



EYFS OUTDOOR POLICY

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Our school is a place where everyone is treated equally, encouraged and respected. We believe that all children should be able to achieve their full potential academically, socially and emotionally. We are committed to our school being a safe and inclusive place where learning is nurtured and encouraged in a happy, caring and fun environment. We all work for our school to be a happy place where good behaviour is expected and all children enjoy their educational journey.

“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

At Abbott Community Primary School we recognise the importance of outside play and we aim to create an outdoor area which is stimulating, exciting, takes account of the children’s interests and is used throughout the year as a learning environment.

We will;

- Use the outdoor space as a natural resource for learning.
- Include the outdoor area when planning for continuous provision.
- Include children when planning for learning outdoors.
- Provide the opportunity for children to access the outdoor area on a daily basis.
- 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 the opportunity to develop their gross motor skills.
- Encourage the children to respect the outdoor environment and care for living things.
- Give children the opportunity to manage and use the space and freedom afforded by the outdoors.
- Give children the opportunity to work alone or in collaboration with peers or adults.
- Teach the children to use tools safely and appropriately.

Additionally;

- We will work together as a team to plan for learning.
- We will include the children in the planning process by observing them and asking them what they would like to do outdoors.
- We will take time to track areas on a regular basis to monitor use and effectiveness of the provision.
- We will enhance and/or change provision when necessary.
- We will provide access to suitable clothing and footwear for both children and adults in the EYFS in cases of extreme weather conditions and for when they are doing specific messy/wet activities.

“Being outdoors has a positive impact on children’s sense of well being and helps all aspects of children’s development.” EYFS card 3.3

All EYFS staff will know that the adult’s role in creating an effective environment is to;

NOTICE (observation) being able to see what children are ‘really’ doing.

RECOGNISE (assessment) understanding the significance of what is taking place and what the thinking is.

RESPOND (planning) making very careful decisions about what to do to support and extend the thinking and learning.

And that an effective environment will always take children’s learning forward.

STAFFING

When working outdoors with children all staff must be mindful of the safeguarding of children, ensuring that;

- When supervising outdoors children must usually be within sight *and* hearing of staff and always within sight *or* hearing in accordance with government guidelines (EYFS Framework 2012)
- Government ratios as outlined in the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2012 are adhered to at all times
- If a member of staff is required to leave their timetabled outdoor supervision role, however briefly, they are to inform other staff that they are leaving and ensure that this had been acknowledged before leaving

HEALTH AND SAFETY

We will conduct an informal risk assessment each day ensuring the area and resources are safe. A formal risk assessment will be carried out on a termly basis. All staff will be mindful of safety whilst outdoors and if they feel safety is compromised in any way they must report it to the EYFS manager.

We will ensure that there is always a qualified first aider available within school.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

It is the responsibility of the EYFS staff to follow this policy. The Senior Leadership Team will carry out monitoring on the EYFS as part of the whole school monitoring system.

This policy will be reviewed before the start of each academic year and will evolve to incorporate the views of all staff concerned.

G. Fishwick: EYFS Leader September 2017

Review date: September 2018

Senior members of staff responsible: P. Wilson (Head teacher)

Designated member of staff: G. Fishwick (EYFS Leader)