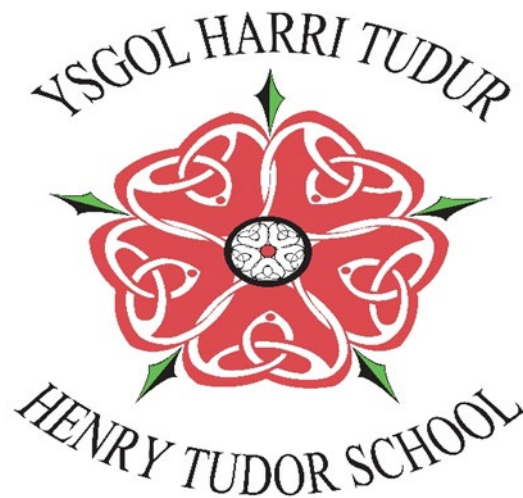




In partnership with Play
Wales

Ysgol Harri Tudur



Henry Tudor School

Play Policy

Adopted by the Full Governing Body: 04 July 2024



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As you are aware, play is a vital part of children and young people's development. In professional terms, play is defined as behaviour which is 'freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated'. This means that children should be able to choose what they do, how they do it and why they do it. Play is essential for their emotional, physical and mental well-being. Article 31 of The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) states that children and young people 'have the right to rest, play and take part in cultural and artistic activities'. As a school, there is a duty to promote these rights, ensuring all children's needs are met. In light of this, Pembrokeshire County Council would like to bring your attention to the following new policy.

The decision to create a new, improved and consistent Play Policy is a demonstration of the importance that Pembrokeshire County Council has placed on the value of play for our children and young people. The Welsh Government has previously published statutory guidance in the name of 'Wales: A Play Friendly Country' to help local authorities assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their areas. In line with Welsh Government regulations, the aim of this policy is to ensure children have access to play during their school day to promote their development, learning, social skills and wellbeing. We are looking for schools to utilise this policy in their daily practices and embed it into their culture and ethos, sharing it with all staff members. In addition to this, Play is a vital part of the New Curriculum for Wales.

The new and improved policy is expected to have a positive impact on schools, including improved educational attainment, a healthier society, and increased levels of tolerance among children. Play policies have been linked to improvements in children's physical and mental health and wellbeing. Additionally, there is evidence to suggest that play is associated with a range of cognitive and social developmental benefits. By implementing play policies, schools can help foster a positive and effective learning environment that promotes the overall well-being of learners.



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- ✓ This school recognises that play is a fundamental part of a healthy childhood, contributing to improved health, wellbeing and happiness.
- ✓ As a school, we believe that we can have a positive impact on children's lives by encouraging and promoting their natural desire to play.
- ✓ This school will ensure children are given the opportunities to play, during their time on the playground and within the classroom.
- ✓ As a school, we will ensure that all staff and adults have an understanding of the natural desire children have to play. All staff will be made aware of the benefits of play to ensure they have an understanding of its importance for children's wellbeing and development.
- ✓ We will ensure all staff and adults approach play with a positive attitude, as this will have a significant impact on the quality of play provision provided. In light of this, our school will seek out training opportunities and support research among all staff to ensure they are confident to facilitate freely chosen, self-directed play.
- ✓ We understand that children may have some accidents during play. As a school, we will do our best to ensure that children do not come to any physical or emotional upset during play sessions.
- ✓ We recognise that any potential risk of harm to children needs to be balanced with the potential for good that may come from their taking part in a particular form of play.
- ✓ This school promotes the child's right to play.