

Badger Club Policy 13 - Play

The programme of activities and the atmosphere of our Club aims to encourage confidence, independence and enjoyment. Our work has, as its core, the aim of enabling children to develop their emotional, social, cognitive, interpersonal and physical skills, and their desire to explore, discover and be creative.

Play is essential for children's development, building their confidence as they learn to explore, relate to others, set their own goals, and solve problems. Children learn by leading their own play, and by taking part in play and learning that is guided by adults.

We recognise the importance of play to a child's development. We support and facilitate play, and do not seek to control or direct it. We will never force children to participate in play but allow children to initiate and direct the experience for themselves.

The Club will provide a well-planned and organised safe play environment that offers children rich and stimulating experiences, alongside opportunities to explore, experiment, plan and make decisions for themselves. The programme of activities will recognise and take into account the differing ages, interests, backgrounds and abilities of the children.

Facilitating play

We support and facilitate play by:

- Providing an environment which is safe and suitable for playing in.
- Providing a range of equipment, resources and activities on a daily basis.
- Encouraging children to request additional or alternative equipment as they choose, and if a request has to be refused, explaining why.
- Not expecting children to be occupied at all times.
- Making outdoor play available every day, unless the weather is particularly bad.
- Involving children in planning activities, to reflect their own interests and ideas.
- Planning activities that enable children to develop their natural curiosity and imagination.
- Allowing children freedom of creative expression, particularly in artistic or creative play.
- Intervening in play only when necessary: to reduce risks of accident or injury, or to encourage appropriate social skills.
- Supporting, recognising and promoting achievements by all children.

Play areas and equipment

- All indoor and outdoor play areas are checked and risk assessed daily before the children arrive.
- No child will ever be left unsupervised during activities at the Club.

Badger Club Long Furlong School's After School Club, Boulter Drive, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 1XP

Charity number: 1175264 – Ofsted reg number: EY561085 04/07/2018

- The Club regularly reviews resources and equipment to identify where any additional resources are required.
- Children are involved in selecting additional equipment and resources for use at the Club, in line with our **Involving and Consulting Children** policy.
- The resources used at the Club promote positive images of different ethnic backgrounds, religions, and abilities, in line with our **Equal Opportunities** policy.

This policy was adopted by: Long Furlong Badger Club

Date: 13/01/2026

To be reviewed: October 2028

Signed: Lucy Harvey / Chair and Trustee