



## Policy for Safe Play

***Aims: To keep children safe in structured and unstructured play situations.***

***For children to learn to play alongside each other, respecting the rights of the individual within co-operative and social situations.***

***To ensure that each child has ownership of the rules for safe play and is able to accept the parameters laid down.***

Play is the vehicle through which young children learn (see Policy for Play). Our school day is therefore structured to allow opportunities for various types of play. This policy deals specifically with the attitudes and values which underpin play situations (including care for equipment) and directly relate to the expectations as laid down in the Policy for Discipline.

### Classroom Play

Play situations in the classroom are directly planned with clear learning objectives in mind. To this end, the Teacher will give clear guidelines for expectations which will include parameters setting expected behaviours. We encourage children to be polite to each other, requesting toys/equipment in an appropriate manner. Skills are developed in sharing equipment, playing alongside each other, co-operating and collaborating, taking turns and exercising patience in waiting for attention.

### Physical Play

Physical play situations require all the attitudes referred to above overlaid with caution in regard to the physical safety of self and others. Children are encouraged to become independent thinkers. We expect them to develop skills in judging their own limits, acting responsibly and using their senses to decide whether prevailing conditions ensure safety of themselves or others in any given situation (see Guidelines for Safe Physical Play).

### Creative Play

There are opportunities during the course of each day for the children to engage in creative activities under the direction of an adult. We never use toxic or harmful materials or substances in school, but the children are nevertheless taught not to put anything in or near their mouths, eyes, ears or noses. Drawing with pens, pencils, felt tips or any other form of writing implement on the skin is specifically prohibited. Due regard is given to the provision and use of protective clothing (including gloves) appropriate to each activity.

### Construction Play

We have a number of different types and sizes of construction toys in school. The children are taught to be careful when manipulating these toys, ensuring that they are not causing a hazard for themselves or others, particularly in respect of leaving wheeled toys on the floor or wielding constructions in a manner likely to injure others.



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### Sand and Water Play

Sand and Water play is available as a vehicle for many activities and to underpin concepts. There are large sandpits available to all of the children for play at various times. We expect the children to adhere to all the rules previously laid down for safe play. In addition, we teach them the dangers of spilling or throwing sand and water, whether in the classroom or outside.

### Play in the Nursery playground

All play in the Nursery playground is supervised by adults who ensure that the rules for safe play are followed. When the Nursery children are playing outside, they stay within the boundaries of the fenced areas and the gates are kept padlocked and bolted.

### **Guidelines for Additional Safety in the Nursery Playground**

First adult out always to check the gates are fastened please.

Children are taught to stay within these guidelines during their Nursery year and should be well aware of the rules for safe play.

1. Bicycles, Go-karts etc. must stay in the area marked as a roadway and be returned to the “car park” at the end of the session.
2. Children are not encouraged to push the wheeled toys unless the design specifically calls for this approach i.e. go-karts.
3. Riding bicycles at the fence, standing on seats and bumping into each other all attract a warning of being removed from the wheeled toys.
4. Sand must stay within the sand pit and all toys returned to the basket at the end of the session. Any digging activities must be sensible i.e. no thrown or blown sand!
6. No standing on the large drainpipes is allowed, or running down the slide.
7. Children are not allowed to balance on the fence play area.
8. All equipment is returned to the appropriate container at the end of playtime.
9. Children are not allowed to jump on, or run around the toadstools on the clockface.

NB If at any time there is a query, the Nursery Staff will assist with information.