



Outdoor Learning Policy EYFS

Part of the Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust

Prepared by	<i>Tracey Naylor & Mrs Boreham EYFS Team Anne-Marie Price Headteacher</i>
Approved by the Committee/Governing body	<i>Resources</i>
Chair of Governors	<i>Wendy Lashmar</i>
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Mission Statement

As true followers of Jesus learning together, our school strives to be a community where everyone is valued, nurtured and encouraged to reach their full potential and where Christ's teaching guides responsible attitudes towards each other and the wider world.

Outdoor Learning Policy

Rationale

There must be access to an outdoor area and that outdoor activities have to be planned on a daily basis (3.59: Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage, 2021)

A well-planned learning environment, indoors and outside, is an important part of pedagogy (Development Matters, 2021)

- Being outdoors has a positive impact on children's sense of well-being and helps all aspects of children's development.
- Being outdoors offers opportunities for doing things in different ways and on different scales than when indoors.
- It gives children first-hand contact with weather, seasons and the natural world.
- Outdoor environments offer children freedom to explore, use their senses, and be physically active and exuberant (EYFS)

Aims

To enable children to experience the outdoor environment we will ensure it is a continuation of the indoor environment with continuous provision available for all children in the setting including those with special needs.

The outdoor environment will be made available throughout the whole session providing a good balance between child-initiated and adult-led experiences.

EYFS Lead responsibilities

- Ensure more than one staff member is Paediatric First Aid trained and that there is always a PFA trained member of staff on-site. A list of PFA trained staff should be displayed.
- Ensure staff are aware of any associated conditions of the allergy, e.g. asthma
- Communicate to staff on measures to reduce the risk of an allergic reaction (allergy avoidance)
- Ensure there is a first aid box accessible at all times
- Fire exits and doors are free from obstruction
- Ensure there are suitable staff ratios outside
- Maintain secure boundaries
- Communicate with staff how the outdoor area should be planned for
- Regularly evaluate with staff how the quality of learning outside maximises the impact of the achievement, personal development and wellbeing of the child (Ofsted recommendation).
- Audit and purchase resources for outdoor learning

Staff responsibilities

- Staff will ensure they are ever watchful, even if they are engrossed in an activity with a group of children
- Ensure access gates remain closed
- Maintain the correct staff to child ratios

- Ensure children are safe at all times and ensure consistent rules for behaviour are adhered to
- Model appropriate behaviour outside
- Communicate with other staff if you need to suddenly leave the area you are in e.g. assisting with individual needs (first aid, toilet, clothing etc).
- Ensure children are wearing shoes at all times
- Make sure any food or drink is covered.
- Ensure current paediatric first aid remains in date and update every three years.
- The key person must ensure that every child's care is tailored to meet their individual needs (in accordance with paragraph 1.16), to help the child become familiar with the setting, offer a settled relationship for the child and build a relationship with their parents (3.27. Statutory framework for the early years foundation stage, 2021)
- Plan for the outdoor area
- The role of the adult outside should be much the same as the role of the adult inside; to scaffold learning, observe and record
- Children should be encouraged to make their own choices and lead their own learning with appropriate support from an understanding adult
- Through observation, staff should have a deep understanding of how individual children learn best, their interests and personal motivations and are therefore able to offer appropriate individualised support to them
- All staff are responsible for setting up and clearing away equipment
- Staff should be enthusiastic about the outdoors and understand the importance of outdoor learning. Staff need to display qualities that we would like young children to develop such as enquiry, motivation, willingness to try and a positive attitude.

Health and Safety

At St Felix we ensure that children have access to outdoor learning every day, all year round. A daily health and safety check of all outdoor learning areas and equipment is carried out before taking the children out and any hazards are removed. We ensure that children wear coats, hats, gloves etc in the winter and sun hats and sun cream during the summer period (Parents responsibility to send to school).

"Physically the area has to be safe but still allow risk and challenge. Safeness is about enabling things to happen, not shutting down opportunities". (Learning outdoors in the early years – A Resource Book)

All staff will regularly discuss with our children about safety, taking risks and achieving goals and challenges in the outdoor environment.

Equality of opportunity

At St Felix we ensure that equality of opportunity outside is covered by the following:

- Ensure that all children have the ability or support to play and explore in the outdoor area.
- Monitor how children use the outdoor area.
- Provide opportunities suitable for all genders to ensure enjoyment and enthusiasm for all children.

- We will adapt the facilities and learning opportunities whenever possible, to enable all children to use them.
- We aim for our outdoor spaces to be accessible for wheelchair users.

Links with other Policies

- Medicine and Illness Policy
- Sun Safety Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Outings/Trips Policy

Please see below for further information, initiatives and projects:

A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment - <https://www.ltl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/25-year-environment-plan.pdf>

Learning outside the classroom (Ofsted) - <https://www.ltl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/ofsted-learning-outside-the-classroom.pdf>

Natural Connections Demonstration Project, 2012- 2016: Final Report: https://www.ltl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/necr215_edition_1.pdf

Signed _____

Date _____

Review Date _____