

Free Play/Leisure Definitions

Free play is choice based, when pupils participate in activities they choose and play how they want to. Pupils have the choice to stop and move to another activity when they wish. Free play provides pupils with the opportunity to use their imagination.

Free play is child led and offers pupils choices. It provides pupils with the freedom to express themselves, to freely explore objects and activities, and to interact socially.

Free play allows pupils to explore the resources freely and provides them with opportunities to develop their imagination and independent play skills. It allows children to move freely between play areas according to their interests and likes.

Free leisure gives pupils free choice in their activity, which will be of personal interest to the pupil.

Free leisure allows pupils to choose from their preferred activities.

Free leisure activities are totally pupil led.

Structured play is adult led, with staff leading and guiding the activities. Structured play teaches pupils skills and helps to prepare them for structured lessons.

Structured play enables assessment through play. It allows staff to make pupil observations and provides more opportunities for staff/pupil interactions.

Structured play is timetabled and involves more focus on the learning intention for that play area.

Structured play is linked to class topics and uses rotational groups, with pupils provided with a clearer idea of what is expected of them.

Structured leisure activities are more adult led, with a focus on teaching and learning through leisure activities. Staff rotate groups and activities.

Structured leisure will have two or three activities on offer.

Structured leisure activities are staff led and are set up as planned activities which follow a planned lesson/game.