



Statement of broad aims and principles

The Playwork Foundation aims to:

- Represent playworkers UK-wide, giving them a collective voice.
- Promote playwork nationally and support local campaigns.
- Lobby for policy change to create a legal and regulatory framework conducive to playwork services.
- Be a focus for good practice: supporting research and other areas that develop playwork.
- Provide support and benefits for playworkers, such as networking, information, skills sharing, events and resources.
- Be outward looking, building links with other professions and sectors.

Principles

The discussions leading to the formation of the Playwork Foundation arrived at a broad consensus on what kind of vehicle we want it to be. Although nothing is carved in stone and these aspirations will, no doubt, continue to evolve as the new organisation takes shape, consultation respondents have agreed that the new body should be:

1. Based on a cohesive narrative of playwork

A new vehicle should be founded on clear and up-to-date knowledge, skills and understandings of playwork.

2. Principled

It should develop its aims and activities in a way that is fully consistent with playwork principles, regardless of market forces or policy trends.

3. Pioneering

It should be an agent for change, unafraid to challenge the status quo.

4. Independent

It should be independent of other agencies, owned by and accountable only to its members, however it may be funded and administered.

5. Collaborative

It should work with other organisations in the sector, aiming to complement existing activities that support playwork, rather than competing with them.

6. Non-directive

It should aim to mirror the values and ethos of the playwork approach: including, supporting and responding to the field rather than seeking to control or direct it.

7. Inclusive

It should work always to make playwork as available and as accessible as possible to the widest range of children, from the fullest diversity of their communities, whatever the barriers.

8. Representative

It should act only with a clear mandate from its members, through transparent, representative structures and processes.

9. A champion for play

It should be an advocate for playwork and the value of playing in general, working with and supporting play champions everywhere.

10. Credible and united

It should build unity and consensus within the playwork field, so as to speak with a credible and authoritative voice.

11. Not-for-profit

It must be non-commercial, securing only such funds as it needs to further its aims for playwork.