

Outdoor Learning Policy September 2017

Mission Statement

Alverthorpe St Paul's Church of England School is built upon Christian values. We will provide the highest quality of education through an innovative and exciting curriculum. We believe that everyone should feel safe, secure, valued and respected. We aim for everyone to be the best they can be in everything they do.

Christian Values

Our Christian values underpin our school ethos. We have six values that are explored in detail as part of our collective worship. They are also addressed through the curriculum and are an integral part of our outdoor learning policy. These values are:

KOINONIA THANKFULNESS FRIENDSHIP FORGIVENESS TRUST COMPASSION

Introduction

Outdoor Learning is a broad term that includes learning through play, school grounds projects, environmental education, adventure activities, personal and social development and more. It allows children to respond positively to opportunities, challenge and responsibility, to manage risk and cope with change. This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Educational Visits Policy and the Health and Safety Policy.

Aims and Objectives

- To develop learning outside the classroom as an entitlement for all children.
- To ensure high-quality provision through Outdoor Learning activities for all year groups.
- To provide children with Learning Outdoor Learning experiences that promote personal development and wellbeing, and to empower them to take ownership of their learning.
- Increase the opportunity for language development.
- To design the curriculum so that it includes experiences for all year groups.
- To develop the skills of communication, co-operation and collaborative learning.
- Promote resilience and reflective learning.
- Promote self-esteem and self-confidence.
- To encourage children to recognise, appreciate and care for their environment.
- To provide a challenging, safe and secure environment where children can take and manage risks.

Provision

- In the Foundation Stage, a constant outdoor provision is expected and outdoor planning is an integral part of the everyday learning. Children have long periods of free-flow access to a large outdoor area which is equipped with continuous provision areas and regularly enhanced across all areas of the curriculum.
- For KS1/2 there is an expectation that children should have regular access to the outdoors as part of their learning where the activity is appropriate to an outdoor environment. Where children can stretch their understanding and problem solving skills related to subject areas and/or open ended challenges.
- KS1 has access to a small area for outdoor learning in addition to shared use of the extensive school grounds and the shared school garden.
- KS2 is developing outdoor learning. It is used as a teaching tool where appropriate. Examples include Den building linking to the Stone Age in Y3. Y4 focus on plants growing. Y5 use the wider local environment to lead on their 'Victorians' topic. In Y6, outdoor drama linked to Kensuke's Kingdom. KS2 are moving towards using the outdoor classroom in timetabled sessions to support cross-curricular learning.

Health and Safety

Foundation Stage

- Risk assessments are reviewed annually at team meetings and updated as necessary.
- Risk assessments are displayed in Nursery and a copy is kept in the risk assessment folder in the UF shared area.
- We will support children to take managed risks and to be aware of others and how to be safe.

KS1/2

- In the first instance the school's policies relating to Health and Safety, Risk Assessment and Educational Visits policies should be referred to and applied prior to any learning activity that requires support beyond that which would normally apply in the classroom.

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