and resolving difficulties and it serves a variety of developmental needs.

Much that is learned through this informal curriculum cannot be learned in any other way. The form of learning is different but the learning is equally important to that of the formal curriculum.

Pupils spend a proportion of each school day at playtime / breaktime/ dinner time in the school grounds. These times are part of the school day and part of the pupils' education. The playgrounds are also used by the Out of School Club. We believe that our playgrounds, adventure play areas and grass provide a rich educational resource and context where pupils can engage in worthwhile, purposeful creative and social activity.

Pupils perceive the school grounds as a unique place created especially for them, to do the things they enjoy, which are increasingly impossible to do elsewhere.

Pupils today have less freedom and independent mobility than previous generations. Parental concerns about traffic and other potential dangers and the lack of safe outdoor places where they can play close to home, have caused a fundamental change in childhood lifestyle.

Pupils need the school grounds more than ever before. It is therefore essential that school grounds meet these needs effectively.

2. Aims

The aims of the policy are as follows:-

1. To develop a common understanding between all adult supervisors of their playground supervisory role.
2. To promote positive perceptions of pupil's playground play.
3. To improve the playground context and enhance resources.
4. To promote opportunities for creative play and purposeful conversation.

Current Playground Practice Includes

1. Two playground sessions are timetabled each morning. Nursery use the play area when it is free as it is part of their continuous provision; Year R use the Nursery/Year R play area in the afternoons, and the playground is also used for outdoor P.E.;

   Approx 11am – year 1 and year 2

Dinner time playground sessions are timetabled during the lunch period.

Approx	12.00 p.m.	Year R in the Nursery/Year R play area
	12.15 p.m.	Year 2
	12.45 p.m.	Year 1

2. There is always a minimum of three adults engaged in playground supervision at one time. Teachers and support staff supervise on a rota basis;

3. A system of green, yellow and red choices is in operation for behaviour and is linked to the behaviour policy

4. Pupils are able to use the playground in winter and playground and grass from about April to October, when dry. Nursery and Year R pupils have a separate fenced off area for play on a hard surface, and equipment.

5. Pupils have the free use (on rota basis) of the safety surfaced adventure play area during morning and lunch playtime, depending upon weather.

6. Year R also have a covered outside area for daily continuous use

7. Play equipment is made available daily

8. Teachers may use outdoor P.E. sessions to teach the children playground games and creative use of the playground markings. Outdoor P.E. is scheduled for each class in the afternoons.

9. During wet weather indoor play is held in the classrooms at break times – games are played, physical activity or dance may be done, or educational videos watched. At lunchtime pupils play in classrooms under the supervision of midday supervisors. Outside canopy areas are also available

10. During icy/snowy weather pupils will not access the playground for health and safety reasons. Midday Supervisors have a bank of games to engage and encourage individuals or groups to play

11. All staff are encouraged to be vigilant throughout their time on duty, especially in concealed areas of the playground

12. All our staff are paediatric first aid trained and are able to deal with accidents. The welfare assistant is available in the medical room when necessary. For accidents involving bodily fluids, an emergency first aid box is taken on to the playground by the member of staff on duty: it contains cotton wool, surgical gloves and a help card. A similar box is kept by the Nursery and Year R exit doors.

3. Link with other Policies

See the Health & Safety Policy for safety procedures, and for First Aid guidelines. See the Behaviour Policy for rewards and sanction for playtime behaviour

4. Review

Procedures are kept under constant review, and are referred to at staff meetings, and midday supervisor meetings.