

Break-Time Policy

Break times:

Small break: 10.50-11.00

Big Break: 12.30-1.00

Introduction:

Break time is central the life of the school in two ways

1. It has a huge influence on the social development of the child
2. Because it is an aim of the Gaelscoil to provide children with an opportunity to lead a full school life through the medium of Irish, there is particular emphasis placed on the importance of the speaking of Irish at breaktimes. Not alone has the teacher a responsibility of supervision at breaktime but also a responsibility to the implementation of ensuring that Irish is spoken as much as possible. The teacher must be at all times listening to the language that is being used by the children and the language deficit of the children.(See Plean Gaeilge & Córás Spreagaidh chun Gaeilge a labhairt)

Children

- Small break – Children eat a small snack before going out to the yard.
- Big Break - Children eat their lunches between 12.30 and 12.40. Infants may have an extended period of time to eat their lunch from 12.20-12.40 if desired. This is a necessary time of communication and the teacher will use this opportunity to enable infant language development.
- The children will walk out to the yard/hall quietly and the teacher must accompany them
- The teacher must ensure that the children have all left the classroom
- The class teacher must ensure that the teacher on duty is in the yard or hall before he or she leaves the children in the yard or hall
- Children will play on the tarmacadam yard area except when permitted to play on the grass.
- Children are encouraged to play cooperatively in the yard/hall. All forms of rough play are prohibited
- When the bell rings children will walk quietly to the lines

- If a child is sick and if a parent requests that the child stays in during break and lunch time, a note is required from the parent giving permission for the child to stay inside. The child/ren will stay outside the office.
- If a child needs to use the toilet when in the yard/hall, they will ask for permission from the teacher on duty and use the designated toilets on the ground floor.

Teacher

- A payment of 37 hours is the payment for those teachers who agree to take part in yard duty.
- Two teachers will be on yard duty at all times, one teacher with half the children in the hall with the remaining half in the yard. (See attached yard duty schedule)
- The teacher/teachers on duty collect the accident book (s) before going to the yard/hall. A record is kept of the name of the teacher on duty and any incident or important information that comes to light during the supervision period.
- Classes are collected promptly at 8.50, 11.00, 1.00
- The teacher on duty stays in the hall/yard until all classes have been collected by the class teachers
- All teachers must ensure that the relevant boundaries of the yard are explained to their class regularly
- Class teachers must practice regularly with their class how to stand in line correctly and how to walk in and out in a safe and orderly fashion.
- The entire teaching staff are responsible for the speaking of Irish in the yard and during the comings and goings from the yard
- SNA's are not permitted to supervise the hall/yard without a teacher being with them also
- When the bell is rung at 11.00 and 1.00 teacher will collect their class from yard/hall and walk with them to the classroom. Children will walk one behind the other to their classroom.
- Aoife formulates the yard duty roster and this is hanging in the staff room. If there are any changes to the rota or if teachers swap with each other this has to be registered with the principal.

Accidents in yard/hall

In a case of serious injury

- If a child is seriously injured a teacher will send a child from the senior classes in to call to class teacher and or principal
- The teacher on supervision duty in consultation with the class teacher/principal/deputy principal will make a decision regarding the damage that is done to the child and whether or not they should be moved to the office/hospital etc.

- In the event that a child can't be moved and is seriously injured, the emergency services will be contacted and then the parents will be immediately contacted.

In a case where a child is not seriously injured but is hurt

- The child is sent to the class teacher
- A decision is taking as to whether or not the parents should be contacted. In the case where there is any form of damage to the head however minor, the parents will always be telephoned.
- If the injury is not serious, it is attended to and the child returns to class/yard etc
- A report is given to class teacher immediately
- Minor cuts and abrasions will be cleaned with water only and no bandages may be applied. Gloves will be used.

The teacher on duty must do the following

- Write a report in the accident book, date and signature of the teacher on duty. The time and the details of the accident are recorded; what happened, where it happened; what damage was done, and what were the steps taken. This book will be kept in the Seomra Fóirne.
- The incident will be reported to the class teacher.
- The class teacher will write a report in the homework journal and this will be signed and dated.