



## Play Policy

This policy sets out Edmondsley Primary school's commitment to ensuring all children enjoy lunchtime through quality play opportunities, healthy eating and a relaxed, calm environment. *All children have a right to relax and play and to join in a wide range of activities (Article 31). United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*

At Edmondsley Primary School we promote children's rights and responsibilities from the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child. We see children's rights as a central focus in everything we do, as a framework for our teaching and learning and at the heart of our ethos. The school has a rights respecting ethos. In our communal areas, such as the playground, and dinner hall we use the following rights.

- ☐ We have the right to be happy.
- ☐ We have the right to be safe.
- ☐ We have the right to play and relax (Article 31)

Through our belief in children's rights, we aim to provide a secure, caring environment where all children are happy, relaxed and able to reach their potential.

### **Organisation**

#### Play Leader Meetings

Play Leader Meetings are carried out at least termly. During these meetings the following may be items on the agenda

- Play Leader organisation
- Activities to be provided
- Health and Safety
- OPAL display boards updates
- OPAL social media posts

#### Pre-Play Preparation

Caretaker carries out Health and Safety Checks around grounds each morning.

Play Leader has allocated time to prepare/organise any additional provision.

#### Supervision

Play Leaders are designated to an 'area'

#### **Remote supervision**

Play Leaders may not be able to see every child all of the time, especially when the children are playing in the trees. It is expected that Play Leaders will move around throughout lunchtime in their designated area, finding out what the children are doing and where the children are playing. Play Leaders can then check in on the children's play throughout lunchtime.

#### **Conflict Resolution**

All dinner staff will use the 'Conflict Resolution' when supporting the children in the playground. The protocol is as follows:

1. Approach calmly, stopping any hurtful actions.
2. Acknowledge children's feelings.
3. Gather information.
4. Restate the problem.
5. Ask for ideas for solutions and choose one together.
6. Be prepared to give follow up support.

### **Respecting Rights**

Children have the right to be happy therefore to respect this right the children must follow instructions, use equipment without hurting others and have fun. Play Leaders respect this right by providing opportunities for creative, exciting play, use conflict resolution to support children and supporting children who have additional needs at playtime.

Children have the right to be safe therefore to respect this right children must follow instructions, use equipment without hurting others, assess risk and tidy equipment away. Play Leaders respect this right by assessing risk daily, encouraging children to assess risk also and helping children to tidy up.

Children have the right to play and relax therefore to respect this right the children must follow instructions, use equipment without hurting others and help others who need it. Adults respect this right by developing new opportunities for play, listening to children's ideas about play and supporting children who have additional needs to access play.

### Additional Organisation

To enable children to enjoy the vast space and activities, they are encouraged to wear wellington boots. Welly stores have been created around each classes exit/entrance.

### End of Lunchtime Organisation

The whistle is blown at 1:10 for children to collect non-waterproof items and take to 'Treasure Boxes.'

Children then return to their welly stores and place their shoes back on.

Class teachers return to classes at 1:15. Children begin to move into classes from 1:15.

### Dynamic Risk Assessment

This means that staff should be aware of the changing nature of the play taking place. They should support children to assess and manage risk as much as possible for themselves, but they should also be vigilant and take action, if they think that risk of serious harm is becoming unacceptably likely. Actions taken by staff when required should balance the reduction of likelihood or severity of harm while preserving as much of the benefit of the play as possible, and empowering the children to manage future risk as much as possible.