



## **After School Club**

### Play Policy

#### **Policy Statement**

St. George's School After School Club is committed to providing quality play experiences for children aged 4-11years.

The club will endeavour to create a stimulating environment for children that will foster their independence and self-esteem, whilst supporting the key components of Every Child Matters:

- Being healthy
- Staying safe
- Enjoying and achieving
- Making a positive contribution
- Achieving economic well being

As staff members will support and facilitate child's play by incorporating the Playwork Principles into the clubs ethos.

#### **Procedures**

The club displays the playwork principles on our notice board at all times along with a copy of the Clubs weekly activities and planning.

The club seeks to encourage and foster children's independence and self-esteem by allowing them to make decisions as to how they want their club to run, and how they would like their time to be spent at the club for example:

- The club rules are reviewed with the children each term, they are asked if they would like to add any new rules or to make changes to any existing ones, such as 'How many can play badminton at one time?'
- We involve children in the planning of the club, and regularly seek to review the facilities and toys that the club offers by sending home regular questionnaires for both parents and children to complete.
- We listen to the children's comments and respond accordingly.
- We give children the freedom to choose what they would like to do at the Club
- The children are allowed to choose any toys or equipment
- We celebrate all cultures and diversities and incorporate this into our planning
- We value every child and celebrate their achievement

The club regularly carries out observations to reflect on practice, and to help children extend their play.

We support the professional development of our staff, and encourage them to develop their knowledge of

play work.

## Physical Environment

Our club is committed to providing children with a stimulating and safe environment. We will do all we can to make our premises welcoming and friendly to children, their parents/carers and any other visitors.

The Club's premises are safe, secure and adequately spacious for its purpose. The environment and atmosphere of the Club is welcoming to children and offers access to the necessary facilities for a broad and varied programme of activities.

The Club is committed to taking every possible step to ensure that all children have equal access to facilities, activities and play opportunities; including children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

The Club's premises comply with all the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and all other relevant regulations and guidance.

Our Lead TA is responsible for ensuring that the Club's premises are clean, well lit, adequately ventilated and maintained at the right temperature. Daily risk assessments are carried out, in accordance with the Risk Assessment Policy, to ensure that the facilities are maintained in a suitable state of repair and decoration.

During the opening hours, the premises are used by, and solely available to the Club, its staff and the children, as far as this is possible.

The Club will do all it can to maintain an open room layout, allowing children to choose from a variety of play opportunities. All children will have adequate space to play and interact freely (a minimum of 2.3 square meters' space per child).

There is adequate space for storing the Club's equipment safely and securely.

Under normal circumstances, staff will ensure that there is one toilet and one washbasin with hot and cold water available for every 10 children, ensuring an adequate balance between male and female facilities.

No child will be left unsupervised in the Kitchen area.

Members of staff will have access to a telephone on the Club's premises at all times.

### **Outdoor play:**

Any outdoor play will take place in safe, secure and well supervised spaces. Before any outdoor activities commence, a thorough safety check and risk assessment will take place.

Outdoor play areas will be well maintained and free from holes, bumps or uneven surface areas. Drains, pools or any unnatural water will be made safe and inaccessible to children.

In the event of snow or ice on external walkways, staff will ensure that this is regularly cleared and kept safe.

Staff will ensure that there is a regular supply of water available to children at all times, especially in hot conditions. In such circumstances, staff will also ensure that children are adequately protected from the sun, according to the provisions set out in the Health, Sickness and Medication policy.

**To be reviewed November 2016**