

Holymead Primary School

Foundation Stage Outdoor Learning Policy

Rationale

We believe it is important for all children to access the outside environment as much as possible throughout the seasons. It is a powerful learning medium for developing creativity and imagination across the curriculum. The outdoors can provide space and freedom for a type of learning that is difficult to replicate indoors and all children should have access to the unique and special nature of being outside.

Purposes

- To ensure children enjoy and benefit from the whole school setting throughout the year.
- To utilise all areas of the school including the grass, pond, meadow, quiet areas and playgrounds.
- To provide a safe and secure environment within which learning can take place.
- To improve children's physical health and increase large motor skills through energetic outdoor activities.
- To give children opportunities to choose their own to do things and foster problem solving.
- To ensure children have access to all areas of Development Matters in the zoned areas.
- To socialise and interact with peers and adults in a new and different way.
- To encourage children to take responsibility and care for all living things in their environment.
- To give children an opportunity to grow flowers and vegetables in order to appreciate the awe and wonder of nature.

Guidelines

Possibilities for learning will be considered throughout FS planning using all outdoor spaces as a context and natural resource for learning across the curriculum. The activities and resources will be flexible and versatile and allow children to choose, create and control their learning environment. Consideration of space will be given to children who benefit from large energetic games and resources and children who welcome calmer areas for quiet activities.

The outdoor environment will provide a safe and secure environment within which children can take risks. It is opportunity for children to learn how to be safe and be aware of others. Risk assessments will be carried out where appropriate and the School's Health and Safety Procedures followed.

All children will be included and their needs met as individuals through a diverse range of activities. The curriculum will be differentiated to support all children including those with SEN, AIM, EAL and any other protected characteristics.

Monitoring, evaluation and review

Observation, assessment and planning for the outdoor environment will ensure the children's learning is enhanced and extended.

This policy should be considered alongside FS Policy regarding monitoring, evaluation and review.

Conclusion

A well planned and resourced outdoor environment will provide learning opportunities for all children to grow and develop.

Date: April 2019

This policy will be reviewed in April 2020

Rights Respecting Schools Article 31:

All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities.

