

OPEN ACCESS PLAY POLICY – April 2016

INTRODUCTION

Marble Hill Adventure Playground is not childcare. It is open access play, meaning that children can decide to come and go as they please. Children can also decide for themselves what they do there (within reasonable boundaries) and can control their own play, indoors or outside, giving access to nature, the natural environment and lots of materials and resources for play.

Adventure playgrounds are designed specifically to respond to the needs and wishes of children, which makes them very popular “out of school” provisions. Children have the use of playworkers whilst at the adventure playground however they are free to leave at any time and staff are not responsible for ensuring children stay on site.

We recommend parents/carers discuss with their child what they want them to do regarding staying/leaving the adventure playground in their absence.

Benefits of playing at the adventure playground:

The adventure playground is a very special and unique place for children and young people. There currently are few opportunities for children and young people to engage in activities that they have freely chosen. The adventure playground is staffed by Playworkers who are trained to allow children to play and engage with their environment on their own terms. Playing at the adventure playground benefits children and young people by:

- Providing them with opportunity to enjoy freedom, exercise choice and control over their own actions.
- Offering the opportunity to test boundaries and explore risk.
- Offering a far wider range of physical, social and intellectual experiences than any other single activity.
- Being available at times to suit them.
- Providing the opportunity to mix with children of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.
- Giving them the ability to end their play when they choose.
- Contributing to the recommended minimum 60 minutes of physical activity all children/young people need daily.
- Providing the opportunity to gain confidence and independence in their personal, social and emotional development, their language development, their creative and physical development as well as extending their knowledge and understanding of the world around them.

Updated on 14.04.2016	By Kevin Stinton Playcentres Manager
Reviewed on 26.4.16	By Barbara Morton Marble Hill Playcentres Committee