



St. Patrick's NS Strangsmills

Supervision policy

Devised: 2023

www.strangsmillsns.ie
16875G

Rationale

Our aim in St. Patrick's NS, is to provide a safe place for all the children in our care to learn and play. As teachers we accept the duty of care which devolves to us. In St. Patrick's NS we make every effort to ensure that the children given into our care are supervised appropriately.

Duty of Care

Rules 1(4) and 124(1) of the Rules for National Schools and Section 23(2) of the Education Act 1998 oblige teachers to take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of pupils and to participate in supervising pupils when the pupils are on the school premises, during school time and/or on school activities. Legislation such as the Health Safety and Welfare at Work Act and Court judgments have placed a "duty of care" and accountability on schools. Accordingly, the responsibility of all teachers individually and collectively to provide a duty of care at all times towards the children in the school in which they teach, including periods of supervision, is accepted.

Roles and Responsibilities

The School Principal is responsible for drawing up and updating the Supervision Rota, which is made known to each person on the rota. In the event of a planned absence the person arranges with another member of the teaching staff to swap supervision duties. Substitute teachers will cover a teacher's supervision duty where they are replacing the teacher on the day of their absence. The Principal needs to be informed of these changes in advance. The rules for the yard and for wet break times are revised and reviewed on a regular basis. These are well known by all teaching staff and Special Needs Assistants. The children are also made aware and constantly reminded of these rules. Sanctions for breach of these rules are explained to the children and are fair and consistent.

The School Day

The school will open to receive pupils at 8.50 a.m. The start of school day bell rings at 9.00a.m. Small Break 11:00am – 11:10am Lunch Break 12:35pm – 1:00pm School day finishes at 1.40pm (infants) 2.40pm (all other classes) The Board of Management accepts no responsibility for pupils arriving before 8.50am.

Morning Supervision

The teacher on supervision duty will supervise the children in the school yard from 8.50 am until the school bell sounds at 9:00am.

Class teachers collect their children from the class line at 9.00am

Arrangements for Break Times:

- ✓ During break time three teachers supervise the yard. SNA's are also on yard supervision duty at all breaks.
- ✓ The bell for small break sounds at 11:00 a.m. Break ends at 11:10 a.m.
- ✓ The "eating" bell which rings at 10.50 and 12:25 is to allow the children to eat their lunches. This is supervised by the class teacher except on days when they are on yard duty.
- ✓ On the day when a class teacher is on Yard duty for Lunch Break a teacher from the Special Education Team, another class teacher or the Principal will supervise their class.
- ✓ The children exit with the teacher's permission on hearing the Lunch Break bell at 12:35p.m with the class teacher or supervising teacher ensuring there is a teacher on yard.
- ✓ Teachers will ensure pupils are visible on the yard at all times.
- ✓ First Aid boxes are available on all yards and all accidents where there is injury in need of reporting to parent should be noted on the Accident Report form by the teacher/SNA on supervision.
- ✓ Children must remain in the school yard and not engage with adults who are outside of the school yard.
- ✓ Children must request permission to go to the toilet during break and lunch time.
- ✓ Teachers and Special Needs Assistants supervising the school yard will wear hi-viz jackets.
- ✓ The bell to signal the end of break rings at 11.10am and 1:00pm and the children are then supervised by the teachers on duty as they line up. Class teachers collect their class from the class line.
- ✓ Staff on yard duty to ensure that the gates to the school are closed during break times.

Wet Day Supervision

On wet days the teachers on supervision duty supervise the classrooms. The SNAs are assigned to supervise in the classroom in which the children in their care are located. All children must remain seated and engage in activities such as board games, colouring, chatting etc. For younger classes, the teacher may play cartoons for the pupils. Classroom doors are left open at all times.

On wet days the teachers on supervision duty remain on corridor supervision visiting each classroom on the corridor until all teachers return to their classrooms. One teacher will supervise Junior Infants and Senior Infants. The second and third teacher will divide the remaining classes between them.

The primary care of the SNAs is towards the children with whom they have been charged. However they also act as yard supervisors for the general school population.

Visitors to the School Yard

Teachers on yard duty will be aware of visitors entering the schoolyard and will ascertain their intentions. They will be supervised in the discharge of their business in the yard. All visitors are expected to report to the office.

Classes will end each day at 1.40 p.m. (infants) and 2.40p.m. (All other classes).

Teachers ensure an orderly dismissal and that all classrooms are vacated at this time. Floors should be free from litter, chairs stacked and tables neat. Children travelling by school bus will exit the school at 2:35pm. Parents/Guardians of the younger children are recommended to walk to the school gate to collect their child/children at 2.35pm/ 2.40pm. Pupils will remain at the side of the Marian hall while awaiting collection. Parents must ensure that they are punctual collecting children as the school cannot accept responsibility for looking after the children after that time.

Implementation, Review and Communication

The Board of Management will monitor the implementation of all aspects of this policy and amend as required. The policy will be reviewed, as necessary, in the light of experience.

Ratification

This policy was adopted and ratified by the Board of Management on *April 25th 2023*.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Kieran Leahy

Chairperson, Board of Management