

# Vallis First School



# Play Policy



# VALLIS FIRST SCHOOL PLAY POLICY

## Aims

**At Vallis First School we strive to:**

- ❖ inspire children in their learning through making it fun and relevant
- ❖ meet the needs of families and involve them in their children's learning
- ❖ value children as individuals but encourage them to recognise the needs of others
- ❖ help children to feel safe and to be happy and healthy
- ❖ give children access the skills they need to enjoy life and achieve personal fulfilment
- ❖ involve children with the wider community

## Rationale

**At Vallis First School we believe that:**

Play is at the heart of childhood.

Play is a central part of the learning process.

Play teaches children and young people many life skills that can not be taught, such as risk taking, social skills, motor skills, building friendships and learning about boundaries.

Play is satisfying to the child and freely chosen by the child. It may be serious or it may be light hearted. It may produce something or it may be done simply for its own sake.

A healthy and safe school will be one where we see children outdoors happily playing alongside members of the school community.

### At Vallis First School we aim to promote play by:

- **Improving Access and the School Environment:** Ensuring that all children have access to rich, inclusive, stimulating and challenging play environments.
- **Involving Children and Parents/Carers:** Working in partnership with children and parents/carers to listen to their views, respond to their needs and to include them in the delivery and evaluation of play opportunities.
- **Including Risk:** Accepting that children have an innate desire to seek out opportunities to take risks as part of growing up. We will respond positively to this by extending the range of environments and opportunities available for children's free play while continuing to have due regard for their well being.
- **Inclusive Play:** Recognising that all children have a right to play. At Vallis First School we will work closely with all children and parents/carers to always consider what steps can be taken to make play provision as inclusive of all children in the school as possible.
- **Promoting the Value of Play:** Seeking to promote the value of free, imaginative, creative play and an understanding of why this is important and how it supports children's development to all of the school's stakeholders.
- **Planning & Championing Play:** Play will be included as a central component of all planning related documents produced by the school. Identifying a senior member of the school who will take a particular interest in play.
- **Providing Support and Building Capacity:** Continually look for ways of supporting staff through better training and increasing the status of play work within the school.

### **Play in the School Curriculum**

At Vallis First School we use the vehicle of play to provide many opportunities to bring about effective teaching and learning.

### The role of the staff in promoting play

To encourage a positive ethos of play within the school.

To plan for and incorporate Play in specific lessons, and across the curriculum.

Encourage children to take responsibility increasingly for themselves and their own actions.

Work closely with parents and carers to develop positive attitudes to play.

### The role of the pupils

To know that their play will be supported, encouraged and valued.

To affirm their own strengths, qualities, skills and success.

To take responsibility for themselves and their own actions

To act upon and apply skills learnt in play both within school and their lives in the wider community.

To show commitment to, and behave in accordance with, the school rules.

### Monitoring and review

Play activities are monitored on a day-to-day basis by the Headteacher and Senior Team.

This Play policy is the Governors' responsibility, and they review its effectiveness yearly.

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