

## Intaspordia Schools PLAY Policy

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### Introduction.

#### Recognizing that:

- *PLAY is a fundamental right of every child and an essential component of childhood development, we believe that PLAY is the foundation of exploration, creativity, and learning.*
- *PLAY supports the cognitive, physical, social, emotional, and psychological development of children, we value it as a critical part of our learner's journey toward independence and resilience.*
- *that PLAY in its different expressions enables imagination and problem-solving skills, we embrace its capacity to nurture curiosity and a sense of wonder about the world in our learners.*
- *that PLAY in its varied expressions teaches children the importance of teamwork, empathy, and conflict resolution, we see it as a cornerstone for building character and interpersonal skills in our learners.*
- *that active PLAY promotes physical health and well-being, we integrate it into our ethos to ensure our learners grow strong in body and mind.*
- *that PLAY connects children to their innate joy and passion for discovery, we prioritize it as a driver for lifelong learning and happiness.*

#### Concerned About...

- *The absence of PLAY spaces for children both in schools and in their home environments.*
- *The muting of the conversation about PLAY in most schools and its relegation to a peripheral benefit.*
- *The increasing dearth of PLAY in schools, where academic pressure often replaces free time, leaving children without opportunities for creativity, exploration and the right to just be children.*
- *The over-scheduling of children's lives with structured activities, depriving them of the benefits of unstructured, spontaneous PLAY that allows for independence and imagination.*

- *The prevalence of screen-based activities at home, which often replace physical, outdoor, and interactive PLAY, impacting physical health, social skills, and emotional well-being.*
- *The rise in sedentary lifestyles among children, contributing to issues such as obesity, anxiety, and a decline in overall fitness.*
- *The loss of crucial social skills when children lack opportunities to engage in cooperative PLAY, impacting their ability to build relationships and resolve conflicts effectively.*
- *The reduced capacity for self-regulation and resilience in children who are not exposed to risk-taking and problem-solving through PLAY.*
- *The growing disconnect from nature and the outdoors, leading to diminished environmental awareness and a loss of appreciation for the natural world.*

## **Acknowledging Our Role as a School To...**

- *provide a balanced approach to education, we understand the importance of creating environments where PLAY is as valued as academic learning.*
- *offer what many children may lack at home, we see ourselves as a vital space for unstructured, creative, and social PLAY to thrive.*
- *counteract the sedentary habits caused by modern lifestyles, we recognize the need to integrate active, physical PLAY into the daily experiences of our learners.*
- *reconnect children with nature, we accept our responsibility to provide outdoor PLAY opportunities that encourage environmental exploration and appreciation.*
- *develop balanced learners, we recognize that PLAY is a cornerstone for fostering resilience, empathy, problem-solving, and emotional well-being*
- *complement parental efforts, we understand the need to partner with families in reinforcing the critical role of PLAY in childhood development*
- *serve as an advocate for children's needs, we accept our duty to champion PLAY as a fundamental right and ensure it remains central to our educational ethos.*
- *address the increasing pressures of academic performance, we see the importance of protecting and promoting PLAY time as a necessary counterbalance to structured learning.*

## **We Commit To.**

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- *Providing diverse, age-appropriate PLAY opportunities that balance structured and unstructured activities to meet every Intaspordia<sup>sm</sup> child's developmental needs.*
- *Designing learning spaces that inspire creativity, encourage risk-taking in safe environments, and invite exploration through PLAY.*
- *Training our educators to integrate PLAY into their teaching methods, ensuring that PLAY is not an interruption or a punctuation to learning but a vital method of learning.*
- *Allocating ample time daily for free PLAY, physical activities, and collaborative games to cultivate both independence and teamwork.*
- *Embracing inclusive PLAY practices that honor the unique abilities, interests, and cultures of every child in Intaspordia<sup>sm</sup>.*
- *Advocating for the role of PLAY in enabling resilience and emotional intelligence, embedding these values in our curriculum and school culture.*
- *Partnering with parents to reinforce the importance of PLAY at home, ensuring our learners experience a seamless balance between PLAY and learning across all aspects of their lives.*

## **We Require Parents To.**

- *Value PLAY as a critical part of their child's growth and support its role in their education and overall well-being.*
- *Encourage their children to engage in unstructured, imaginative PLAY at home, enabling creativity and independence.*
- *Understand that PLAY is not a distraction from academic learning but an essential part of developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills.*
- *Respect and support the time allocated for PLAY at school, recognizing it as integral to their child's holistic development.*
- *Avoid over-scheduling their child's time outside school to ensure they have ample opportunity for spontaneous, self-directed PLAY.*
- *Cultivate positive attitudes toward physical activities, collaborative games, and outdoor exploration as key elements of their child's growth.*

- *Partner with the school in promoting a balanced lifestyle that values joy, exploration, and meaningful connections through PLAY.*

*This PLAY Policy Statement reflects Intaspordia Schools' unwavering commitment to nurturing well-rounded, joyful, and curious learners by embedding PLAY at the heart of everything we do.*