

Balls Policy

Written by:	Duncan McCanlis	Date:	June 2014
Approved by:	College of Management Council of Trustees	Date:	November 2017 November 2017
History of review:	This is the 7 th revision of this policy, the last having taken place in June 2017 by Marcus Link, HSO		
Reviewed by:	Kaycee Fordham	Date:	February 2018
Date for next review:	September 2019		

Policy Statement

The school's policy on ball play reflects its pedagogical principles; central to these is the belief that cognitive development cannot be separated from motor development: thinking and moving are inseparable.

Steiner-Waldorf education places an emphasis on experiential learning which includes use of simple apparatus such as balls, and outside play wherever possible.

The school wishes to support the long term health of pupils by promoting regular movement and physical exercise, even when those activities are associated with risk. Activities such as ball games are widely regarded as reducing risks of serious threats to health in later years, such as coronary heart disease (CHD), stroke and a plethora of other health problems. The risk of injury is therefore considered worth tolerating in view of the reduced risks of more serious conditions later on.

Ball games **using the hands** are therefore encouraged as a break time activity for all pupils aged 6 years and above with age appropriate levels of supervision.

Football is only played at specified times by older pupils, on the designated pitch, under supervision.

There are four areas where ball games normally occur:

- 1 Class 1 & 2 area at the front of Hood Manor
- 2 On the tarmac at the back of Hood Manor
- 3 On the basketball court in front of Greenwood
- 4 The tarmac below the woodwork area.

Scope

In contrast to previous versions of this policy, this policy now relates to all pupils at the school and affects all staff.

Aims

The school acknowledges its duty to keep children safe whilst also allowing them opportunities to explore appropriate risk through well managed and supervised activities. The aim of this policy is to fulfil our duty, ensuring that pupils are as safe as possible and protecting them from factors outside their own direct control.

Procedure

General

- There shall be no use of the feet to kick balls anywhere in the grounds other than at specified 'football' times. The reason for this is principally that balls move much faster when kicked, creating an unreasonable level of risk to other people and to property.
- Balls used for curriculum held games will be selected by the teacher in charge – to be of an appropriate size and weight for the activity and ability of pupils.
- For break periods, balls may be borrowed by pupils from the box in the staff room. Pupils shall sign in the book that they have taken a ball and again when they return it.

Class 1 & 2 area at the front of Hood Manor

- Only pupils from classes 1 and 2 may use the area and the equipment.
- Class teachers will set and enforce appropriate rules during ball games.
- Balls must be small & light (small sponge or rubber balls only).

Tarmac at the back of Hood Manor

Principle game is 4-Square

- Only for use by pupils from classes 3 and above.
- Pupils to use the designated '4 square' courts for this ball game.
- Supervising teachers will set and enforce appropriate rules during any ball game.
- Balls must be lighter than basketballs.

Basketball Court

Principle game is Basketball

- For use by pupils from classes 3 to 10.
- Proper basketballs may be used for playing basketball.
- Supervising teachers to monitor the activity to ensure that younger/smaller pupils are not put at unreasonable risk from stronger opponents.

Tarmac below the forging area

Principle game is Basketball

- For the use of Upper School pupils only.
- Proper basketballs may be used for playing basketball.

Controls

- Teachers to refer to and review the appropriate activity and venue risk assessment, prior to playing and/or supervising any organised ball games with pupils.
- Supervising (break time) teachers to monitor pupils' play with the above guidelines in mind.
- Incidents to be reported to the HSO.

Information/advice/guidance

- HSE: CHILDREN'S PLAY AND LEISURE – PROMOTING A BALANCED APPROACH
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/entertainment/childrens-play-july-2012.pdf>

Compliance

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/37/contents>
- Independent school standards, December 2014
https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/3283/pdfs/uksi_20143283_en.pdf

References

- Health and Safety Policy
- Risk Assessment Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Playground Rules