



EVELYN STREET PRIMARY ACADEMY - PLAY AND LUNCHTIME STATEMENT

Intent

Over our break time and lunch time periods, we endeavour to enhance children's opportunities for positive play and interaction through a safe, stimulating and nurturing environment. We believe that this will provide a platform for the development of fundamental life skills. Furthermore, it is important that children have a safe and happy playtime so that they feel relaxed and refreshed to return to their learning.

Implementation

At Evelyn Street, we:

- provide a range of play activities for all children
- have zones in the playground for different types of play such as a ball game zone (for netball, football, basketball etc.), a creative zone (colouring and construction), strategic play zone (chess and giant four in a row), dance and imaginative play (music and dancing area) and a nature/quiet zone (Cameron's hut and benches to sit and be calm in a leafy area of our playground).
- provide the opportunity to develop social skills through positive interaction with their peers and with that the adults who support them in the classroom
- help children develop a sense of fair play and to understand and respect the needs and feelings of others
- reduce accidents by monitoring play and risk assessing equipment and resources regularly
- encourage children to take responsibility for their behaviour
- encourage leadership through roles of responsibility such as 'playground buddies'
- encourage children to take care for the playground environment and equipment
- encourage children to share feelings, enthusiasms and concerns
- oversee lunch and play periods with familiar adults who know the children from the classroom. This creates a strong, respectful and nurturing relationship between our children and staff.
- provide opportunities for rich, creative play where the children can express themselves through dance, drawing or construction
- work together with our welfare team to support our most vulnerable children at break and lunch periods
- work together with our PE lead to create opportunities for team sports, sporting activities or competitions to take place
- staff our play areas to a high adult-to-pupil ratio to ensure safety and engagement. All staff wear the Evelyn Street jacket or a high vis so that they can be spotted easily.

In our dining areas, we:

- provide healthy, nutritious meals for those who dine with us (nursery through to year 6) and we promote healthy home meals and snacks.
- provide and cater for children with dietary requirements and allergies. Risk assessments are in place for any child with an allergy.

- have a staggered lunch time to ensure that all children have an adequate time to eat with their peers in a calm, uncrowded environment. Children from Nursery and Reception dine first, and those from Reception initially make use of the attached outdoor environment once they have finished their meals. Later in the year, there is a transition period onto the main playground to ensure positive social interactions with older children and other adults from across the school.
- staff our dining areas with first aid trained staff, ensuring an adequate adult-to-child ratio
- provide a stimulating dining experience where staff interact with the children and encourage them to take responsibility for their environment, health and well-being
- promote a 'family dining' experience by allowing children to sit together with their peers, promoting conversation and facilitating positive social interactions and table manners

Appendix: Covid period

During this period, we have had to make changes to our lunch and play provision to ensure that all children remain in their bubbles so that they can stay happy and healthy.

In the playground, we have zoned off 2 specific areas so that bubbles will not cross and can remain in their own area. We have staggered breaks and lunches further to limit and restrict the crossing of bubbles.

- Strict handwashing routines are in place - Handwashing basins have been fitted outside so that children wash their hands thoroughly before returning to the school building after their break and lunch time.
- Individual class play resources have been purchased and risk assessed for each class bubble, to restrict the cross contamination from such equipment between bubbles.
- Individual first aid kits have been provided to each bubble and are taken outside each break time along with inhalers.
- Risk assessments, first aid and adult to pupil ratios have been considered and put in place.

Dining areas:

- We have further staggered lunches and changed the dining location for some bubbles to ensure a lack of cross contamination during eating times.
- Seating is restricted so that children do not face one another during eating times.
- Strict handwashing and sanitizing routines are in place to ensure that eating areas are wiped down after each class bubble has used the areas.
- Only one class bubble is in an area at a time so that children can be spread out sufficiently. When children are not in the main dining room, food is transported to them in disposable containers by the kitchen staff.
- Risk assessments, first aid and adult to pupil ratios have been considered and put in place.