

Barkisland CE VA Primary School

Outdoor Facilities Policy



At Barkisland CE VA Primary School, we are fortunate to have excellent outdoor facilities to support children's play, learning and fitness. Pupils of the school have access to a trim trail, and outdoor classroom (reading den) Multi Use Games area (MUGA) and an all-weather running track. The information below sets out the procedures to be followed to ensure the safety of all users.

Aims

To ensure the outdoor facilities are used in accordance with health and safety guidelines.

Maintenance

The site manager will be responsible for checking the trim trail equipment on a weekly basis for any maintenance issues. The installation company will be contacted to repair any significantly damaged pieces.

The trim trail will be closed until these repairs are completed.

The site manager will check on a daily basis for hazards around the trim trail area such as debris and glass alongside his normal daily grounds inspections. Any damaged pieces noticed by staff or children should be reported to site manager immediately and the trim trail closed.

The running track surface will be inspected on a regular basis by the site manager and any areas of repair completed as soon as possible.

Supervision

An adult at all break times will be in charge of supervising pupils all using outdoor facilities. The adults on duty must position themselves in a position where they can supervise both activities adequately.

If effective supervision is not able to be carried out, staff must assess the situation quickly and narrow down the areas of play to enable adequate supervision.

The decision to allow pupils on the equipment is made by the adult on duty each day and this will depend on weather conditions. The trim trail equipment must be dry before letting any pupils on the equipment.

School is not responsible for any children who may be on the equipment or track outside of school hours.

Training

Training will be given to staff and children on the use of the equipment where necessary.

Parents will have the option to decide if they do not wish for their child to be accessing the trim trail play equipment. To do this, they must contact their child's class teacher or the school office.

Children who do not ensure safe use of the equipment may be excluded from using the equipment at the head teacher's discretion.

How to use the Trim Trail safely

- **IF A CHILD CANNOT REACH** the monkey bars section themselves without jumping or being lifted up, they **MUST NOT USE** that section.
- Children must travel in one direction along the trim trail; from left to right starting at the gate entry.
- Children can enter the trim trail at any point as long as they are travelling from left to right.

- Traversing wall – Children to travel along only – not over the top.
- Rickety bridge – 2 person max, across left to right only.
- Wobble board – 1 person max.
- Blue ropes – 2 person max, straight across left to right – no swinging.
- Climbing A-Frame
 - No jumping from the top of the frame or from the ropes.
 - 1 child on each side of the frame at one time.
 - Encourage children to step down onto the grass before stepping onto the next obstacle.
 - Encourage children to exit the frame feet first and tummy facing the ropes.
- Children to exit trim trail and walk back to the beginning via the astro-turf, where possible avoiding the grass, especially when muddy.

Running Track

- Children must use the walk on path to access the track. This is crucially important when the field is muddy. The track will be accessed from the playground, along the astro-turf surrounding the trim trail and onto the runner path.
- No studded / spiked footwear to be worn when using the track.
- Mats are to be placed over the track if children need to access the middle of the field when where studded / spiked footwear.
- Children must be reminded to take care when running the last 50m of the track as this part is on a slight descent.
- The track can be used all year round.

The line markings show staggered starts to take account of users in the different lanes. Start position, 50m, 100m and 150m are also indicated on the track with staggered start places for relay racing.

The Outdoor Classroom also lends itself to a Reading Den where children can sit and read, draw, write or colour. Reading boxes and activity packs are provided by school.

The outdoor classroom can also be used for an additional teaching space during curriculum time.

The MUGA works on a timetable so that all classes can have equal access to this facility.

Reviewed June 2018, June 2021 and July 2024