



YARMOUTH C OF E (AIDED) PRIMARY
SCHOOL
OUTDOOR PLAY POLICY

Rationale:

- *'Outdoors should provide opportunities for children to engage in planned and freely chosen play experiences and should offer risk, challenge, variety and fun'.*
- *'Outdoor play is a vital element of young children's Physical, Social and Emotional development and as every practitioner knows, play is a young child's mechanism and medium for learning Therefore making the most out of outdoor play is essential, providing rich and varied experiences for children and early years settings are in a unique position to offer these.
(Learning Through Landscapes)*

Aim:

To enable children to experience the outdoor environment

- For the outdoor environment to be a continuation of the indoor environment with continuous provision available for all children in the nursery including those with special needs.
- For the outdoor environment to be made available throughout the whole session providing a good balance between child-initiated and adult-led experiences.
- To provide appropriate clothing encouraging children to experience the outdoors in all weathers.

Objectives:

We aim to:

- Provide free access to outdoor environment throughout the whole day.
- Provide continuous provision in order to encourage independent learners in the outdoor environment.
- Plan for a good balance between child-led and adult-led initiated experiences.
- Observe, access and record children's learning in the outdoor environment to inform future planning.
- Ensure the outdoor environment is seen as a continuation of the indoor environment.

Method

The staff will:

Ask Parents to:

- Provide appropriate clothing for example rain coats, waterproof pants and wellies.
- Plan for a wide range of exiting and stimulating experiences, planning to meet all children's interests
- Encourage children to be independent learners and to freely access the indoor and outdoor environment.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This will include:

- Staff observations, discussions and feedback.
- Annually discussing and reviewing the validity of the policy to ensure it is meeting the needs of the children.
- Discussion and feedback from children and parents.

Success Criteria

The principles of the Birth to Three and curriculum guidance for the foundation stage underpin the planning and organisation of the outdoor environment, ensuring all needs and interests are met.

Health and Safety (See Health and Safety Policy)

- Site supervisor to check grounds daily and carry out litter pickup
- Regular grounds maintenance
- Staff to do a visual check before children access outdoors
- Child - Adult ratio maintained
- Appropriate risk assessments to be carried out
- Regular on-going safeguarding checks.

Equal Opportunities

All children will have access to the outdoor play curriculum regardless of gender, special educational needs, race, home or cultural background.

January 2010

This policy was reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body.

Signed

Date

Review Date