



Play & Activity Based Learning Policy

Rationale:

At Central Street we recognise the importance of play and activity based learning as a fundamental part of the learning process in the early years of a child's education.

"Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, to think about problems, and relate to others. Children learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play which is guided by adults."

Early Years Foundation Stage 2014

Aims:

Children come to school from a variety of different backgrounds, having had a range of diverse learning experiences at home and for most, some form of pre-school education. At Central Street we aim build on these learning experiences by providing children with an appropriate learning programme to develop their dispositions to learn and to provide them with the skills and competencies they will need to succeed in school and future life.

Broad Guidelines:

Early Years Foundation Stage

Play based learning is crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm and for building their capacity to learn. Play based learning will support seven areas of learning and promote three characteristics of learning:

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication & language
- Physical development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the World
- Expressive arts and design
- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically

Key Stage 1

Activity based learning at Key Stage 1 builds on the play based learning which has taken place in EYFS. It is usually, although not exclusively, linked to topics and allows children to engage in a variety of focused activities as well as independent play based activities. Activity based learning at Key Stage 1 aims to:

- Develop the fundamental skills of English and Maths
- Provide rich and varied contexts for developing skills
- Promote positive attitudes to school and to learning
- Provide opportunities to learn in a practical way
- Develop natural curiosity and stimulates imagination
- Provide opportunities for exploration, investigation, problem solving and decision-making
- Provide opportunities to develop knowledge, understanding and skills through a range of contexts spanning all subjects in the curriculum.

The Learning Environment

Children have opportunities to experience much of their learning through well-planned and challenging play. Self-initiated play helps children to understand and learn about themselves and their surroundings.

At Central Street we try to ensure all areas of provision are:

- Inviting and stimulating
- Carefully planned
- Monitored and evaluated
- Maintained and well stocked
- Safe, clean and tidy
- Resources are clearly labelled and stored so that children can access and return them independently.

Continuous provision in EYFS

Children have access to the following continuous provision areas during their sessions:

- Role play
- Creative
- Construction
- Sand
- Water
- Mark making/ Writing Area
- Small World
- Malleable
- Books
- Maths
- ICT
- Investigation
- Outdoor

Continuous provision in KS1

In order to promote independence and continue to support active learning, a number of continuous provision areas are also available in KS1 classrooms. These can be accessed during activity based learning sessions:

- ICT
- Table top games - English & Maths
- Book area
- Creative area
- Roleplay
- Small world
- Maths

Conclusion

Play and activity based learning will enthuse, engage and motivate children so that they enjoy learning and progress well. Play and activity based learning will support children's varied learning styles, interests and needs and provide a rich learning experience for the children at our school.

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