



Playful Learning at Kilcreggan Primary School

At Kilcreggan Primary School, playful learning and a play pedagogy support the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence.

In Scotland, children have a legal right to the UNCRC. The following Articles are applicable to learning outdoors:

Article 3: When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children. All adults should do what is best for children. Governments should make sure children are protected and looked after by their parents, or by other people when this is needed. Governments should make sure that people and places responsible for looking after children are doing a good job.

Article 23: Every child with a disability should enjoy the best possible life in society. Governments should remove all obstacles for children with disabilities to become independent and to participate actively in the community

Article 29: Children's education should help them fully develop their personalities, talents and abilities. It should teach them to understand their own rights, and to respect other people's rights, cultures and differences. It should help them to live peacefully and protect the environment.

Article 31: Every child has the right to rest, relax, play and to take part in cultural and creative activities.

A full list of Articles can be found here: [convention-rights-child-text-child-friendly-version.pdf \(unicef.org\)](https://www.unicef.org/convention-rights-child-text-child-friendly-version.pdf)

What does Education Scotland say about playful learning?

[Play strategy for Scotland: our vision - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/play-strategy-for-scotland-our-vision/pages/1-1-introduction.aspx)

Selected extracts:

Definition of play: Play encompasses children's behaviour which is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. It is performed for no external goal or reward, and is a fundamental and integral part of healthy development - not only for individual children but also for the society in which they live. This form of play has the potential to contribute powerfully and positively to some of the most significant areas of school life, from early years to secondary, and mainstream to special schools.

Why play matters: The importance of play in children and young people's daily lives and to healthy development has become increasingly recognised in recent years. A growing body of evidence supports the view that playing, throughout childhood, is not only an innate behaviour but also contributes to quality of life, sense of wellbeing and is a key element in effective learning, thereby developing their physical, cognitive, emotional and social skills. Play supports the development of social skills and collaboration. It stimulates physical activity and the development of important



physical competencies. It encourages creativity, imagination and problem solving. When children have access to natural spaces for play, it fosters a sense of close connection with and respect for, nature.

[Scotland's Play Strategy - Play Scotland](#)

2021 update on Scotland's Play Strategy:

[Play-Scotland-Play-Strategy-Review-Play-in-Covid-2021.pdf \(playscotland.org\)](#)

What does Argyll and Bute say about playful learning?

The first objective of the Argyll and Bute vision and strategies for education, as detailed in 'Our Children, Their Future', is to **raise educational attainment and achievement for all**. The priority actions to achieve this are

- Improve the overall quality of learning experiences
- Tackle disadvantage and deprivation to close the attainment gap
- Improve literacy, numeracy and health & wellbeing outcomes for children and young people
- Continually improve curriculum design and development

Our Children, Their Future': [argyll_bute_vision_strategy_final_web.pdf \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](#)

This can be read along with Education Scotland's Play Strategy for Scotland, *above*.

What does playful learning currently look like at KPS?

Having conducted research into the benefits of playful learning during sessions 2020 - 23 as part of the School Improvement Plan and in conjunction with the Northern Alliance and the Early Years Play Group, staff and practitioners at Kilcreggan Primary School aspire to:

- ELCC – P7: include outdoor playful learning for learners every day
- P4 and 5: include playful learning in number
- ELCC – P3: enable learners to experience a range of activities and curricular areas in a playful manner
- ELCC – P3: include learners in the planning of playful teaching and learning
- ELCC – P3: plan for playful learning in all curricular areas

What is the impact of playful learning at KPS?



What our learners say

At Kilcreggan Primary School, the pupil council have been developing the outdoor areas for play and playful learning. They have observed lots of learning and play (playful learning) taking place at break and lunch times.

At the water table, There are people from every class working together – Archie P6

Where the instruments and stage are, Lots of people are playing with them and are making shows – Sophie P4

In the engineering area, I have seen older and younger children playing together – Emma P7

There is lots of building and enjoyment in the loose parts area. It is the most popular area – Lily P6

In classrooms, playful learning is taking place:

Numicon (playful learning), makes maths learning better because we can show it and we can help others when we sit in a circle and talk about it – Fiona P5

What our parents say

They are learning without even realising – P1 parent

Learning has no limits – P6 parent

You can use so much nature.

When they are playing they don't even know they are learning – P3 parent.

'No screen' play is important – P4/5 parent

What our staff say

'Pupils have access to a variety of resources around the playground for pupils to develop and consolidate their learning at break times. Pupils can be seen using their meta-skills to play outdoors with a range of pupils in the school.'

This position statement should be read in conjunction with the position statement on outdoor learning.

