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**PLAY POLICY**

Anyone who has observed play for any length of time will

recognise that, for young children, play is a tool for learning

and practitioners who acknowledge and appreciate this can,

through provision, interaction and intervention in children’s

play ensure progression, differentiation and relevance in the

curriculum. The sense of children actively seeking to construct

their own view of the world and the contribution of quality

interactions with others, both adults and children, is now widely

accepted as a suitable approach to early years’ curriculum.

The Excellence of Play edited by J.Moyles 1994 (page 6).

**Introduction**

Play provides an opportunity for children to come to terms with themselves, their culture and language, other people and the world, and make sense of real life situations.

Play provides opportunities for exploration, investigation

and problem solving and for children to practice their developing skills.

It also provides opportunities for them to represent their experiences and use what they have learned in different ways - through music, language, imaginative and creative activities. The role of the adult is crucial in supporting and extending children’s play.

**Rationale**

Children learn and develop through play.

Play is a motivating factor for learning.

Adult help and participation are necessary for learning to progress.

**Aims**

At Beckmead School we aim :-

 To provide quality play in a stimulating environment, which allows

the children to develop and learn.

 To provide adequate planning, time and space for play.

 To allow play to be sustained over a period of time.

 To allow play to be carried through to a conclusion which children

find satisfying and gives rise to perseverance and concentration.

 To provide materials to start play, maintain it and develop its

potential.

 To ensure play is enjoyed and shared by all children, albeit to

differing degrees.

 To accept that the teacher can take an active role in furthering the

learning situation and promoting physical, social and emotional

development.

 To provide first hand experiences.

 To provide open ended tasks.

 To interact when relevant.

 To set new challenges.

 To remove materials when they have been ignored or served their

purpose.

 To make rules to safeguard children, protect equipment and enable

play to occur.

 To allow time for careful observation of children’s play to facilitate

assessment and planning for progression and continuity.

 To recognise and value the play situations encountered at home.

At Beckmead School, through play, we aim to provide opportunities

for:

 Language development through experiences.

 Early reading and writing skills.

 Social skills

 Mathematical experiences e.g. Counting, matching, conversation.

 One to one correspondence.

 Emotional development.

 Promotion of self esteem.

 Self motivation.

 Co-operation.

 Dealing with feelings e.g. fear, apprehension, anger, curiosity,

happiness.

 Sharing and caring.

 Imitative and imaginative play.

 Learning to listen to others and follow direction.

 Equal opportunities.

 Cultural influences.

 Innovation in using equipment.

 Involvement in group play or observation.

**Why Play is Important**

**Play...**

 Is the natural and enjoyable way for young children to learn.

 Is an essential and rich part of the learning process.

 Develops imagination and creative thinking.

 Allows children to investigate, experiment and solve problems.

 Allows children to develop, consolidate and apply new skills and

ideas in different situations.

 Allows children to explore and make sense of the world around them.

 Allows children to work through fears and anxieties.

 Allows children to learn about making choices and decisions.

 Puts children in charge of their own learning.

 Enables children to develop their personal qualities and attitudes.

 Enables children to develop social skills and form relationships.

 Allows children to take risks without fear of failure.

 Which is physical and energetic is an essential part of keeping

healthy.

**PLAY TAKES PLACE BOTH INDOORS AND OUTDOORS.**

**Outdoor Play**

 Is both a teaching and learning environment.

 Outdoor design and layout needs careful consideration.

 Outdoor play is central to young children’s learning, possibly more to

some children than others.

 The outdoor classroom offers children the opportunity to utilize

effective modes of learning – play, movement and sensory experience.

 Children need versatile equipment and environments.

**The Learning Environment**

Well planned play is promoted within the Key Stages 2 and 3 at Beckmead School by providing children with time, space, materials and

equality of access in a secure environment with effective adult support.

Through well planned play children can:-

 Explore, develop and represent learning experiences that will help

them make sense of the world.

 Practice and build up ideas, concepts and skills

 Learn how to control impulses and understand the need for rules.

 Be alone, be alongside others or co-operate as they talk or rehearse

their feelings.

 Take risks and make mistakes.

 Think creatively and imaginatively.

 Express fears or relive anxious experiences in controlled and safe

situations..

**What are we providing?**

 Space - sufficient area to support play.

 Time - enough time to pursue/complete activities.

 Materials and stimulus - quality equipment, well labelled and

accessible.

 Adult interest and encouragement - all adults deployed effectively.

 Equal opportunities.

 Breadth and balance - in activities and experiences provided.

**Why are we providing?**

 To give children the space to develop and extend play.

 Opportunities to explore materials.

 Develop role play.

 Develop concentration.

 Observe.

 Motivate.

 Enhance social skills.

**How are we providing?**

 Inside and outside play.

 Ordered framework.

 Varying lengths of time for play to develop.

 Storage of equipment.

 Review of rules.

Reviewed September 2018

Dr Jonty Clark OBE, Executive Head Teacher

The Beckmead Family of Schools