

Parent Induction

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Stoneferry Primary School! We are delighted to welcome you and your child to our school community. We believe that play is a crucial part of a child's development, and we embed it into our daily practice. We also believe in nurturing key values in our children. This letter outlines how we approach play, and how we link it to the development of responsibility, respect, and resilience.

Play at Stoneferry Primary School

At Stoneferry Primary School, we recognise that play is not just about having fun (although that is very important!); it is also a vital way for children to:

- Develop social skills: learning to cooperate, negotiate, and resolve conflicts.
- Enhance communication and language skills: expressing themselves, listening to others, and developing vocabulary.
- Foster creativity and imagination: exploring ideas, experimenting, and thinking outside the box.
- Improve problem-solving abilities: trying new things, adapting to challenges, and learning from mistakes.
- Develop physical skills: improving coordination, balance, and gross and fine motor skills.
- Build emotional resilience: understanding and managing feelings, and coping with new situations.

We provide a wide range of play opportunities, both indoors and outdoors, including:

- Structured play activities led by adults.
- Child-initiated play, where children lead their own learning.
- Use of a variety of resources, including open-ended materials that can be used in many different ways.
- Opportunities for role-play, construction, creative expression, and physical activity.

Our Core Values: Responsibility, Respect, and Resilience through Play

We believe that play is a key vehicle for developing the core values of responsibility, respect, and resilience in our pupils. Here's how:

- **Responsibility:** Through play, children learn to take responsibility for their own actions, for shared resources, and for contributing to the group. For example:
 - Cleaning up after they have finished playing.
 - Looking after toys and equipment.
 - Following rules and understanding the consequences of their actions.
 - Taking on roles in role-play scenarios, such as caring for a 'baby' or running a 'shop'.
- **Respect:** Play provides opportunities for children to develop respect for themselves, for others, and for the environment. For example:
 - Listening to and valuing the ideas of others during group play.
 - Treating others fairly and with kindness.
 - Respecting different perspectives and backgrounds.
 - Caring for the play environment and the resources within it.
 - Learning to negotiate and compromise in games and activities.
- **Resilience:** Play helps children to develop resilience by providing them with opportunities to face challenges, overcome obstacles, and learn from their experiences. For example:
 - Persisting when a game is difficult.
 - Trying different strategies when something doesn't work.
 - Coping with disappointment or failure in a game, and learning to try again.
 - Adapting to changes in a game or play situation.
 - Developing perseverance and a 'have-a-go' attitude.

How You Can Support Your Child's Play at Home

You play a vital role in supporting your child's development through play. Here are some ways you can help:

- Provide opportunities for play at home, both indoors and outdoors.
- Encourage a variety of play experiences, including imaginative play, physical play, and games.
- Support your child in developing responsibility by involving them in tidying up and caring for their toys.
- Model respectful behaviour in your interactions with your child and others.
- Help your child to develop resilience by encouraging them to persevere when things are difficult and to learn from their mistakes.
- Talk to your child about their play experiences and help them to reflect on what they have learned.
- Value play as an important part of your child's learning.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to ensure that your child thrives at Stoneferry Primary School. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mrs J Havercroft
Head of School