



A Research Based Approach

At Golfhill Primary we have adopted a more creative approach to teaching and learning and now provide children with more opportunities to learn through play.

These experiences help children to develop confidence in themselves as learners and build the necessary skills required to access the curriculum. We are also focusing on improving the children's vocabulary which in turn supports their reading and writing.

There has been a lot of research carried out in Scotland in the last few years, highlighting a gap in young children's vocabulary and enjoyment of reading. While we have made good progress in helping children read well in recent years, we are working extremely hard to ensure that literacy skills are developed throughout all areas of the curriculum and that children are equipped with the skills they require as they progress through primary school.

Curriculum for Excellence (CfE)

Curriculum for Excellence is about bringing life to learning and learning to life. It has been introduced to raise standards of learning and teaching and help improve our children's life chances. It brings real life into the classroom and takes lessons beyond the classroom. It promises to support children in every way possible so that they can fulfil their potential and make the most of their opportunities.



Curriculum for Excellence encourages child-led creativity in the classroom. It promotes critical challenging and questioning. It makes teachers think about how they teach, recognising that we all learn in different ways. Lessons will be presented in ways that suit the different learning styles of the children.

"Children learn as they play. Most importantly, in play children learn how to learn."

Play is our brain's favorite way of learning.

What will play-based learning look like?

- In class, your child will not have their own desk to sit at.
- Children will be taught at the teaching table in smaller groups.
- There are a set number of tasks that children will learn to complete in a given time more independently.
- There will be a variety of activities on offer that your child can select every day.
- The open area in school and the outdoors will also provide learning activities and experiences for your child.

Active Learning and Play

Active learning within Curriculum for Excellence doesn't mean that children are actively running around. It is learning that engages children and challenges their thinking.

Motivated children who are actively engaged with tasks that have a clear purpose will retain and learn more, and will be more likely to transfer the knowledge and be able to apply it in different situations.

All play opportunities and activities are available to all learners. For example, we don't have *boys' toys* and *girls' toys*, we simply have **toys**.



Right from the outset, young children will be partners in the learning process. They will actively participate in the planning, shaping and directing of their own learning.

Through play, children can...

- work collaboratively with others
- express themselves
- build their independence
- make sense of their experiences
- manipulate materials
- test out new knowledge
- develop new skills
- make choices and decisions
- solve problems... *and lots more!*



Golfhill Primary School

Learning Through Play

A Guide for Families

