

St. Peter's Community Primary School



Play in the Curriculum



Play is an essential part of the curriculum as it is one of the ways in which children consolidate and act out their learning experiences. Through play they learn to explore, develop, cope with emotions and fears and socialise. Toys are the tools of play and play is a child's work and should not be underrated. It is his or her way of developing new skills and building up relationships with other children. Many attainment targets in the National Curriculum will be covered during both free and directed play activities.

A child's play is his or her life. Children learn, grow, communicate and learn to act and react with the world through play. Play is an essential way for young children to learn. It brings the world around them alive and allows them to make sense of it all through doing!

Play helps young children to:

- have fun and enjoy learning
- be active
- learn about themselves
- relate to others
- explore the world around them
- practise and build up ideas, concepts and skills
- learn how to behave in certain situations and understand the need for rules
- take risks and make mistakes
- think imaginatively
- communicate with others
- investigate and solve problems
- express fears or relieve anxious experiences within a safe environment.



The EYFS Curriculum is based on a philosophy of 'play'. It encourages children to explore the world around them by investigating, asking questions and allowing themselves to become totally immersed in an activity. Just like adults, children learn best by 'doing and exploring'.



Our music area



Our green greenhouse

We have several outdoor areas for children's play; a large playground behind the school which leads onto a lower playground that houses our exciting new music area, our very popular climbing wall and our shade sails that provide a large area of sun shade. In addition we have a lawn area which is home to our very green greenhouse, which we made ourselves using lots of plastic bottles



and attracted lots of media attention!

Our "Secret Garden" at the rear of the school provides excellent opportunities for co-operative and imaginative play. At the front of the school, we have our fantastic new water garden, with water games and a new pond garden. We also have a smaller playground area at the front of the school for games such as skipping, hopscotch and basketball and playing with our large playground resources such as tricycles, bikes and scooters.



Our water garden



Our new pond

Our new Junior playground will be completed by December 2013 and will have mini netball and football courts marked out as well as shade sails and bicycle storage.

Throughout their time at St. Peter's, children participate in 'structured' play. Our learning environment provides access to all areas of the curriculum, offering a wide range of resources which stimulate the children and encourage them to explore and find out about the world around them. Children are given time to engage in their own play as well as time when they are given a directed task.

All activities are carefully planned to ensure that they are challenging, interesting, allowing time to practise new skills or take skills one step further.

