

Play Policy

Knockbreda Nursery School is an inclusive school setting 'where play is the work of children' in a nurturing and caring learning environment. At Knockbreda Nursery School, opportunities for meaningful play are provided both indoors and outdoors presenting invitations for challenging, progressive play, so that each child may develop at his/her own rate. The six areas of learning of Pre-School curriculum are planned for, both inside and outside, through the wide range of play stations on offer.

Through the carefully planned play provision, each child will be given opportunities to practice social skills and to form effective relationships with adults and other children. These important social skills involve:

- co-operation
- independence
- sharing of emotions
- acceptance
- concentration
- taking turns
- group participation
- role taking
- interaction with adults and peers
- responsibility
- communication
- acceptance of rules

Each child will be given opportunities to grow in self-confidence, experience success and encouraged to develop a positive self-image. The development of a sense of self includes:

- development of spirit
- concentration and perseverance
- role taking
- acceptance of rules
- enjoyment
- self-confidence
- self-control
- independence
- caring
- responsibility
- resolution of conflict
- self-esteem
- bringing play to a satisfying conclusion



Each child will be given opportunities to develop intellectually through experimental and progressively challenging play with varied and stimulating materials using the child's natural spontaneous curiosity encouraged by adult support. The play provision will provide opportunities for:

- recognising by looking, listening and doing
- understanding patterns and sequence
- comparing, judging and problem solving
- developing pre-reading skills
- encouraging the use of concepts and appropriate language
- developing early mathematical and scientific experiences

Each child will be given opportunities to become aware of his/her body's capabilities and limits, in a safe and adventurous environment. This will help the children to develop:

- awareness and control of the body
- development of fine and gross motor skills
- awareness of the body in space
- development of the spirit of adventure
- development of physical fitness and well being
- establishing and maintaining the limits of safety
- development of physical co-ordination and agility

Each child will be given opportunities to choose and explore a wide range of materials, allowing him to express himself appropriately and creatively, and also to share in the wonder and excitement created by books, stories, rhymes, songs, music and the world around him. The play provision of offer will provide opportunities for:

- developing the senses through creative activities
- listening to, making and moving to music
- listening to and telling stories
- picture making, printing, making collages etc.
- construction and model making with dough, clay, junk materials etc.

Monitoring and evaluation

This policy will be reviewed and monitored in line with the school's policy review schedule.