



Gosford Hill School

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Monday 8th June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Student Behaviour and Safety During Social Times

I am writing to you to seek your support regarding some anti-social behaviours that we are seeing during social times (break and lunchtimes). I understand that this may not be directly linked to your child, however, at Gosford Hill School we pride ourselves on providing safe, enjoyable social spaces where for students to relax, exercise, and build friendships.

The astro turf and school fields are incredibly popular areas, particularly for students who love playing football. Recently, however, our duty staff have noticed an increase in unsafe and overly aggressive behaviours during these football games. Specifically, we are seeing a rise in **slide tackling, "bundling" on top of other students, and reckless physical contact**. As a school, students know that we adopt a "hands off" policy and there is never a need for physical contact in school.

When spoken to, many students explain that they are "just playing" or doing this with their close peers. While we entirely understand that they do not intend to cause harm, these behaviours carry a high risk of leading to serious injuries, both to those involved in the tackles and to bystanders who are simply trying to enjoy their social time.

As a school, the physical safety and well-being of your children is our absolute priority. We cannot allow games to escalate to a point where a student might get seriously hurt.

To ensure our social spaces remain safe for everyone, we will be speaking to the Year 7 cohort over the next few days to remind them of our expectations. Moving forward, we will be enforcing a strict policy regarding safe play.

Please note: If these unsafe incidents continue, the Pastoral Team and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) have made the decision that the students involved (bystanders encouraging & those directly involved) will **lose their social times at break or lunch and will instead be placed into the Reset Room for that duration**.

We want to keep our fields and astro turf open and active, but we need the students to cooperate to make sure this time is safe and enjoyable for all. I would be incredibly grateful if you could have a brief conversation with your child this evening regarding this letter. Please remind them of the importance of playing safely, avoiding dangerous tackles, and respecting the physical boundaries of their peers.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school community safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Gough
Head of Year 7

