

Managing Behaviour

Lunchtime behaviour raises many issues for children and adults alike. Below is a list of ideas for you to adapt to suit the needs and challenges of your particular school.

- If your playground is big enough, split KS1 and KS2 into different areas.
- Stagger lunch times: allow KS1 and KS2 to overlap for as short a time as is practical.
- Shorten lunch times: 45 minutes should be long enough for most children.
- Introduce a 'Thinking Bench' or 'Bus Stop' for small misdemeanours. This will enable the children to remain outside, but contain them in one place, where they can be supervised.
- Give your lunchtime supervisors bright jackets to wear so that they are instantly visible.
- Have a quiet area indoors for those who find playtime difficult.
- Also, have a quiet area outside, for those who do not want to run or play boisterous games.
- Start lunchtime clubs: provide a room with board games, drawing materials, books etc. Vary access (ie length of time, different classes on different days) to allow as many children as possible the opportunity to use the club. Alternatively, run an aerobics class or other indoor sports/games. Encourage both those with poor and those with good playground skills to join the club.
- Introduce half-termly meetings with support staff/lunchtime supervisors to review initiatives and discuss concerns.
- Incident Book: all incidents should be noted (separate to racial incident structure) and action taken. The book should be reviewed weekly by HT or DH or SMT, to check for patterns of behaviour. This will also be useful later, if parents become involved.
- Incident slips: similar to the yellow/red card system at football matches. Any incident should be noted and the child should be fully informed of the problem and possible sanction.
- Class of the Week: a reward system could be set up where the class that has the best playground behaviour each week is praised at assembly and is given a particular distinction or merit (eg extra playtime, class outing etc for the best behaved class over a whole term).
- Exclusion at lunchtimes: where necessary children are excluded from lunchtime play for a set number of sessions.
- EBD Team Involvement: persistent problem behaviour may call for observation by the EBD team and input from them into possible solutions.

MEAL SUPERVISOR DEVELOPMENT

Sage provided all its schools with four days of training from 'Integrity at Work', a consultancy that specialises in school-based behaviour management programmes. Gwynne Wilson Brown ran five separate sessions, from 10.00am to 2.00pm, working with supervisors before, during and after the lunch hour.

The programme included:

- Clear dining room and playground rules, negotiated from class rules;
- A system of effective play resources management;
- Supervisors who can help children solve their own concerns;
- Wet weather plans;
- Anti-bullying strategies.

Each Sage school received £1,000 for playtime resources and £50 for supply cover to enable meal supervisors to visit other schools.

Further details of the course are available from Gwynne Wilson Brown at Integrity at Work
Tel: 0207 394 2843.