

Play Policy

Children spend 1.4 years out of their total 7 years in primary school at "play".

What is play?

Play is an entitlement for all children under article 31 of the United Nations Rights of the Child: All children have the rights to relax, play and join in a wide range of activities.

Rationale

Through play children develop social and interaction skills, whilst also supporting their physical and emotional development. Play allows them to discover the world around them, learn about each other and start to understand themselves. By playing, children try new things, negotiate with each other, make decisions, learn to cooperate, to pick themselves up and to try again if things don't work out the first time. Play is essential to the development of a healthy child. It should be freely chosen and offer a balance of risk and challenge.

St Stephen's C of E VA Primary School thinks that play:

- Gives the child freedom to express themselves
- Gives the child freedom to explore their environment in their own way
- Allows children to use their imagination
- Is self-initiated and gives children ownership of their play
- Stretches the children's perceptions and encourages all areas of development
- Is a chance to form social and communication skills and recognise boundaries and relationships across age groups
- Is allowing the child to take managed risks and being challenged as it will help the child to make informed and adapted decisions in play and life
- Encourages cooperation and responsibility
- Involves the child sometimes getting dirty and can involve rolling around and being hands on

- Should happen in all-weather apart from hazardous conditions
 - Is sometimes getting bumps and scrapes
 - Above all should be a fun, enjoyable, memorable and exciting experience
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- Though our policy for play we intend to provide opportunities for:
 - Negotiating
 - Sharing
 - Cooperating
 - Developing patience
 - Communicating
 - Listening
 - Accepting rules
 - Coping with success and failure
 - Competing
 - Being a team member

All of these intending outcomes to have a positive impact on the child's wider learning.

Adults' role:

- Valuing play,
- Modelling,
- Partnering,
- Reassuring,
- Encouraging,
- Providing time and space,
- Giving the child the skills they need to resolve their differences and disputes,
- Ensuring the play area is safe and secure,
- Providing resources.

Equal Opportunities:

Every child has the right to play.

Monitoring and Evaluation

There will be regular meetings between the playworkers and the play leader to celebrate and evaluate the impact of outdoor play upon the child.

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