



Play Policy

A Child-Centred Policy

Play is an integral part of children's lives and is essential to their holistic development. Therefore, children's needs will be at the centre of all aspects of this play policy.

In this regard:

- Every child will be entitled to respect for their own unique combination of qualities and capabilities.
- The perceptions of the child, their views and opinions will be listened to and respected.
- Play provision will reflect both the age and stage of development of the child.

A Child Friendly Environment

The issue of play is not limited to the provision of play equipment.

Children interact with the whole neighbourhood. They are the most frequent users of the outdoors and spend approximately 40% of their playtime travelling from one place to another.

Because of this two factors are important:

1. **Access/choice:** The diversity of environments within the neighbourhood and the available access to them are the most important factors for child development.
2. **Safety:** The safety of the environment for children. Stanford in the Vale Breakfast & After School Club recognises that the environment in which children live is an essential backdrop to play.

In this regard Stanford in the Vale Breakfast & After School Club.

The School will:

- Work towards the provision of a hierarchy of well-maintained areas/spaces within school, offering a rich environment for play.
- Ensure the provision of a varied and interesting physical environment – different levels; spaces of different sizes; e.g. places to hide; trees and bushes; places that inspire mystery and imagination.
- Ensure the following measures will be taken to ensure a safe environment: linking into public open spaces;
- Ensure green spaces will welcome children and minimise prohibited/limited access areas.
- Have regard to the fact that communities go through stages and their needs change over time.

Playground Provision

In this regard Stanford in the Vale Breakfast & After School Club.

The School will:

- Ensure adequate resources and that these resources are used effectively.
- Aim to provide adequate and appropriate hierarchies of open spaces for play as recommended in National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) standards.
- Ensure all play facilities will be constructed and maintained to the appropriate European standard.
- Ensure play areas will include enough space for equipment and general open space for games, and environmental enhancements.
- Ensure opportunities for environmental play in informal open spaces.
- This policy will be incorporated within the School Improvement Plan.
- Facilitate the organisation of a range of activities for children and young people to increase children's enjoyment.



Stanford in the Vale CE Primary School

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Co-ordination and Partnership

In this regard Stanford in the Vale Breakfast & After School Club.

The School will:

- Consult with children and their families.
- Be proactive in working with communities and community groups, and all relevant stakeholders.
- Encourage the development of partnerships between statutory providers and community groups in relation to the management of play facilities.
- Explore the possibility of maximising resources through the use of school premises outside school hours.
- Work with the Stanford in the Vale Breakfast & After School Club to encourage and facilitate where possible the training of staff and volunteers working with children.

Social Inclusion and Play

The principle of social inclusion underpins this play policy. The policy will aim to promote equality of access and participation for all children.

In this regard Stanford in the Vale Breakfast & After School Club:

The School will:

- Ensure consideration will be given to rural issues regarding play provision in measures such as mobile play units
- Ensure consideration will be given to the needs of children with disabilities, from a minority ethnic background, or from a disadvantaged background.
- Ensure all children will be respected and valued so that they can play free from exploitation, bullying, violence or discrimination.

This play policy will be incorporated into the School Improvement Plan.

As the School Improvement Plan sets out the strategy for planning and sustainable development for the school, the principles and objectives contained within this policy will provide the required guidance on all issues regarding play provision and play opportunities for Stanford in the Vale C of E Primary School Breakfast & After School Club for the lifetime of the Improvement Plan.

Signed by:

Mrs Amanda Willis (Head Teacher)

Mrs Sue Finney, Ms T Scrase, Mrs Julie Moore, Mrs Zoe Jones, Miss Lucy Conder (Play Workers)

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