

Uplawmoor Primary School



Early Years Policy



UN Convention of the Rights of the Child

Article 28

You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.

Article 29

Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and show respect to other people.

Article 31

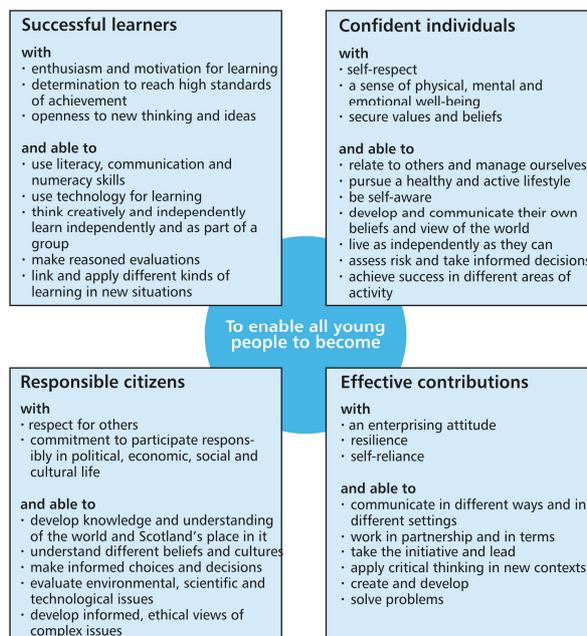
Every child is entitled to take part in physical activities and to play including outdoors and to have an opportunity to experience and judge and manage risk.

A Curriculum for Excellence aims to ensure that all children and young people in Scotland develop the attributes, knowledge and skills they will need to flourish in life, learning and work. This is encapsulated in the four capacities – to enable each child or young person to be a successful learner, a confident individual, a responsible citizen and an effective contributor.

Education Scotland (2017)

Rationale

In Uplawmoor Primary School, learning, teaching and assessment seeks to enable our pupils to fulfil the four capacities of a Curriculum for Excellence.



Approaches

Learning at the early level at Uplawmoor Primary School has a strong emphasis on learning through play. The approach continues to be a focus (as child-led learning) throughout all stages of the curriculum.

All policy for children at our school is underpinned by the right outlined in *United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child* (1992) and the *Scottish Government's Getting It Right for Every Child* (2008).

What is play?

Play 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 for the society in which they live. (*Scottish Government: Play Strategy for Scotland, 2013*)

Why is it important?

Play is essential for healthy development from birth to adulthood, contributing to capacity for learning, resistance and development of physical, cognitive, social and emotional skills. *"Having more opportunity to initiate their own learning gives children a greater stake in their own education."* (Janet Moyles, 2014). *"Play enhances children's self-esteem, confidence and give them a vested interest in how to go about the business of learning"* (Laevers, 2006) There is also a considerable body of evidence which demonstrates the effectiveness of play in promoting problem solving abilities. At Uplawmoor Primary School we aim to provide learning experiences which develop a child's sense of wellbeing, physical, cognitive, emotional as social skills.

The Curriculum

- The Scottish Government, Curriculum for Excellence (2008)
- The Scottish Government Play Strategy for Scotland: Our Vision (2013)
- The Scottish Government Early Years Framework (2009)
- The Scottish Government National Parenting Strategy: Making a positive difference to children and young people through parenting (2012)
- The Scottish Government report Growing Up in Scotland (2009) which concluded that play is a crucial factor in a child's educational achievement

Aims

At Uplawmoor we aim;

- to offer daily opportunities where children have the space and freedom to initiate, lead and conclude their own play
- to plan with children so that learning is centred around their interests
- to create classroom environments and plan experiences where children can develop their social skills, collaboration and which allows them to make sense of the world.
- to create a school and classroom ethos which is engaging, enjoyable and contributes to a child's sense of wellbeing, physical cognitive, emotional and social skills
- to provide opportunities for all children to choose, investigate, question, develop resilience and share their learning
- to provide learning environments and plan experiences which allow children to develop the skills of expression, thought, curiosity, problem solving and achievement in order that they acquire skills for life, learning and work

- to offer daily opportunities for digital based learning which motivates and engages children to help them to understand key concepts
- to work in partnership with parents and the local community so that children are given experiences where they can hone their skills in family life, wider community, activities and hobbies and developing management and leaderships skills
- to create a safe outdoor space which stimulates children's sense of play and provides a close connection with and respect for nature

Planning Learning and Teaching Activities

In planning opportunities for the pupils to extend their knowledge and understanding we;

- identify clear learning intentions for activities which detail what the pupils will be learning and share these with pupils.
- encourage pupils to create success criteria which allow them to measure their success against the learning intention(s) set for the activity.
- employ a range of strategies and resources to meet the individual learning needs of all pupils.
- encourage pupils to use and transfer their skills to enhance their learning in others areas of the curriculum.
- ensure pupils actively participate in lessons to share their ideas, discuss their thinking, collaborate, investigate and use feedback to further develop their thinking.
- create targets with children and review these regularly so that children are aware of their own progress and their achievements can be celebrated

School Improvement Plan

The Early Years Leader will audit progress against targets contained within the School Improvement Plan on a termly basis by meeting with the Senior Management Team.

An audit of resources will be undertaken each session to ensure that high quality resources are available for learning and teaching.