Play Policy

At Wood Farm Primary School we believe in the importance of play for children to explore, manipulate, and experience their environment. Play should be inclusive, welcoming, and accessible to every child, regardless of their background or abilities. We believe that better playtimes lead to happier, healthier, and more active children, which positively impacts their learning and overall well-being.

By play we mean an *intrinsically motivated, child-directed, and freely chosen process*. Play is essential for children's physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and intellectual development. Play helps children explore their environment, develop self-esteem, communication skills, and emotional resilience, and encourages creativity and problem-solving.

Aims

By implementing this policy our school aims to:

- Provide varied, challenging, and stimulating play environments.
- Allow children to take reasonable risks with a common-sense approach to risk management.
- Foster relationships and respect among children.
- Support children's development across various domains, including physical and social & emotional development.
- Promote independence, teamwork, and resilience.

Our school recognizes the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the right to play and be heard. The school is committed to listening to children's views on their play.

We aim to provide stimulating play environments free from unnecessary risks, enhancing play quality and diversity.

Benefit and Risk

Our school adopts a risk-benefit approach to play, balancing the need to offer some risk with the need to keep children safe. Children are encouraged to identify and manage risks with adult support. All resources will be risk assessed in line with our health and safety policy.

Supervision of play

Supervision models include Direct, Remote, and Ranging. In supervising children adults will allow children freedom while ensuring adult presence.

The Adult's Role in Play

Our trained staff will facilitate an environment that nurtures self-directed play, using the Playwork Principles. Playworkers enrich children's play experiences and provide access to new materials and tools.

Equality and Diversity

Our approach will ensure that all children, regardless of their background, can develop and thrive through a rich play offer.

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