



WILLOWDENE NURSERY SCHOOL

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Outdoor Play Policy

Statement of intent

We aim to enable children to use the nursery garden as a context for learning throughout the year.

We believe the outdoors can provide a scale and freedom for a type of play that is difficult to replicate indoors, and that the garden is an essential means for the physical, intellectual, social, and emotional development of the child.

Objectives

We aim to:

- use the garden as a context and a natural resource for learning
- include the garden when planning for learning
- enable children to access the garden at any time
- ensure that the garden 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 wellbeing that it brings
- observe and assess and record the learning that happens in the garden
- help children to care for the outside environment through the context of the garden
- enable children to work on their own and with others
- enable children to develop 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 garden
- give children the opportunity to be relax, enjoy and have fun outdoors
- use tools safely and effectively and to follow nursery safety rules.

Method

The staff will:

- facilitate access to the garden on a daily basis through discussion , staff meetings and planning
- organise and provide necessary resources as appropriate, for example clothing, footwear, tools, etc.
- encourage children to use a variety of natural resources
- there will always be at least one member of staff outside.
- staff observations, discussions and feedback from children and parents will be used to monitor its use.