

Play Policy

In Holy Trinity After School we strive to provide every child with an environment that is caring, fun and stimulating. Children learn when they are in a safe and caring environment where they are stimulated through play.

Play does not have a specified goal or outcome; it is children's way of making sense of the world around them. Play provides opportunities for children and young people to assess and manage risk for themselves.

Play is a child's right as dictated in the UN Convention of the Right of the Child (Article 31).

In Holy Trinity After School we aim to provide play opportunities to all children irrespective of their culture, ability and background.

Through play we aim to empower children with choice and opportunities: solitary, competitive, physical, emotional, quiet, messy, structured, creative, spontaneous, adventurous and much more. Through these opportunities we believe children can be nurtured and helped along the path to adulthood and problem solving. Play opportunities are any activity that enables children to develop through play.

Every child will be allocated at least one room leader and one or two room assistants. We will implement ideas and a wide range of activities to help each child learn and explore through their experiences of play. These activities will include but are not limited to:

- Books and Story Time
- Outdoor Play
- Physical Play including group games
- Imaginative Play/Role Play (Dolls, Cars, House, Shop etc.)
- Construction Play (Lego, Duplo etc.)
- Water Play
- Sand Play
- Arts & Crafts
- Trips & Outings
- Cookery
- Gardening
- Computers/Technology
- Science & Experiments
- Messy Play
- Songs & Dance

We ensure there is a balance of adult led and child initiated activities delivered both indoors and outdoors and we regularly observe each child and make records when necessary in order to help us further plan on how we can help each child move on to the next stage of their development. We encourage the children to be actively involved in the planning and delivery of their play opportunities.

Our aim is to ensure that every child is getting the most from their experience and play in the After School Club and to ensure that we are constantly providing plenty of fun and stimulating opportunities to meet the needs of each individual child.

Outdoor Play

- Outdoor play will be part of the daily schedule unless the weather is unsuitable to allow the children the opportunity to run, play and shout in the fresh air.
- Unsuitable weather is heavy rain, stormy weather, severe cold or heat, strong wind or gusts.
- If the children's comfort can be upheld by them wearing a coat (cold weather) or a hat and their own sunscreen (hot weather) then the weather will not be considered too hot or cold.
- Children must therefore bring the appropriate clothing and protection depending on the current and predicted weather for each day.
- Should a child have difficulty applying sunscreen a member of staff will assist.

Involving and Consulting Children

We believe that actively promoting the participation of children in decision-making processes is beneficial to children, staff and the setting as a whole.

The staff will consult with the children at an age appropriate level on a daily basis about:

- What activities they have enjoyed and why
- What activities they would like to do in the future
- Ensuring each child has an opportunity to express his/her views, experiences and ideas daily through circle time and other group activities.