

PLAY POLICY

1. This Council recognises the importance and value of play in the development of children and of society as a whole. Play is essential for physical, emotional and spiritual growth and for intellectual and educational development.
2. This Council recognises that the best play provision is designed to offer all children and young people access to a wide range of experience in settings which support an acceptable level of risk. This means that children should not be exposed to unacceptable risk such as death or permanently disabling injury. Other kinds of risk may be acceptable if the social benefit is evident. We acknowledge the need to allow challenge and risk in play settings and we will always assess risk in conjunction with the possible benefit of any provision.
3. We believe that all children and young people want and need opportunities to play. Play provision should be welcoming and accessible to every child, irrespective of gender, economic or social circumstances, ethnic or cultural background or origin, or individual abilities. Although the play space should be accessible to all, this does not mean that all children need to be able to do everything within a play space.
4. Subject to local discretion and conditions, there should be no presumption against children, young people and adults of all ages having access to quality play opportunities.
5. We wish to create beautiful spaces that inspire and will always seek to commission experienced play landscape designers in the process of developing or upgrading play spaces.
6. We will engage local children, young people, parents, carers and residents in the development of play spaces and will take their views into account.

May 2017