



St Ninian's Play Strategy is underpinned by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 31:

*“Children are entitled to take part in physical activities and to play, including outdoors, and have an opportunity to experience and judge and manage risk.”*



## INTERACTIONS

Play in St. Ninian's promotes the ABC approach to interactions. It follows the structures of being:

- A** Accessible - requiring little or no adult direction
- B** Be adaptable – children at different ability levels can play together
- C** Co-operative – opportunities for play which requires the help of another child
- D** Designed for two or more – allows space for several children to play together
- E** Extra Sensory – Maximises visual, verbal and physical contact

**St. Ninian's play spaces support the promotion of these quality interactions**

## PLAY

Play at St Ninian's PS in all stages provides many experiences and resources to support the development of creativity and curiosity.

These include, but are not limited to;

- Outdoor and indoor play
- Planned, free and structured play opportunities
- Creative/Art areas
- Loose Parts/Construction materials
- Sensory/messy play
- Mark Making/Writing
- Science/exploration
- Numeracy/Maths



Outdoor play areas have been enhanced using our Pupil Participatory Budgeting Committee who have bought resources to promote teamwork including; loose parts, crates, tyres, wood, and pipes amongst others.



### Play Pedagogy:



- Through play a child develops their cognitive, social, emotional and physical capabilities.
- Play is a key part of children's development. Through play children create their own culture, develop their abilities, explore their creativity, challenge their limitations and assumptions and learn about the people and places around them.

“PLAY BUILDS THE KIND OF FREE-AND-EASY, TRY-IT-OUT, DO-IT-YOURSELF CHARACTER THAT OUR FUTURE NEEDS.”

James L. Hymes, Jr.



## SPACES

All of our play spaces, both indoor and outdoor are resourced with materials to promote curiosity, enquiry, and creativity. Our highly trained staff use observation and professional dialogue to ensure materials provide opportunities for challenging interactions and experiences across EARLY, FIRST and SECOND levels.

**EARLY** The P1 learning environment is an extension of the nursery which has given children opportunities to approach learning through their own interests

**FIRST** Open and shared areas have been developed as a progression from the P1 play space including opportunities for planned, free and structured play opportunities.

**SECOND** Our P5-7 space has been developed through pupil voice and includes an emphasis on skills development using our school programme

## EXPERIENCES

*As part of our improvement priorities, staff have taken part in professional reading groups to build skills in promoting quality play.*

Our whole school approach to play has led to the creation of 'Funky Friday' which allows all pupils extended time to play in our outdoor spaces.

*We use opportunities to collaborate in vertical groupings with classes buddying up for play, both indoors and outdoors.*

Our P1-3 committee groups are play based and encourage children to explore a range of play contexts with their peers.

*The expertise of our nursery team is shared with school colleagues through the creation of our development post to encourage collaboration across the St Ninian's family.*