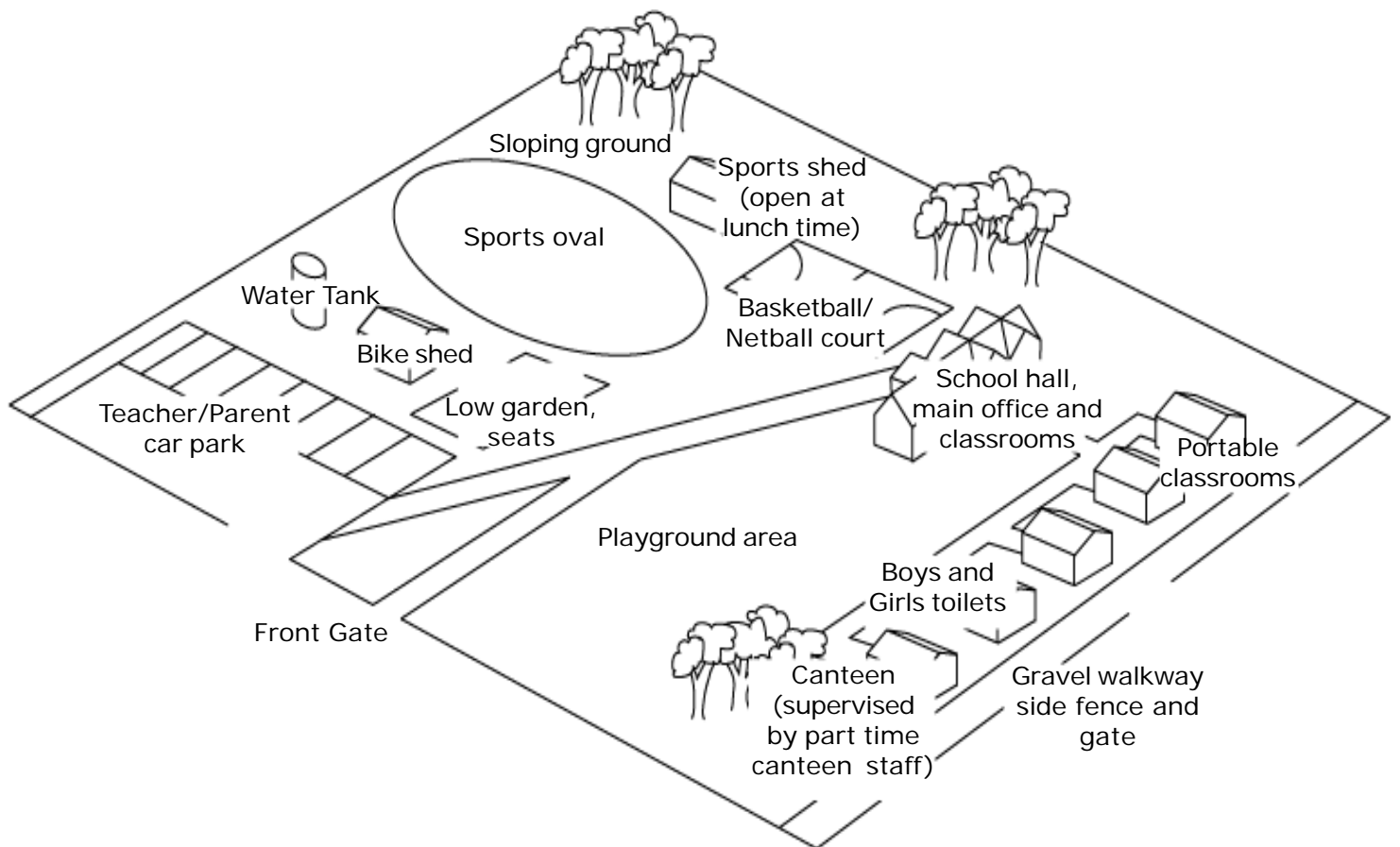


# HAPPY SCHOOLS

## Where Does Bullying Happen?



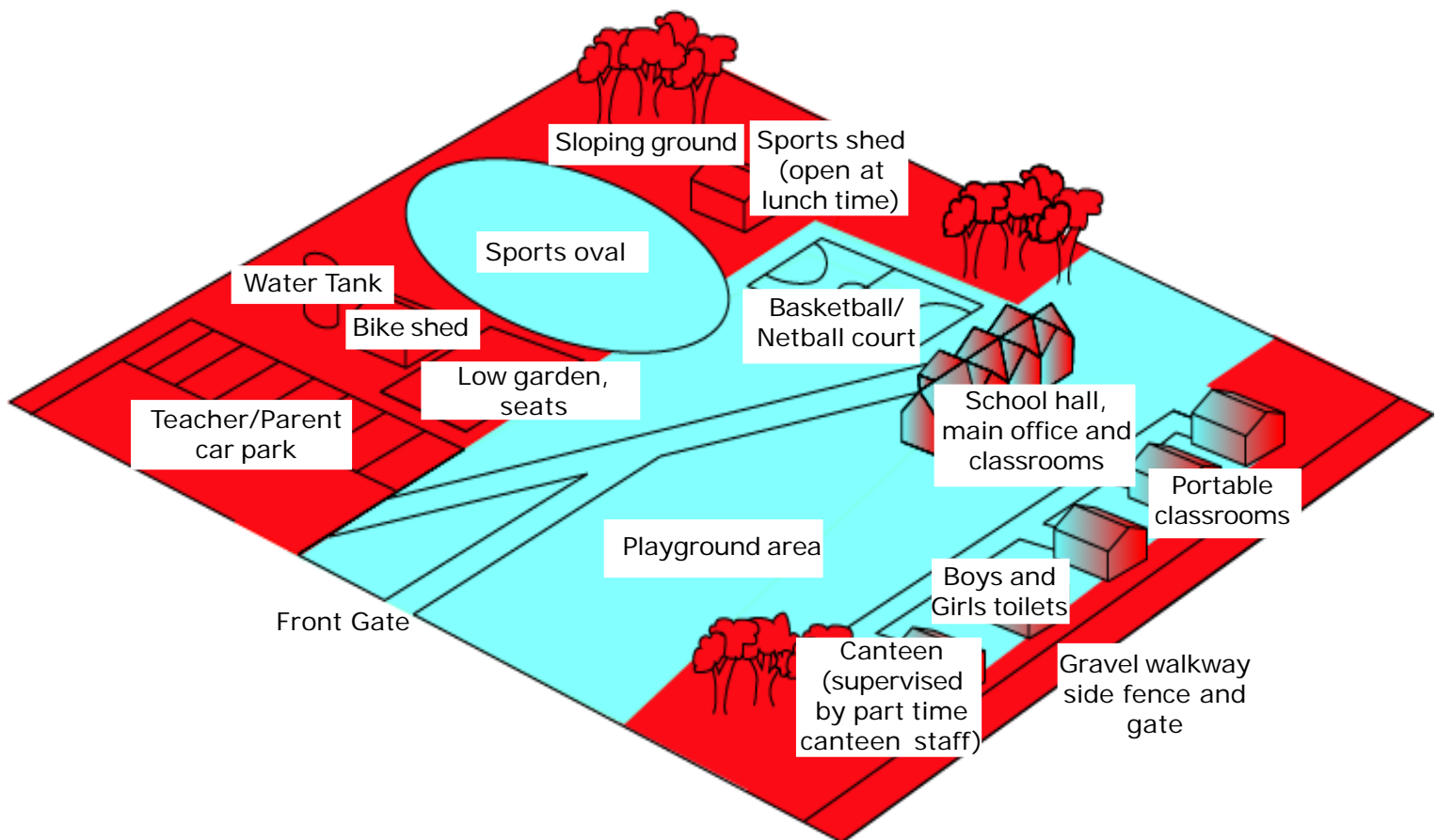
As a teacher (or staff), you need to be on the look out for bullying issues, both in the classroom and in the playground.

A good starting point is to consciously identify some of the **high risk places where bullying might take place**. For example, in this playground, where would you expect bullying to be more common? (Consider particularly those areas that are low visibility, and/or where children can do things high risk of being seen by a teacher.) Where would you think would be **safe places** to be?

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## Where Does Bullying Happen?

Here is the same playground, with 'hotspots' (marked in red/dark shading) where bullying might occur, and 'safe places to be' (marked in blue/light shading).



Obviously, every playground is different, but the notes on the following pages identify certain generic areas of the kind where bullying is more likely, as well as typical 'safe places to be'.

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## Where Does Bullying Happen?

The following notes refer to the sample playground (pp1-2).

### High risk (for bullying) areas

Large trees	Can obscure view and allow children to hide behind them.
Native garden with fence	Fence can block the view of teachers.
Area behind oval	Partly obscured by trees, and hidden by downward slope of ground; also a long way from the staffroom and classrooms where teachers will begin their yard duty.
Boys' and girls' toilets	By their nature, these are places where children feel they are out of view; children who bully know that other children will generally need to come here at some point during the day.
Gravel walkway behind portables	This is a well hidden area where children could remain undetected easily.
Bike shed	The tin walls of the shed mean children could be inside the shed without being seen. The shed also obscures the area behind the shed.
Water tank	As these are generally quite high, solid structures, teachers would need to physically walk behind the tank to see any children behind it.

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## Where Does Bullying Happen?

### Low risk (or 'safe to be') areas

Playground area	Planting low trees and shrubs does not obscure view. This area is also close to the central part of the playground and would be one of the first areas walked through by a teacher on duty coming out of a classroom or staffroom.
Junior playground area	This is an area close to the main part of the school. Teachers would possibly monitor younger children more closely on play equipment, and so would spend more time in this area.
Low garden, paved area and seats	This area would feel safe and peaceful for children, and would be included on the 'playground circuit' by a teacher on duty as it is easy to walk to and close to the staffroom and classrooms.
Oval	By their nature, ovals are large, open areas which can be easily viewed from a central point. Teachers could stand at one side of the oval and see to the other side, up to the point where the trees, slope or sheds obscured their view.
Basketball / netball court	This is a safe area because it is close to the central part of the school, and would be a high activity area where many children would play, thus making detection by other children or teachers more likely.

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## Where Does Bullying Happen?

### Two Tone Areas

Classrooms, hall, portables	These places <i>could</i> be safe <i>or</i> unsafe places for children, depending on the nature of the school, its programs and the actions and interventions of the teachers
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### Rethinking the school grounds to reduce opportunities for bullying

#### What now?

In most schools, it is not possible to design your own school playground to create a place which is safe for all children to be all the time.

However, it *is* possible to be aware of what problem areas exist (pp1-4 of this document are meant to model this analysis). It is then possible to re-arrange yard duty rosters – and surveillance patterns – to make sure that ‘high risk’ areas are constantly scanned for signs of trouble, and that ‘low risk’ areas are not patrolled as frequently.

Consider introducing some formal or publicly named ‘safe zones’ where children know they could play and be fully supervised. Make it clear to children that there are areas which ‘we are watching’ (the high risk zones) – to discourage bullies further.

# HAPPY SCHOOLS

## Where Does Bullying Happen?

Where does bullying occur  
in your school?

Print out the grid below and then map in *your own school grounds*, and highlight any areas where bullying might occur.

