EYFS Outdoor Policy

St. Mary's RC Primary School

Mission Statement

We live learn and grow together with Jesus through:

- Showing love to all
- Encouraging friendship to include everybody
- Acting with honesty through prayer
- Being thankful for all God's gifts
- Remaining respectful through our actions
- Forgiving someone when they are sorry
- Displaying patience by being calm and caring
- Demonstrating compassion to everyone in God's family
- Leading in service by supporting our school community

Written by: Pam McGarry
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Approved by governors on: October 2026
Policy will be reviewed: Every three years

Rationale
At St Mary's RC Primary School, outdoor learning is an essential part of the EYFS curriculum. The outdoor environment is viewed as a continuous provision area that promotes active learning, play, exploration, wellbeing, communication, physical literacy, self-regulation and sustained shared thinking.

Policy Aims
Ensure daily access to high-quality outdoor provision; promote independence, resilience and school readiness; provide an inclusive enabling environment; support all seven areas of learning; foster curiosity, enquiry and environmental stewardship.

Intent
Children will experience a rich outdoor curriculum which develops knowledge, skills and vocabulary through meaningful first-hand experiences.

Implementation
The outdoor area is planned as an extension of the classroom. Practitioners balance child-initiated experiences with focused adult interactions, observation, assessment and responsive planning.

Impact
Children demonstrate increasing confidence, independence, resilience, communication skills, physical competence and readiness for future learning.

Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning
Outdoor provision supports Playing and Exploring, Active Learning and Creating and Thinking Critically.

Learning Across the EYFS
Outdoor learning supports Communication and Language, PSED, Physical Development, Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design.

Risk-Benefit Approach
Children are encouraged to undertake managed risk through climbing, balancing, building and investigating under supervision. Risk is balanced against developmental benefit.

Inclusion and SEND
Reasonable adjustments, differentiated provision and targeted support ensure all children can access outdoor learning.

Safeguarding, Health and Safety
Daily risk assessments are undertaken and any hazards addressed immediately. Appropriate supervision and safeguarding procedures are maintained at all times.

Assessment and Planning

Observations inform assessment and next steps. Planning remains responsive to children's interests, needs and developmental stages.

Environmental Sustainability
Children learn to care for living things, recycle, reduce waste and respect God's creation.

Partnership with Parents
Parents are encouraged to support outdoor learning through appropriate clothing and engagement with learning experiences.

Monitoring and Review
The EYFS Lead, Senior Leadership Team and Link Governor will monitor implementation and review the policy biennially.