



Outside Play Guidelines

Guidelines for Playing Tag Rugby/ Hockey or Hi Intensity Team Games on the School Playground/Field

Tag Rugby or Hi Intensity Team Games become a health and safety risk on the field when:

- There is insufficient space for the size and speed of individuals involved
- The grass is wet and slippery (appropriate boots must then be worn and this cancels out the risk - but trainers can be hazardous)
- Games rules are not being followed or strictly adhered to (e.g. for tag rugby there must be two hands on the ball when carrying it and 'fending or handing off' is prohibited / no grabbing of clothes /no tripping etc.).

Note: Tag Rugby should not be played on the playground as there is not sufficient space for it to be played safely on our school yard.

Tag Rugby 'Related Games' or Hockey/ Hi Intensity Team Games become a health and safety risk on the yard when:

- There is insufficient space for size and speed of individuals playing the tag / hi intensity game
- The yard is wet and slippery (appropriate trainers must then be worn and this reduces the risk - but the type of game played needs to be more skill based with careful thought as to numbers of pupils involved. Care particularly needs to be taken with regard type of invasion game used and numbers of pupils involved)
- Games rules are not being followed or strictly adhered to (e.g. the teacher or coach needs to be firmly in charge of the group and the games played need to take into account the conditions/size and ability of the group and their PE experience).
- Pupils are required to grab or 'tick' the other person - games which require a child to be grabbed or captured obviously need to be avoided on the yard / games which require a child to be 'ticked' require adequate spacing and very small numbers (and due to the playground space available and the numbers of students involved in an activity during PE sessions are generally to be avoided/or planned with caution). **Wearing Mouthguards**

Providing the children an option to wear a mouth guard in PE is something we will highlight in parent newsletters as a 'parent choice' - especially if they are involved in a tag rugby. This currently happens when we partake in competitive games and wearing games is compulsory for all contact rugby and hockey activities. In Hockey games a mouthguard will always be required.

The school has traditionally purchased a number of junior mouthguards for parents to purchase/obtain as required.

Playtime Games

Junior Yard - Concern as to weather conditions and numbers of children is an ongoing factor when managing pupils at playtimes. Playground timetables need to be reviewed each half term so that we are able to safely offer a range of seasonal game options for pupils in the school yard (football, netball, cricket etc.) with a tight focus who/where/when they can be played. This role is currently carried out by the school Deputy.

Infant Yard - Due to the small yard there must always be a tight regulation of ball games and if spacing appears to be a problem at times of the year the overflow play area must be used to space children out with two staff (one in each area) - if spacing problems persist then a small group of Year Two pupils may be able to access the junior yard. However, this must be considered as a supplementary measure to opening up the overflow play area rather than instead of using this option.

Reviewed: September 2023

Next Review Date: September 2025