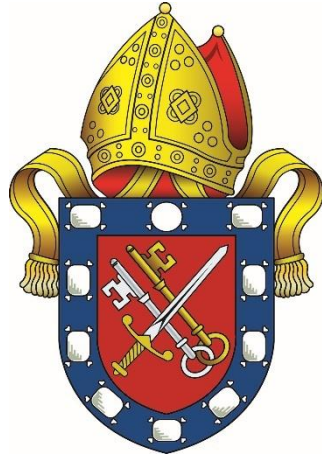
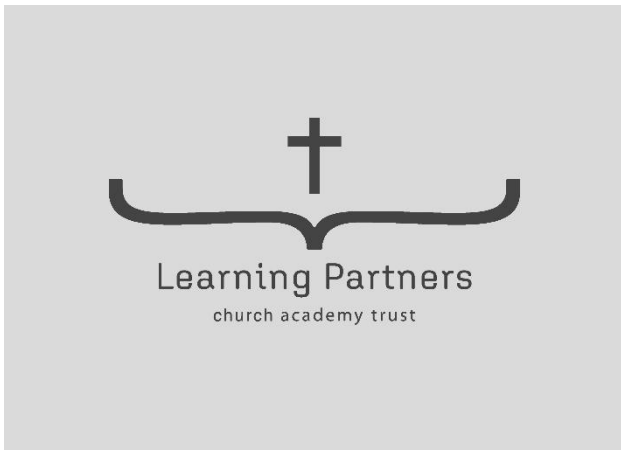




PYRFORD CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

PLAY POLICY

Approved	08/07/2026
Reviewed	Annually
Next Review Date	July 2027
Leader responsible for policy and practice	Sophie Murray

Commitment

At Pyrford Church of England Primary School, we recognise that high-quality play is an essential part of children's development, wellbeing and learning. This policy reflects our commitment to ensuring that play is valued, protected and promoted throughout school life.

In line with our vision of "**Growing Great Minds Together**", we will consider the impact on children's play opportunities when making decisions about our environment, resources, staffing and curriculum. We are committed to providing strategic leadership and sustainable investment to ensure that all children have access to rich, varied and inclusive play experiences.

Our approach to play is rooted in our Christian values of **Love, Respect, Resilience and Wisdom**, which guide how children interact with one another, their environment and the wider community.

Rationale

At Pyrford Church of England Primary School, we believe that every child has the right to play and that play is fundamental to healthy development. Through play, children explore the world around them, develop relationships, solve problems, manage risks and build confidence.

We believe that play provision should be welcoming, inclusive and accessible to every child regardless of age, gender, race, faith, disability, background or ability.

As a Church of England school, we recognise each child as unique and valued by God. We are committed to creating an environment where every child can flourish socially, emotionally, physically, spiritually and academically.

The Pyrford Church of England Primary School recognises that better, more active and creative playtimes lead to happier and healthier children. We believe that when children are happy, engaged and active at play, they are better prepared to learn, demonstrate positive behaviour, build strong relationships and contribute positively to school life.

Definition and Value of Play

Play is a process that is intrinsically motivated, directed by the child and freely chosen by the child. Play has its own value and purpose and may or may not involve equipment or other people.

At Pyrford, we believe that play:

- Supports children's physical, emotional, social, spiritual and intellectual development.
- Promotes positive mental health and wellbeing.
- Encourages curiosity, creativity and imagination.
- Develops resilience, independence and confidence.
- Helps children learn to manage emotions and resolve conflicts.
- Strengthens communication, cooperation and teamwork.
- Enables children to build respectful relationships across different ages and backgrounds.
- Encourages responsible decision-making and problem-solving.
- Supports children in becoming active, engaged and lifelong learners.

Our Christian values are evident through play:

Love – children show kindness, empathy and care for one another.

Respect – children learn to value others, resources and the environment.

Resilience – children develop perseverance, confidence and the ability to overcome challenges.

Wisdom – children make thoughtful choices, assess risks and learn from experience.

Aims

Through our play provision, Pyrford Church of England Primary School aims to:

- Provide a varied, stimulating and engaging play environment.
- Encourage creativity, exploration and imagination.
- Enable children to take appropriate risks and learn how to manage them safely.
- Promote positive relationships across the school community.
- Foster respect for others, the environment and school resources.
- Support children's physical, emotional, social, spiritual and intellectual development.
- Develop independence, teamwork and leadership skills.
- Build confidence, resilience and self-esteem.
- Support children's understanding of the natural world and encourage outdoor learning.
- Ensure every child feels included, valued and able to participate fully in play opportunities.

Rights

We recognise the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, including:

- Article 31 – the right to play, rest and leisure.
- Article 12 – the right to express views and be listened to.

As a school community, we are committed to listening to children's voices and involving them in decisions about their play experiences and the development of our outdoor environment.

This reflects our Christian belief that every child is valued and deserves opportunities to flourish and contribute.

Benefit and Risk

At Pyrford Church of England Primary School, we recognise that risk-taking is an essential part of children's learning and development.

We believe that children develop resilience, judgement, confidence and independence when they encounter and manage appropriate levels of challenge.

Our approach follows:

- Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance: *Children's Play and Leisure – Promoting a Balanced Approach*.
- *Managing Risk in Play Provision: An Implementation Guide* (Play Safety Forum).

We adopt a risk-benefit approach that balances children's safety with their need for challenge and exploration.

Children will be supported to identify, assess and manage risks themselves, helping them develop responsibility and wise decision-making.

This approach reflects our value of **Wisdom**, encouraging children to make thoughtful choices while developing the **Resilience** needed to face challenges confidently.

Supervision

The school recognises that effective supervision supports rather than restricts children's play.

Adults will use a combination of:

- Ranging supervision
- Remote supervision
- Direct supervision where appropriate for younger children, specific activities or identified needs

Adults will remain visible, approachable and available while allowing children sufficient freedom to direct their own play experiences.

Staff will monitor the environment, support positive interactions and intervene only when necessary to ensure safety and wellbeing.

The Adult's Role in Play

Adults at Pyrford understand that their role is to facilitate rather than control children's play.

Staff will:

- Create and maintain engaging play environments.
- Encourage children's ideas and creativity.
- Support children in solving problems independently.
- Help children assess and manage risks.
- Promote inclusion and positive relationships.
- Intervene sensitively when required.
- Respect children's choices and ownership of their play.

Adults will be guided by the Playwork Principles and by the school's Christian values of Love, Respect, Resilience and Wisdom.

Equality and Diversity

Pyrford Church of England Primary School is committed to ensuring that all children have equal access to high-quality play opportunities.

Our play provision will promote inclusion, celebrate diversity and remove barriers to participation wherever possible.

We will ensure that all children feel safe, respected and valued regardless of their age, gender, race, faith, disability, background or individual needs.

Environment

We believe that a rich play environment is essential in helping children thrive.

We will continue to develop our grounds and outdoor spaces to provide diverse opportunities for:

- Physical play
- Creative play
- Imaginative play
- Social play
- Exploratory play
- Quiet and reflective play

Our outdoor environment will support children's wellbeing, independence, teamwork and connection with nature.

Through caring for our environment, children will develop a sense of responsibility, stewardship and respect for God's creation.

By providing high-quality play opportunities, we aim to nurture confident, resilient and compassionate learners who embody our vision of **Growing Great Minds Together**.