



Greenside Primary School

A great school in a great community
achieving great outcomes for children

Outdoor Learning

Reviewed by Governors: November 2017

Greenside Primary School

Outdoor Learning Policy

Rationale

The outdoors can provide space and freedom for a type of learning that is difficult to replicate indoors. We have a large field and playground which can easily be accessed by all children to support and develop their learning. We feel it is both beneficial and important to enable children to use the outside environment as a context for learning all year round.

Research shows that learning outside the classroom will:

- Attain higher levels of knowledge and skills
- Improve physical health and increase motor abilities
- Improve children's abilities to socialise and interact in new and different ways with their peers and other adults.
- Improve attention levels and enhance self-esteem
- Engage children in a way that cannot be achieved by working in the classroom

Aims

- To provide an opportunity for individuals to develop, to learn and to enjoy themselves.
- To provide a safe and non-threatening environment in which children can take risks, make choices and initiate their own learning.
- To help children understand, appreciate and care for the natural environment.
- To develop social and team working skills.
- To provide stimulation and varied learning activities appropriate to the child's needs and stages of development.

Health and Safety

Greenside Primary School's Health and Safety policy sets out clear statements of intent regarding the whole school's approach to the health and safety of its children, staff and visitors to the school and the school site. Provided below is a list of additional points and measures which relate directly to our outdoor learning sessions.

- All adults involved in the outdoor learning session are required to take all reasonable steps to ensure that children are safe.
- The teacher should ensure that the type of outdoor learning being carried out is not going to cause any known allergic reaction. (For example allergies linked to tree nuts etc.)
- The teacher leading the outdoor session will always carry and take a first aid kit when going off-site to every session.
- In the event of an emergency, the teacher leading the outdoor session will ensure that the school contacts the emergency services.

Inclusion

Outdoor learning means outdoor learning for all. Teachers may have a stock of extra all-weather clothing but ask that both parents and children think about the usefulness of their clothing when planning an outdoor learning activity and to be aware that they are likely to take home muddy and wet clothes after an outdoor session. We encourage a level of risk-taking, always under close adult supervision, and actively foster friendships and collaboration between all children and adults. Outdoor learning activities are always designed to produce success and enjoyment, even when this appears to be of a transitory nature. The outdoor environment is an environment to which we are all entitled to and we strongly believe that these experiences will have a positive impact on children's learning. The governors and staff of Greenside Primary School are committed to providing the full range of opportunities for all pupils, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, social, cultural or religious background. All pupils have access to the curriculum and the right to a learning environment which dispels ignorance, prejudice or stereotyping.

Bad Weather Procedure

We will not use the outdoor environment if the conditions are deemed dangerous such as in high winds, during thunder storms, or during periods of extreme cold. Teachers should use the BBC weather online forecast (or similar weather forecast app) to make judgments about the expected conditions.

Monitoring and Assessment

Teaching staff will ensure that there is adequate supervision for groups of children working outside and that outdoor learning is well planned. It is the responsibility of the teaching staff to be knowledgeable of planning, the risk assessment of the area they are working in, health and safety around particular children and to take the necessary precautions. Assessment of outdoor learning will be done through photographs of activities where necessary. Staff must report to the School Business Manager any potential hazards of faulty equipment found outside. This can be done over email.

At Greenside Primary School we will continually strive to ensure that everyone is treated with respect and dignity. Each person will be given fair and equal opportunities to develop their full potential regardless of their gender, transgender, ethnicity, culture and religious background, sexuality, disability or special educational needs and ability.