

# Wales – a play friendly place

**Play Wales is calling for the next Government in Wales to continue to prioritise play.**

**We are asking all political parties to carry on supporting the implementation of the statutory Play Sufficiency Duty. We urge you to make cross-policy commitments to ensure children's opportunities to play increase and improve.**



## **We call on the Welsh Government to:**

- **recognise that children's freedom to play outside in their local communities is hindered when roads are dominated by car drivers and traffic. This can be addressed by:**
  - implementing a default 20mph speed limit in built-up areas
  - developing guidance for councils about how to support street play projects.
- **recognise that schools have an important role in children's play by:**
  - directing school governing bodies to make their outdoor space available for playing (wherever practical) after school and at weekends
  - making it mandatory for the school day to include a minimum amount of time for play breaks.
- **support the delivery of a public information programme explaining what play is and how important it is to the health and well-being of children and wider society.**
- **support the development of more opportunities for children to play by:**
  - ensuring that all children and families initiatives clearly and explicitly recognise that play is essential, and support community-based provision for play, including staffed playwork
  - supporting initiatives to train all those whose work impacts on children, so they have a better understanding of their role in making sure children have the time and space for play.
- **commit to responding to the current Ministerial Play Review and to implementing its recommendations, so that children's play is fully established as a cross-policy issue.**

## Setting cross-policy priorities post-Covid

As Wales continues to recover from the impact of the pandemic, Play Wales urges the next Welsh Government to continue its strong tradition of supporting children's right to play.

Prioritising children's play brings families and communities proven benefits, both immediately and in the long term.

## Play and well-being

Playing is the most natural and enjoyable way for children to keep well and to be active and happy. Play is a key mechanism for meeting and exceeding physical activity guidelines, developing resilience and dealing with stress and anxiety. It provides children with effective strategies for dealing with uncertainty and contributes to good physical and mental health.

Every aspect of children's lives is influenced by their urge to play. Quality play opportunities make self-directed, self-determined play possible for children. This enables children to build their own resilience, maintain their own health, and support their own well-being.

## Play Wales

Play Wales is the national charity for children's play. We work to raise awareness of children and teenagers' need and right to play. We promote good practice at every level of decision making and in every place where children might play.

We worked closely with Welsh Government on its groundbreaking Play Sufficiency legislation. Section 11 of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 places a duty on local authorities to assess and secure sufficient play opportunities for children in their area.



[www.playwales.org.uk](http://www.playwales.org.uk)

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