

## YOUTH & PLAY SERVICE

### PLAY SETTINGS

The Youth Support Service provides an open access play service, including after-school and weekend sessions, and daily sessions during the school holidays. Play schemes are staffed by qualified play workers who facilitate safe, supervised play environments in which children are free to engage in freely chosen play activities.

The Service provides three all year round open access play settings at Beechwood, Gautby Road and Leasowe Adventure Playground for children aged 6 -14\* years situated within the local community. The Service also works in conjunction with the voluntary play sector through Wirral Play Council to deliver, a summer holiday programme and a specific play facility for children with special needs.

Play workers endeavour to support, rather than direct the children, to facilitate a play environment based on children's wants and developmental needs which stimulates their creativity whilst maximising their potential. Children also have the opportunity to take risks using the 'safety net' of play workers who support tolerance, openness and possibility. Play settings also offer children support, practical help and opportunities for social and personal development.

Play schemes operate an open access policy which means children are free to come and go as they choose. Play workers can take no responsibility for children who leave a centre/playground during a session. Most activities are free of charge (except for off-site activities) and all children attending a play scheme are required to return a completed registration form signed by the parents/carers. This provides individual details needed to support a child whilst attending the play scheme.

For general information regarding the Wirral Play Service please contact Steve Chan, Youth Support Service HQ, Pilgrim Street Arts Centre, 1 Pilgrim Street, Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 5EH  
0151 666 3960 [stevechan@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:stevechan@wirral.gov.uk)

Please contact individual centres for local information on activities, times of opening and how to register a child. (\*children aged five years after August 31<sup>st</sup> and currently in Year One at school, can register for a place).

Unit Name	Location	Contact Information	Provision	Operating times
Beechwood Play Scheme*	Fifth Avenue, Beechwood CH43 9LB	PADDY MULLIGAN <a href="mailto:patrickmulligan@wirral.gov.uk">patrickmulligan@wirral.gov.uk</a> 0151 678 3939	Open Access Play Provision	Term-time Tue/Wed/Thur/Fri Sessions between 3-7.30 Sat 9.30-12.30 & 2-4.30  <i>School holidays:</i> Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri 10 -12.30 & 2- 4.30 pm
Leasowe Adventure Playground*	Oxley Avenue, Leasowe CH46 1PF	DANNY McGARRY <a href="mailto:danielmcgarry@wirral.gov.uk">danielmcgarry@wirral.gov.uk</a> 0151 639 3060		
Gautby Road Play Scheme*	Gautby Road Birkenhead CH41 7DS	HEATHER STENHOUSE <a href="mailto:heatherstenhouse@wirral.gov.uk">heatherstenhouse@wirral.gov.uk</a> 0151 652 5645		