Clybiau Llywodraethwyr a Chylch Chwarae
Gresffordd Gresford
Governors' Clubs and Playgroup

Outdoor, Active & Play Policy

Equality Act Impact Assessment	YES	NO	Ionawr 2025
Last Review Date	May 2026		
Date to be reviewed	May 2027		
Date Adopted by Management Committee	10.06.2026		
Responsible Individual - Mr Richard Hatwood			
Chair of Management Committee – Mrs Jan MacDonald			

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to support children's physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development through structured outdoor and active play opportunities. GGCP recognises the importance of play as a fundamental right of every child and is committed to providing an inclusive, safe, and engaging environment that encourages children to explore, learn, and develop through play.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all GGCP staff, trustees, volunteers, children, parents, and carers. It covers outdoor play, active play, free play, and structured play activities within GGCP, including the responsibilities of staff in providing safe and stimulating play opportunities.

3. Policy Statement

GGCP is committed to:
- Creating a safe, inclusive, and stimulating play environment that supports children's natural curiosity and desire to explore.
- Encouraging outdoor and active play as essential components of children's physical health, development, and well-being.
- Complying with all relevant health, safety, and child development standards, including providing adequate supervision, maintaining safe play equipment, and promoting positive play experiences.

4. Legal and Regulatory Framework

This policy aligns with:
- The Children Act 1989 and 2004
- The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) Article 31 (Right to Play)
- The Playwork Principles (Play Wales)
- Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) National Minimum Standards for regulated childcare
- The Equality Act 2010

5. Principles of Outdoor and Active Play

GGCP's approach to outdoor, active, and free play is based on the following principles:
- Child-Centered Play: Play should be self-directed, with children encouraged to make choices about how they play, promoting independence, creativity, and decision-making skills.
- Risk-Benefit Balance: GGCP recognises that managed risks are a natural part of play. Staff will maintain a safe environment while allowing children to explore, take age-appropriate risks, and develop confidence.
- Inclusivity: GGCP is committed to providing an inclusive play environment that meets the diverse needs and interests of all children, including those with additional needs.
- Developmental Support: Play activities are designed to support all areas of child development, including physical, cognitive, social, and emotional growth.

6. Outdoor Play

Outdoor play is an essential part of children's daily routines at GGCP, encouraging exploration and connection with the natural environment:
- Daily Outdoor Play: Weather permitting, children will be given the opportunity to play outside every day to support physical health, mental well-being, and connection with nature.
- Age-Appropriate Equipment: Outdoor equipment, such as climbing frames, slides, and sandpits, will be selected based on the children's age and developmental level, promoting safe physical activity.
- Nature Exploration: GGCP will provide opportunities for children to explore nature through gardening, bug hunting, and other environmental activities to foster curiosity and respect for the natural world.

7. Active Play

Active play is encouraged to promote children's physical fitness, motor skills, and social interaction:
- Physical Activity Goals: GGCP follows guidelines for children's physical activity, ensuring they engage in various forms of active play that develop gross motor skills, such as running, jumping, balancing, and climbing.
- Organised Games and Activities: Staff may facilitate organised games and active play activities, such as obstacle courses, ball games, and dance sessions, to encourage group play and physical coordination.
- Accessible Active Play: GGCP will ensure that all children, including those with additional physical needs, have access to active play by providing adaptive equipment and alternative activities.

8. Free Play and Structured Play

GGCP recognises the importance of balancing free play with structured play opportunities:
- Free Play: Children are given opportunities for free play throughout the day, allowing them to select activities and materials that interest them, promoting independence and creativity.

- Structured Play: Staff may organise structured activities that encourage specific skills or themes, such as sensory play, creative arts, or building projects, to support targeted areas of development.
- Play Choices: GGCP provides a variety of play choices, including quiet areas, messy play, role-play corners, and sensory materials, ensuring that children's preferences are accommodated.

9. Safety and Risk Management

GGCP is committed to providing a safe play environment, with a balanced approach to managed risks that supports children's growth:
- Risk Assessments: Regular risk assessments of indoor and outdoor play spaces will be conducted, identifying hazards, establishing control measures, and ensuring the safety of all equipment and materials.
- Supervision: Staff are responsible for closely supervising play areas, actively engaging with children to ensure safe play and monitoring for any potential hazards.
- Safe Equipment and Maintenance: All play equipment will be checked regularly for wear and tear, cleaned, and maintained according to manufacturer guidelines, with records kept of maintenance schedules.

10. Encouraging Positive Play and Social Interaction

GGCP promotes positive social behaviours and respect for others during play:
- Behavioural Expectations: Staff will encourage children to share, take turns, and resolve conflicts respectfully during play. Positive reinforcement will be used to promote cooperative play and social interaction.
- Modelling and Guidance: Staff will model positive behaviours, offering guidance and support as children navigate social situations during play.
- Inclusive Play Opportunities: GGCP provides activities that encourage group play and friendship-building, allowing children to develop social skills in an inclusive environment.

11. Parental Involvement and Communication

GGCP values parental involvement and communicates regularly with parents about children's play experiences:
- Information Sharing: GGCP will inform parents about the benefits of play, active play, and outdoor activities, encouraging play outside of the setting.
- Parental Feedback: GGCP welcomes feedback from parents on children's play preferences, allowing us to incorporate diverse interests into our play program.
- Health and Safety Updates: Parents and carers will be informed of any changes to play procedures or equipment that may impact their child's play experience.

12. Staff Training and Responsibilities

GGCP provides training to ensure staff are prepared to support safe and enriching play experiences:
- Play Training: Staff will receive training in playwork principles, risk-benefit assessment, and behavior management to support positive play experiences.
- First Aid and Safety Training: Staff responsible for supervising outdoor and active play will receive first aid and health and safety training, enabling them to respond to minor injuries or incidents.
- Play Planning and Reflection: Staff will plan and reflect on play activities, using feedback from children and observations to continually improve play experiences.

13. Record-Keeping and Documentation

GGCP maintains accurate records to support the safe and effective management of play activities:
- Risk Assessments and Inspections: Records of risk assessments, safety checks, and maintenance for all play equipment will be documented and reviewed periodically.
- Accident and Incident Reports: Any accidents or incidents during play will be documented, reviewed by the Health and Safety Officer, and used to inform improvements in play safety.
- Parental Consent: For specific outdoor activities or outings that include play (e.g., nature walks, visits to parks), parental consent will be obtained.

14. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees or sooner if required by changes in legislation or best practices. Feedback from staff, parents, and children will inform policy updates to ensure continuous improvement.

15. Compliance with Legislative Requirements

This policy complies with:
- The Children Act 1989 and 2004
- The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- The UNCRC Article 31 (Right to Play)
- The Playwork Principles (Play Wales)
- Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) National Minimum Standards for regulated childcare
- The Equality Act 2010

16. Contact Information

For further information about this policy or to discuss any specific play needs or concerns, please contact:
- Chair of Trustees: Mrs Jan MacDonald (01978 852342 or playgroup@allsaints-pri.wrexham.sch.uk)
- Responsible Individual: Mr Richard Hatwood (01978 852342 or headteacher@allsaints-pri.wrexham.sch.uk)