

Play Strategy Survey

1. Stroud District Council Play Strategy

Date of consultation: Wednesday 11 June 2026 to Monday August 2026

Thank you for taking part in this survey.

Stroud District Council is in the process of writing our Play Strategy. The purpose of the Play Strategy is to review the current landscape of play across Stroud and to understand the opportunities children and young people have to take part in free play in their day-to-day lives. We are also looking to identify the barriers to play and want to hear directly from children and young people about their experiences. Once we understand this, we will create a strategy with action points to increase awareness and opportunities of the benefits of play in the district.

The survey takes approximately 10 -20 minutes to complete. All published results are anonymous.

Visit www.stroud.gov.uk/privacy to see how we manage personal information.

All questions are optional. You can skip over any questions you do not wish to answer or select the 'Prefer not to say' option. If you have any questions about the survey or consultation at the council more broadly, please email community.services@stroud.gov.uk.

2. What is play?

[Play is a generic term applied](#) to a wide range of activities and behaviours that are satisfying to the child, creative for the child and freely chosen by the child. It has frequently been described as 'what children and young people do when not being told what to do by adults.'

[Play is a fundamental right of every child](#), yet evidence shows it is declining, with reduced play linked to poorer health and wellbeing. Barriers include safety concerns, accessibility, cost, and limited time. Play is child-led, freely chosen, and intrinsically motivated, taking place whenever opportunities arise. Adults can support environments for play, but it remains voluntary and done for its own sake.

3. About you

1. In what capacity are you responding to this survey?

If you are a parent/guardian responding on behalf of your child or children but would like to express your own views, please submit a separate response to this survey.

- Parent/guardian responding on behalf of your child or children
- Resident of the Stroud district
- Visitor to the Stroud district
- Local or regional business / Chamber of Commerce
- Voluntary or third sector organisation
- Parish or Town Council
- Public sector organisation (local authority, Police, Fire, NHS, etc.)
- Leisure club or association
- Stroud District Council employee
- Other (please specify):

2. What ward do you live in?

- Amberley and Woodchester
- Berkeley Vale
- Bisley
- Cainscross
- Cam East
- Cam West
- Chalford
- Coaley and Uley
- Dursley
- Hardwicke
- Kingswood
- Minchinhampton
- Nailsworth
- Painswick and Upton
- Randwick, Whiteshill and Ruscombe
- Rodborough
- Severn
- Stonehouse
- Stroud Central
- Stroud Farmhill and Paganhill
- Stroud Slade
- Stroud Trinity
- Stroud Uplands
- Stroud Valley
- The Stanleys
- Thrupp
- Wotton-under-Edge
- Outside the district
- Prefer not to say
- Not sure

**3. What is your age or the age of the child/children you are responding on behalf of?
If you are responding on behalf of a child, please select the most appropriate age bracket for
your child or children.**

- 0–4 years old
- 5–7 years old
- 8–11 years old
- 12–18 years old
- 18–25 years old
- 26–34 years old
- 35–44 years old
- 45–54 years old
- 55–64 years old
- 65–74 years old
- 75+ years old
- Prefer not to say

4. Sex

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say

5. Gender identity – How would you describe your gender identity?

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Transgender woman
- Transgender man
- Prefer not to say
- Prefer to self-describe:

6. Disability – Do you have any physical or mental health conditions lasting 12 months or more?

Yes

No

Prefer not to say

4. Your Experience of Play

7. Please describe what play looks like to you or your child. (Play is a generic term applied to a wide range of activities and behaviours that are satisfying to the child, creative for the child and freely chosen by the child.)

8. To what extent do you agree that there is freedom to explore in your local area?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

9. To what extent do you agree or disagree that it is important to have access to unstructured play?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Neutral
- Somewhat not important
- Not at all important

10. Please explain why you have chosen your above response.

11. What types of play do you value most?

- Creative play – play which allows a new response, the transformation of information, awareness of new connections, with an element of surprise.
- Deep play – play which allows the child to encounter risky or even potentially life-threatening experiences, to develop survival skills and conquer fear.
- Dramatic play – play which dramatizes events in which the child is not a direct participant.
- Exploratory play – play to access factual information consisting of manipulative behaviours such as handling, throwing, banging, or mouthing objects.
- Fantasy play – play which rearranges the world in the child's way, a way which is unlikely to occur.
- Imaginative play – play where the conventional rules, which govern the physical world, do not apply.
- Locomotor play – movement in any or every direction for its own sake.
- Mastery play – control of the physical and affective ingredients of the environments.
- Object play – play which uses infinite and interesting sequences of hand-eye manipulations and movements.
- Recapitulative play – play that allows the child to explore ancestry, history, rituals, stories, rhymes, fire, and darkness.
- Role play – play exploring ways of being, although not normally of an intense personal, social, domestic, or interpersonal nature.
- Rough and tumble play – close encounter play which is less to do with fighting and more to do with touching, tickling, and gauging relative strength.
- Social play – play during which the rules and criteria for social engagement and interaction can be revealed, explored, and amended.
- Socio-dramatic play – the enactment of real and potential experiences of an intense personal, social, domestic, or interpersonal nature.
- Symbolic play – play which allows control, gradual exploration, and increased understanding without the risk of being out of one's depth.
- Other (please specify):

12. In relation to play types, what activities do you or your child enjoy playing?

13. What places do you or your child currently use for play? (e.g. Parks, Garden, Home, play areas, soft play, games cafes, youth clubs, after school clubs etc.)

5. Barriers to Play

14. Do any of the following make it difficult for you or your children to play locally?

- Feelings of being unsafe
- Access to public spaces
- Time
- Traffic
- Cost of activities
- Increase in use of online or digital devices or platforms
- Transport
- Peer pressure
- Feelings of anxiety or self-consciousness
- Not knowing how to play
- Weather
- Dog fouling
- Lack of toilet facilities
- Lack of disabled access
- Other (please specify):

15. If you selected 'feelings of being unsafe', please describe how this affects play (include location if relevant).

16. Please describe in more detail the factors you have chosen that stop you from playing (e.g. the time it takes to play or the cost of playing).

17. To what extent do you agree or disagree that children aged 0–11 in the district have enough opportunities to play?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

18. To what extent do you agree or disagree that children/young people aged 12–18 in the district have enough opportunities to play?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

6. Quality of Play Spaces

19. How would you rate the play spaces in your area? 1 being poor and 10 being very good.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10

20. How often do you or your children use parks, play areas, or outdoor spaces for play?

- Not at all
- Every day of the week
- Several times a week
- Once or twice a week
- Once or twice every two weeks
- Once or twice a month

21. How would you or your child normally travel to parks, play areas, or outdoor spaces?

- Drive
- Walk
- Cycle/Scooter
- Public transport
- My children go on their own

22. What is important to you in a park, play area, or outdoor space?

- Age-specific equipment
- Sensory play
- Woodland
- Sports activities
- Natural play features
- Inclusive and accessible equipment
- Adventure/challenging equipment (climbing walls, zip lines)
- Safe toddler areas
- Open space for free play
- Cycling and scootering paths
- Trees and shaded areas
- Wildlife areas (ponds, habitats, bird boxes)
- Walking routes and trails
- Clean toilets and baby changing facilities
- Picnic areas and tables
- Shelters for rain or shade
- Good lighting
- Spaces to meet friends and family
- Intergenerational spaces
- Good visibility across the space
- Clear dog/no-dog areas
- Quiet spaces for relaxation
- Clean and tidy environment
- Parking
- Other (please specify):

7. Children & Young People's Voice

23. Do you or your child take part in organised sport outside of school? If so, how often?

- I do not take part in organised sport outside of school
- Every day of the week
- Several times a week
- Once or twice a week
- Once or twice every two weeks
- Once or twice a month

24. Would you like to see more professionally led play sessions or events in your area?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

25. How can Stroud District Council support better play across the district?

- More free opportunities
- More opportunities closer to you
- Improved park design
- More safe spaces
- Age-specific opportunities

8. Final Thoughts

26. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about play in your community?