



"For Learning that Lasts a Lifetime"

St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe Community Primary School

Policy on Early Year's Outside Classroom

Date: November 2022

Reviewed and Ratified By: Governing body on 19th January 2023

Review Date: Every Five Years – November 2027

Signed : _____ Helen King, Chair of Governors

Signed : _____ Helen Comfort, Exective Headteacher

Equality

We recognise our duty and responsibility to establish equality for all pupils, staff, other members of the school community and service users regardless of their ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation; age or beliefs as defined within existing equalities legislation (please see 'Single Equality Scheme').

The Foundation Stage curriculum is inclusive and facilitates the needs of all children regardless of their age, size, mobility, gender, ethnicity and ability. (This is linked to the school's policies for Equal Opportunities and Inclusion)

1. AIMS

To provide a stimulating, secure and safe outside learning environment where all seven areas of the Foundation Stage Curriculum are provided for. Children will be encouraged to actively explore the world around them, developing their creativity, independence, thinking skills and ability to solve problems across the curriculum.

2. PRINCIPLES

Learning outside the classroom supports the development of healthy and active lifestyles by offering children opportunities for physical activity, freedom and movement, and promoting a sense of well-being. It gives them contact with the natural world and offers them experiences that are unique to outdoors, such as direct contact with the weather and seasons. Outdoor play also supports children's problem-solving skills and nurtures their creativity, as well as providing rich opportunities for their developing imagination, inventiveness and resourcefulness.

3. PLANNING

Planning for the outside reflects the long term and medium term planning, and directly links to short term planning and children's interests. There will be free-flow between the inside and outside area during child initiated activity. During directed and initiated teaching the outside area should be used. Resources in the outside area should stimulate, challenge and inspire children to engage in learning and will provide appropriate opportunities for both the planned and unplanned curriculum.

4. ROLE OF THE ADULT

The adults prepare the outside learning environment at the beginning of the session and are responsible for ensuring the equipment is stored appropriately at the end of the session.

During the session the adults will:

- Build in the challenge by asking open questions
- Extend talk
- Extend vocabulary/knowledge skills etc.
- Challenge
- Add resources
- Demonstrate/model

- Help children to see links in learning
- Support and encourage
- Re-direct the play if necessary
- Facilitate/help children to negotiate
- Supervise/be a safety officer/risk assessor
- Administer first aid
- Counsel when needed
- Observe and assess learning
- Record judgements and plan next steps for learning
- Provide feedback to child/other adults/parents

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Practitioners will be mindful of the elements and ensure the children are appropriately dressed and protected. Parents need to be informed of their responsibilities regarding learning in the outside environment and the provision of appropriate footwear, clothing and sun-creams.

There is a responsibility on the part of the school to ensure safe access to the outside, and that equipment is regularly maintained. Risk assessments should be carried out in accordance with guidelines and the outside area should be checked before use to ensure safety.

There are clear expectations of positive behaviour. Children are introduced to the environment on their start in school and made aware of safe use of equipment and all areas of the outside classroom.

Adults are mindful of the school Health and Safety Policy for the moving of equipment.

Adults will be vigilant, being aware of possible hazards which could affect the children's security and safety.