



Holbrook Primary School

Learning Out of Doors Policy for the Foundation Stage

Rationale

"Children learn by moving, and movement needs space. Only through ready access to the outdoors and stimulating outdoor provision can a child's physical development, personal, social and emotional well-being and learning across the curriculum flourish."

Marjorie Ouvry, 2001

"To be effective, an Early Years curriculum should be carefully structured. This includes planned and purposeful activity that provides opportunity for teaching and learning, both indoors and out."

Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation stage

Aims

At Holbrook Primary School we aim:

- To provide opportunities for all children to access a well-planned outdoor environment and to meet their needs and interests through a range of resources and experiences
- To provide equipment which not only develops physical skills but also skills across the whole curriculum
- To create a stimulating outdoor environment in which children can feel safe, secure and confident to use the activities.
- To develop or change activities to further stimulate the children
- To make good use of outdoor space so that children are enabled to learn by working on a larger, more active scale than is possible indoors
- To provide opportunities to work independently and collaboratively with enthusiasm and perseverance
- To support the children's learning in the outdoors by sharing in their experiences and interests
- To provide appropriate adult intervention to help the children make progress in their learning and to develop and enhance the children's learning through play
- For children, appropriately clad, to access the outdoor areas and activities in most types of weather
- To provide the opportunity for children to develop their gross motor skills and their general health and fitness in the outdoor environment
- To promote social and emotional development and negotiating skills through talking with friends and sharing in their outdoor play

Policy into practice

At Holbrook Primary School we have:

- a separate outdoor areas for the Foundation Stage children to access
- a defined boundary in which the children can feel safe, secure and confident
- watchful adults to provide appropriate intervention to engage children in the learning process
- a range of large and small equipment and cross-curricular activities which help to promote interactive and independent play and sharing and physical skills
- a space for growing and caring for plants
- opportunities for self-initiated activities under adult supervision
- access to the wider environment of the school field, playground and pond area under adult supervision
- access to regular “Welly Walks” to explore the school’s local environment.

Assessment and Recording

Assessment is by systematic observations of each child's achievements and interests and by interaction with the children during their play. All assessments inform current and future planning.

Observations are recorded by all staff, and are added to the children's Foundation Stage profiles.

Inclusion

The outdoors curriculum of shared and physical activities is an important part of a child's overall development. At Holbrook Primary School we are committed to providing for each child, whatever their individual and/or special need, the opportunity to access all areas of the Foundation Stage curriculum. We adapt the facilities and activities whenever possible, to enable all children to use them. All outdoor areas are accessible by wheelchairs.

Resources

Our varied resources aim to cover all areas of learning in the Foundation Stage curriculum.

To maintain a high standard, these resources will be continually reviewed, thus enabling the maximum input in the important area of learning out of doors.

Health and Safety

As children participate in the various outdoor activities they will be learning the significance and importance of being aware of others in a physical situation. We aim to provide safe and yet challenging experiences within a controlled environment, which naturally develop children's abilities to take risks. We adhere to the school Health and safety policy.

Monitoring and evaluation

The outdoor curriculum is monitored by the Early Years teaching staff. The effective use of our outdoor space and equipment, for delivering all areas of the Foundation Stage, is evaluated through observation and by monitoring the children's progress.

Policy Review

This policy should be considered alongside other relevant policies, particularly the Outdoor Learning Policy and the PSHE Policy. It will be reviewed by the governing body as part of its schedule of policy review.