



Pudsey Waterloo Primary School Play Policy

1. Commitment

Pudsey Waterloo Primary School is committed to referring to this policy in all decisions affecting children's play and providing leadership for quality play provision.

2. Rationale

Pudsey Waterloo Primary School is committed to providing all children with diverse and accessible play opportunities, enabling them to explore, create, and interact within their environment, irrespective of individual circumstances. We believe that quality play is fundamental to children's well-being and their capacity to develop a positive approach to learning. In particular, we recognise that play is a powerful vehicle for nurturing children who are:

- **Reflective:** Play encourages children to think about their experiences, understand consequences, and learn from their mistakes. It provides time for introspection and processing emotions.
- **Resilient:** Play naturally involves challenges, problem-solving, and overcoming setbacks. It builds resilience by teaching children to persevere, adapt, and bounce back from difficulties.
- **Respectful:** Play necessitates collaboration, communication, and negotiation. Through play, children learn to value diverse perspectives, share resources, and treat others with consideration.
- **Positive:** Play is inherently enjoyable and promotes a sense of fun, curiosity, and optimism. It cultivates a positive attitude towards learning, exploration, and social interaction.

3. Definition and Value of Play

Play is intrinsically motivated, child-directed, and freely chosen. It is valuable for children's physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and intellectual development. Play enables exploration, enhances self-esteem, develops social skills and emotional regulation, and encourages problem-solving and creativity.

4. Aims

Pudsey Waterloo Primary School aims to:

- Provide varied, challenging, and stimulating play environments.
- Allow appropriate risk-taking.
- Develop children's relationships, respect, and physical, emotional, social, spiritual, and intellectual development.
- Promote independence, teamwork, and resilience.

5. Rights

We acknowledge the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the right to play (Article 31) and to be heard (Article 12), and will consider children's views on play.

6. Benefit and Risk

We will balance the benefits of play with managing risk, following HSE guidance and a risk-benefit approach. Risk-taking is essential in play to develop children's resilience and problem-solving skills.

(See Appendix 1)

7. Supervision

While children must be supervised, we will use ranging and remote supervision (except for new Reception children) to encourage independence and allow adults to effectively oversee play.

- Pudsey Waterloo Primary School Supervision Guidelines:
 - EYFS: Direct supervision initially, progressing to ranging.
 - Key Stage 1: Ranging supervision with regular check-ins.
 - Key Stage 2: Remote supervision with regular check-ins.
 - All Staff: Trained in dynamic risk assessment.

8. The Adult's Role in Play

Staff, guided by the Playwork Principles, will create stimulating environments, provide resources, and support children's self-directed play.

- Examples: Facilitating den building, introducing natural materials, observing play, and intervening only when necessary.

(See Appendix 2: The Playwork Principles)

9. Equality and Diversity

We ensure all children, regardless of individual needs, can thrive and enjoy play, aligning with our Equality Policy.

10. Environment

We provide stimulating play environments, free from unacceptable risks, and continuously improve our grounds, guided by 'Best Play'. This supports safeguarding, teamwork, social-emotional development, and a love for the outdoors.

11. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed bi-annually by staff, governors, and children.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: HSE Managing Risk Statement
- Appendix 2: The Playwork Principles

This Play Policy was adopted by Pudsey Waterloo Primary School on

Chair of Governors – Mrs Caley Smith		
Signature:		
Frequency of review:	2 years	
To be reviewed and approved by:	PWPS Full Board	
Date of next review:		

REVIEW RECORD

Date of review	Reason for review	Date of next review
	Agreed review schedule	

Name:		Signature:	
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on behalf of PWPS Full Board

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Name:			
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