

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



EYFS Outdoor Area Policy

Date adopted by the Governing Body – 16th March 2016

Last reviewed: January 2016
Due for Review: January 2019

Our School's Vision

“To inspire, to learn, to love with God”

We aim to provide the highest standards of education in a welcoming and positive Catholic learning environment.

We focus on the growth and development of each person, encouraging each child to play an active part in their own learning and so make every effort to achieve their individual potential.

We want our school to be a place where we work to inspire each other. Where everyone learns to respect, work, play and co-operate with others in a Christian, caring way, whilst fostering close links with our Church, Parish and the wider community.

Rationale

“The outdoors can provide a scale and freedom for a type of play that is difficult to replicate indoors.”

Curriculum Framework for Children 3 to 5

“Outdoor learning makes a major contribution to children’s development. Young children will be missing out on important learning opportunities if quality outdoor provision is not available to them regularly.

The Great Outdoors by Margaret Edgington

Aim

To create an outdoor area which is stimulating, exciting and used throughout the year as a learning environment.

Objectives

We aim to:

- use the outdoor environment as a context and resource for learning.
- include the outdoor area when planning for learning.
- enable children to access the outdoor area on a daily basis, weather permitting.

- ensure that the outdoor area offers children the opportunity to investigate and explore, problem solve, use their imagination and creativity.
- ensure the outdoors offers children opportunities to develop their gross motor skills.
- ensure that children enjoy energetic activity outdoors and the feeling of well being that it brings.
- Observe, assess and record the learning that happens in the outdoor area.
- help children to care for the outside environment and the resources provided outside.
- 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 area.
- give children the opportunity to relax, enjoy and have fun outdoors
- to use tools safely and effectively.

Method

The staff will:

- facilitate access to the outdoor area on a daily basis through discussion and planning.
- organise and provide necessary resources as appropriate, e.g. footwear, tools, etc.
- encourage children to use a variety of natural resources.
- encourage all children to use outdoor area during continuous provision.
- Provide children with stimulating and exciting activities outside which develop the three prime and the four specific areas of learning.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This will include:

- staff observations, discussions and feedback from children, parents and third party providers.
- discuss and review the validity of the policy to ensure it is meeting the needs of the children