



St Patrick's Child Friendly Play Policy

Our Play Promise

1. Play Matters

At our school, **play is important**. It helps us learn, make friends, feel happy, and take care of our minds and bodies.

Everyone has the right to play every day.

2. Why We Play

We play because:

- It helps us feel calm and safe
- It helps us make friends and get to know people
- It helps us understand our feelings
- It helps us try new things
- It makes school fun!

Some children might have had tricky times before coming to our school. Play helps everyone feel better, learn to trust, and enjoy being part of our school family.

3. What Play Is

Play is when **you choose what to do**, because you enjoy it.

Play can be:

- loud or quiet
- with friends or on your own
- messy, creative, calm, or active
- pretending, building, exploring, or imagining

There is no "right" way to play.

4. Your Rights

You have the right to:

- **play**
- **relax and have fun**
- **share your ideas** about play
- **be listened to**

Your ideas help us make playtimes better for everyone.

5. Everyone Can Play

We want everyone to feel welcome and included.

No one should be left out because of:

- age
- size
- ability
- how they feel
- what they look like
- their background

At our school, **we include everyone**.

6. Being Safe and Taking Risks

Play can be exciting! Sometimes you might want to climb higher, run faster, or try something new.

Adults help keep you safe, but they also want you to:

- think about your choices
- learn what feels safe for you
- try challenges when you're ready

It's okay to take **small, sensible risks** to help you learn and grow.

7. What Adults Do During Play

Adults are there to:

- help you feel safe
- listen to you
- help if there's a problem
- cheer you on
- help you sort out disagreements
- play with you if you want them to
- give you space if you'd rather play on your own

Adults don't tell you how to play—they support your ideas.

8. Our Play Spaces

We want our playground to feel exciting, safe and welcoming. You will find:

- places to climb and explore

- quiet areas to relax
- loose parts to build and create
- nature to discover
- spaces to run, jump and move
- cosy corners for calm time

We are always trying to make our play spaces even better—and your ideas help us do this!

9. How We Make Play Better

Each year we will:

- ask you what you think about play
- look for ways to improve
- add new ideas, spaces or equipment
- make sure everyone has a great playtime

Play belongs to all of us, and we improve it together.

Our Promise to You

At our school:

You are safe.

You are cared for.

You are included.

You are listened to.

And you always have the right to play.