



Dafen School Play Policy

Dafen School recognises the importance of all the children who attend having sufficient time and good places to play freely as part of their day. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 31 recognises the importance and right of play for the child. In seeking to ensure the implementation of Article 31 of the Convention, we intend that this statement should contribute to creating an environment that fosters children's play and underpins a strategy for providing for children's play needs.

To children, playing is one of the most important aspects of their lives. Playing contributes to children's health, wellbeing and happiness as well as to their learning and their ability to learn. Dafen School recognises that some children only have the opportunity to play with their friends at school. Most importantly playing contributes to children's ability to thrive and survive.

We believe that we can make a very positive contribution to children's lives by valuing their urge and desire to play and providing for a broad range of play opportunities within the school's playground during and after the school day.

Our definition of play is taken from the 2002 Welsh Assembly Government's Play Policy:

Play encompasses children's behaviour which is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. It is performed for no external goal or reward, and is a fundamental and integral part of healthy development - not only for individual children, but also for the society in which they live.

(Welsh Assembly Play Policy 2002)

Dafen School recognises that children will naturally create and or seek out challenging situations; while making the most of their play some children may have accidents, get dirty or wet or upset. We recognise that any potential risk of harm to children needs to be balanced with the potential for good that may come from their taking part in a particular form of play. We will do our best to avoid children coming to serious physical or emotional harm by carefully managing the play opportunities that we provide.

Dafen School believes that adult's attitude towards, and understanding of, children's play behaviour will have a significant effect on the quality of the play opportunities offered within and outside the school. This school will therefore seek out training opportunities and support research among its staff so that they are confident to facilitate children's freely chosen, self-directed play.

Signed by Chair of Governors on behalf of the Governing Body:

Mr G Edwards

Signed by Headteacher

Mr J C Morris

Date approved: November 2017

Next Review : November 2018