



School Play Champion – Role Description

Action 38 within the Midlothian Play Strategy encourages schools to appoint a School Play Champion. This would be someone who can work to support and encourage the development of a playful school culture, which understands and values play across all areas of the school. This would be carried forward by ensuring there are opportunities to embed play in the delivery of CfE whilst also ensuring that children have access to stimulating play environments and experiences in the playground. The role of a School Play Champion can be varied and will likely differ from school to school, however there are a few pointers below about what the different roles of a play champion could be as well as the qualities they might have.



The role of a School Play Champion:

- Supports the development of a school play policy and shares its message with everyone in the school community (parents/carers, children and staff)
- Works to develop a school culture that values and encourages play
- Models positive interactions which facilitate play
- Promotes play in, across and outwith the school setting
- Supports and encourages colleagues within their setting through confidence building and skill development
- Has an awareness of where practitioners can access training, CPD and information opportunities around the topic of play
- Attends the local Midlothian Play Form meetings
- Acts as the point of contact for all things play related

After speaking with a group of practitioners at a Midlothian Play Forum meeting, they agreed that the qualities the identified person brought with them was crucial as they would support them in their role as School Play Champion. These were divided up into personal qualities, leadership qualities, and knowledge and understanding.

Personal Qualities

- Passionate about play
- Innovative
- Solution focussed
- Approachable
- Child-centred
- Problem-solver
- Cheerful and fun
- Can-do attitude

Leadership Qualities

- Ability to communicate and work well with others
- Willing to share learning and experience with others in an engaging way
- Inspires others, supports and leads change, and can identify opportunities when they arise
- Ability to reflect upon and evaluate the current provision for play in the school environment (including auditing what you have already and where you go next)
- Partnership working across the school, cluster area and wider county

Knowledge and Understanding

- Understanding of the importance of play (child development, learning, health and wellbeing etc.)
- Uses knowledge and/or skills to support and drive improvement
- Awareness of current legislation, guidance and good practice surrounding the topic of play

The above list is only a suggestion and a starting point to help you find the best person/people to take on the role of School Play Champion.