



EYFS Outdoor Learning Policy

Policy Review Details	
This policy will be reviewed by the governing body in accordance with the Policy Review Schedule	
Date of Issue: September 2021	
	<i>J. C. Tyers</i>
Chair of Governors' Signature	Headteacher's Signature
Date of next review: September 2023	

ST GEORGE'S MISSION STATEMENT

“St. George’s C of E Primary School seeks to provide a place where children can realise their full potential and maximise their academic achievement within a safe, caring, Christian setting”

Rationale

Rifkin 1997: ‘The younger the child, the more child learns through sensory and physical activities; thus the more varied and rich the natural outdoor setting, the greater its contribution to physical, cognitive and emotional development.’

As children increasingly spend leisure time indoors it is important that schools are able to provide outdoor learning, with opportunities for creativity and child initiated activity.

Aim

To enable children to use the outdoor environment as a context for learning throughout the year.

Objectives

We aim to:

- use the outdoor environment as a context and a natural resource for learning
- include the outdoor environment when planning for learning
- enable children to access the outdoor environment on a daily basis
- ensure that the outdoor environment offers children the opportunity to investigate and explore, problem solve, use their imagination and creativity
- ensure the outdoors offers children opportunities to develop their large motor skills
- ensure that children enjoy energetic activity outdoors and the feeling of well-being that it brings
- observe and assess and record the learning that happens in the outdoor environment
- give children opportunity to plan and have ownership for their learning in the outdoor environment
- help children to care for the outside environment through the context of the outdoor environment
- enable children to work on their own and with others
- enable children to develop an appreciation of natural beauty and a sense of wonder about the world
- respect the outdoor environment and to care for living things
- enable children to manage and use the space and freedom afforded by the outdoor environment
- give children the opportunity to be relaxed, enjoy and have fun outdoors
- use tools safely and effectively and to follow basic safety rules
- to grow and learn in a safe and stimulating outdoor environment

Method

The staff will:

- facilitate access to the outdoor environment on a daily basis through discussion and staff meetings, planning and mutual agreement
- organise and provide necessary resources as appropriate, for example clothing, footwear, tools, etc.
- encourage children to use a variety of natural resources
- devise a set of 'rules for tools' through discussion with children

Monitoring and Evaluation

This will include:

- staff observations, discussions and feedback from children and parents
- discuss and review the validity of the policy to ensure it is meeting the needs of the children
- curriculum monitoring guidelines
- health and safety guidelines

Success Criteria

This policy supports staff in consistently promoting the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage document (Sept 2021), and supports children in making progress in the seven areas of learning.