

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

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Approved by governors on: September 2029

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.