

# EYFS, KS1 & KS2 Playground Considerations

## PLAYGROUND IMAGINEERING

### Designing Play Spaces That Grow With Children

Outdoor play spaces should reflect how children use and benefit from play at different stages of development. Age-appropriate design boosts engagement, supports physical and social development, encourages positive behaviour, and creates safer, more inclusive environments.

By thinking carefully about EYFS, KS1, and KS2 needs separately, schools can ensure every child has access to the right kind of challenge and stimulation for their stage of development.

### EYFS AGES 3 - 5

#### Our Equipment Recommendations:

Mini Fitness & Adventure Trail  
Timber Playhouses  
Our Sun range Climbing Structures, specifically tailored to this age group. Include play platforms, slides, rock/log ramps.  
Water play & Sandpits  
Educational & Sensory Play Panels  
Performance Stages  
Den Making Area

**Supports early motor development, confidence, and sensory exploration.**

**Encourages social interaction and imaginative play.**



#### Key Needs

Low-level equipment for early motor skill development.  
Sensory-rich environments to encourage exploration.  
Open-ended and imaginative play opportunities.  
Clear visibility to support supervision.  
Social spaces for cooperative play.

At this stage, play supports physical growth, communication skills, confidence, and early social interaction.

### KS1 AGES 5-7

#### Our Equipment Recommendations:

A mix of low & high level Fitness & Adventure Trail  
Tunnel Mound with Slide or Log Ramps.  
MUGA's  
Target and Ball Games  
Interactive Bike Track  
Activity Balance Boxes  
Sensory Planting & Gardening Zones  
Role Play Structures

**Builds coordination, balance, and problem-solving skills.**

**Encourages independence, cooperation, and healthy risk-taking.**



#### Key Needs

Opportunities for climbing, balancing, and movement  
Social spaces for group play and games.  
Equipment that builds coordination, resilience, and independence.  
Clear zones to help children manage space safely.

At this stage, children are developing confidence, independence, and an understanding of risk while refining motor skills.

### KS2 AGES 7-11

#### Our Equipment Recommendations:

More challenging Clamber Stacks and Climbing Structures.  
Rock Walls  
Multi-level challenge Fitness & Adventure Trails or Obstacle Courses  
Gym Equipment  
MUGA's  
Social & Reflection Areas

**Promotes strength, resilience, leadership, and teamwork.**

**Supports emotional wellbeing through physical challenge and social play.**



#### Key Needs

Physically challenging and adventurous equipment  
Social gathering areas for collaboration and teamwork.  
Opportunities for problem-solving, leadership, and imaginative play.  
Space to encourage independence and positive risk-taking.

Older children benefit from designs that balance physical challenge with creativity and teamwork.