



# Riverside Primary School

## Play Policy

### Introduction

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that all children should have: "The right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts." Education Scotland reiterates the importance of play, 'Play is important for the early stages of brain development and playing with your child can help build relationships for later life. But no matter what age we are, play helps to develop important skills for learning, life and work.'

At Riverside we believe that all children should have opportunities to 'Be the Best They Can Be.' Through play young children are given experiences to develop skills for life, learning and for work. Play experiences are granted through structured cross curricular learning and through leisure activities. We aim to provide purposeful play based learning experiences for children of all ages both indoors and outdoors.

### What do we mean by Play?

It is an activity which provides children with an opportunity to make choices for themselves from their own interests or own ideas. Play is a means for children to make sense of their surroundings, to be creative, independent, take risks and develop resilience. During the early years play experiences can lead to brain development, can help children learn to problem solve, improve language skills and can lead onto literacy and numeracy learning.

### What are our aims?

Through play we aim to:

- Develop resilient learners
- Encourage children to take safe risks
- Provide opportunities for children to work well independently and as part of a team
- Give children the chance to think creatively and motivate children through play based learning
- Provide a range of purposeful play experiences across the curriculum
- Build children's self esteem
- Improve children's health and well being

- Encourage children to enjoy the outdoors and therefore improve children's attitudes towards sustainability for our planet
- Provide exciting play spaces for children to learn
- Give a variety of play experiences to open children's minds and develop skills for their future
- Build a 'love of learning' within our learners

## What does 'Play' look like in Riverside?

Play based learning is of the utmost importance in children's early years of development and in fact throughout the childhood years. In our Nursery children are provided with a vast range of play based learning experiences which often flow from the children's choice and interests.

We have built on this excellent practise as children move through the school.

Play in P1	Play in P2	Play in P3
In Primary 1 children are given a play based task to complete within literacy and numeracy activities. They are provided with vast free flow play opportunities and with structured play experiences at other times to develop skills for life.	In Primary 2 children are provided with play based learning experiences across the curriculum whilst still allowing a substantial amount of free flow play opportunities.	In Primary 3 children will be given some opportunities to play freely but will have daily experiences to continue to develop play based skills through structured tasks.

Children from P4-7 are given age appropriate opportunities to play as independent learners and as part of a group. They have access to Loose Parts Play materials to inspire creativity and deeper thinking skills.

## What do these tasks look like?

There will be many activities that take place in Riverside that come under the umbrella of 'Play Based Learning' some may include:

- Construction and building with a variety of materials e.g. lego/loose parts
- Learning sounds through 'air writing', writing letters in sand etc.
- Ordering numbered planks of wood
- Role playing people throughout different time periods
- Tree climbing

- 'Sound hunts' in the environment
- Home corners
- Clapping and tapping rhythms/syllables etc

## What is the role of the adult?

Teachers and all trained practitioners are on site to support and challenge children's thinking. Professionals will observe, record and assess skills development and will use this to inform and create next steps in learning and teaching. They will provide resources and play based learning experiences to encourage deeper thinking skills within children. They are there to ensure children's safety and to motivate and inspire young learners.

## *References*

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-at-home/Learning%20through%20play>