



Project aims: Strategic aims and aspirations for play in Bradford on Avon  
Together – in combination – we would like our play areas and play spaces to:

- Let children and young people choose how they play.
- Make use of natural elements – and let children and young people experience and learn about the natural environment.
- Provide a wide range of play experiences.
- Offer inclusive and accessible play opportunities to children and young people of all ages, genders, and abilities.
- Consider neurodiversity in children and young people.
- Allow children of different ages and abilities to play together.
- Allow children and young people to experience risk and challenge.
- Encourage exploration.

We would also like our play areas and play spaces to collectively:

- Have complementary designs – including colour palettes and materials.
- Show long-term sustainability.
- Reflect the climate emergency and the ecological emergency.
- Reflect the history and heritage of the town.

We also expect our play areas and play spaces to be designed so they are safe and welcoming – with consideration given to girls and women.

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We would equally like individual play areas and play spaces in the town to:

- Be unique – reflecting their locality and what makes them special.
- Be designed for where they are – reflecting the landscape and the natural environment.
- Reflect community needs and wants.
- Allow and encourage children to play freely.
- Provide different play opportunities.
- Offer settings for creative and imaginative play.
- Have space to move – and space to stop and pause.
- Be sensory.
- Embrace level changes for play.
- Conserve and enhance wildlife and wildflower habitats.
- Use a variety of play surfaces to increase play value and make each space look and feel more attractive.



- Use planting, including tree planting, for play value.
- Have places to sit and rest in the sun and the shade.
- Retain space for change and evolution in the future.

We're open to the idea of a theme or themes linking our play spaces - and to the possibility of pieces of play equipment providing an identity for each space.

We're also open to play that doesn't conform to the industry standards – like sand pits or den making areas.

Inclusive play must also consider how children, adults, and carers get in and out of each play area and play space. And how they can move within the space.

We would like our play areas and play spaces to have a consistent and complementary palette of materials and colours. The palette should take its cues from the existing play in Kingston Wood and Victory Field.

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Ideas and inspiration nearby:

- The new play area in [Sydney Gardens](#) in Bath.
- The play space in [Dyrham Park](#).
- The feeling of finding 'hidden' and natural play at [Westonbirt](#).
- The picnic and play space in [Victoria Park](#) in Frome.
- The linked play trails and sense of exploration at [Moors Valley](#).