



Scoil Bhréanainn

Portmagee, Co.Kerry
www.scoilbhreanainn.ie

Supervision Policy

Introduction

This policy was originally formulated in 2025. It applies to all staff and children during school hours, break times, and on all school related activities.

Rationale

The rules for National Schools 121(4) and 124(1) oblige teachers to take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of pupils and to participate in supervising pupils during school time and during all school related activities.

Legislation such as the Health Safety and Welfare at Work Act have placed a "duty of care" and accountability on schools that must be underpinned by a policy covering all possible eventualities.

Relationship to the Characteristic Ethos of the School

This policy is in keeping with the school ethos of providing a safe and secure environment for learning for all pupils and the wider school community.

Aims and Objectives

- To develop a framework that effectively ensures, as far as is practicable, the safety of children while at play on the yard or while engaged in school related activities
- To observe and monitor behavioural patterns outside the confines of the classroom
- To contribute to effective school management and comply with relevant legislation.

School Procedures

- All teachers are assigned supervision duties.
- It is the policy of the school to supervise the school yard at all times during regular lunch breaks i.e. 11.00am to 11.20am, 1.00pm to 1.20pm. Teachers assume a duty of care at 9.10am. The Board of Management informs parents that the school does not accept responsibility for pupils dropped off earlier than 9.10am
- A Rota for supervision is drawn up by a post holder in consultation with Principal/staff and this Rota is displayed on the staff room notice board.
- Rules of the school yard are reviewed and revised continually and communicated to children regularly
- Rewards are in place for classes that line up quietly and safely
- Stamps are given to pupils being kind on the yard so that pupils look out for one another, fostering a sense of community spirit.
- If parents indicate a worry about a particular child on the yard all teachers rostered for yard duty are informed of the concern so that the particular concerns can be addressed satisfactorily

- Teachers on yard duty line up the pupils by class and send them back to their classrooms. Teachers taking a course day can swap supervision duties with a willing colleague. If a teacher is unexpectedly absent a substitute colleague will assume his/her duties in a reciprocal arrangement
- At least 5 Special Needs Assistants are on duty during lunch breaks. While these Assistants provide individual supervision for designated Special Needs children, they can act in an observing and reporting capacity, bringing instances of misbehaviour to the attention of the teacher on yard duty. The schools anti-bullying and code of behaviour policy covers incidents of misbehaviour or disrespect to staff on yard duty.
- Children with injuries/complaints are dealt with directly by the teacher on yard duty. A first aid box with ice packs and plasters is brought on yard for minor incidents.
- Where teachers suspect that a child is unwell parents are alerted, usually by phone.
- If children remain uncollected after 3.00pm, the school always ensures that a duty of care is provided until a parent/guardian arrives.
- At all other times each teacher is responsible for the supervision of all children under their care.
- At dismissal time in the evening the class teachers supervise the walk to the top gate of the school, to see children safely off the premises. No supervision is provided outside the school gate.
- If a teacher needs to leave their class, another teacher will be alerted to supervise
- Children who are withdrawn from their mainstream classroom for Learning Support or Language Support will be brought by that teacher or an SNA.
- Parents are regularly reminded to collect their pupils from the school gate as the road is busy at dispersal from school times.

Special Provisions

- a) Out of school activities such as games, swimming, tours, back up provisions are put in place to ensure adequate levels of supervision are put in place. The level of supervision is with a mix of SNA's and teachers as appropriate.
- b) On wet days children remain in their classes under the normal supervision Rota. Children from senior classes assist the class teachers
- c) When visiting teachers such as P.E., Music, Language, take over a class, the school ensures teachers and or SNA's to maintain a presence.
- d) The school Safety Statement lists all hazards on the school yard and supervisors are accordingly briefed

Success Criteria and Review

- Ensuring a safe child-friendly school yard
- Providing well organised and safe out of school activities
- Re-enforcing school rules termly
- Reviewing supervision duties yearly
- Altering or adjusting procedures deemed to be inoperable

Implementation

This policy has been updated in 2025 when it was ratified by the Board of Management.

Signed: Myra Hulme

Chairperson

Karen Stenson

Principal

Date: 26.05.2025