

## Stay and Play Sessions

### What is the purpose of our stay and play sessions?

Creating and maintaining positive relationships with our parents is crucial within Rachel Madocks School. By providing opportunities for our parents and carers to experience play with their child within the school environment, we are sharing the following information, as stated within the EYFS statutory framework;

- How the EYFS is being delivered in the setting, and how parents and/or carers can access more information.
- The range and type of activities and experiences provided for children, the daily routines of the setting, and how parents and carers can share learning at home.
- How the setting supports children with special educational needs and disabilities.

We understand that some of the activities and programmes we follow may be unfamiliar to our parents. Our stay and play sessions offer parents and carers time to explore these with their child alongside teachers and learning support assistants. Within these sessions, we offer information booklets for parents and carers to take home and read to gain a further insight into their child's education. Consistency of communication methods and physical development across school and home supports the pupil's holistic development. Therefore, within the stay and play sessions, we aim to support our parents in using communication methods and programmes, such as MOVE, at home wherever possible. Our stay and play sessions also offer a place for our parents and carers to have fun and play with their child in a safe environment.



### **What do the stay and play sessions look like?**

Our stay and play sessions look different dependant on the cohort of children. For our PMLD classes the stay and play has a movement-based focus, with access to the sensory room, positive looking resources and eye gazes. Whereas, our SLD/ASC the stay and play will have more of a focus on functional communication, fine motor skills, regulation and creative play.

We invite our parents and carers in for half an hour prior to the stay and play sessions, where they have the opportunity to talk with the primary department lead and the class teachers. Within this half an hour, teachers will spend the time talking to parents about the focus of the term and what learning has been happening. The parents and carers then have an hour to spend playing with their child either in the hall or in the outside environment, weather dependant.

### **Who are the stay and play sessions for?**

Our stay and play sessions started just for our EYFS pupils. However, based on the feedback, we extended the stay and plays through the whole of primary. Now all pupils in primary get the opportunity to play with their parent or carer in school three times a year. We have had good feedback on how beneficial the stay and play sessions are for pupil's siblings. Some of our parents and carers bring younger children or request for school age children to have time out of school to attend. Parents and carers have reported how it creates a safe and happy place for siblings to play together, and for siblings to gain an understanding of what their brother or sister gets up to at school.

