St Margaret's Anfield CE Primary School

NAME OF POLICY: Early Years Foundation Stage Outdoor Learning Policy

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PRODUCED BY: Miss S Emerson

DOCUMENT STATUS

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Version 1		Adopted by Governing Body	November 17

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE OUTDOOR LEARNING POLICY

At St Margaret's Anfield CE Primary School, we believe that outdoor learning plays a vital role in providing a range of exciting learning opportunities for all children. We aim to foster children's love of learning by motivating, challenging and engaging them through outdoor play experiences.

THE NATURE OF OUTDOOR LEARNING

We aim to provide a well-planned outdoor environment that covers all aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. A well organised outdoor classroom can help to develop the child's knowledge, skills and understanding, as well as promote all of the characteristics of effective learning. Outdoor provision is an essential part of the child's daily environment and life, not an option or an extra. Each half of the indoor-outdoor environment offers significantly different, but complementary, experiences and ways of being to young children.

ENTITLEMENT

The children have the right to access the outdoor environment all year round and access to the area is available daily throughout the school session with constant adult supervision and interaction.

AIMS

As a whole staff our aims are to:

- Support the holistic development of the child
- Support the children's self-awareness and self-confidence outdoors
- Allow children to take responsibility for the outdoor area to encourage ownership of the environment.
- Provide opportunities for children to find out and discover more about the outside world.
- Promote a love of the outdoors, and allow the outdoor environment to enhance children's learning.
- Develop pupils as responsible citizens by encouraging stewardship of the outdoor areas and encouraging moral, social and cultural development.
- To ensure that outdoors is a dynamic, flexible and versatile place where children can choose, create, change and be in charge of their play environment.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Play is the means through which children find stimulation, well-being and happiness, and is the means through which they grow physically, intellectually and emotionally. We understand that our children have to first experience the world before they can think about it in the abstract. Outdoor learning can help bring learning to life. We provide opportunities within the outdoor environment that allow for a mix of independent sensory exploration and adult directed learning opportunities.

As a team we work hard to provide the resources and opportunities for the children to develop their physical movements. We are aware that sound gross motor and fine motor skills are necessary if our children are to develop successful writing skills. We aim to encourage the children to be physically active and to develop an awareness of how exercise can support the child in staying healthy.

We also aim to support the children to be safely adventurous by developing an awareness of hazards and to take informed risks. We scaffold opportunities for the children as they learn more about their environment and themselves and are supported to develop more confidence and independence.

ASSESSMENT

We ensure that the assessment of children's learning is valued equally indoors and outdoors and is part of creating a holistic picture of a child's development. Through assessment we can observe the children's needs and ensure that the environment and resources provided support the next step in the child's learning.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

A risk assessment is carried out daily to ensure that the environment is hazard free and safe for the children to access.

The children are provided with waterproof clothes and wellies if they have not been provided with any from home. All adults have waterproof clothing to ensure they are all appropriately prepared for any weather. In hot weather the children will have access to caps and areas of shade.

EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

As a team we will ensure all children, whatever their ability, are able to play and explore the outdoors within the school ground, through resources provided and adult interactions.

We know that children thrive and their minds and bodies develop best, when they have access to stimulating outdoor environments for learning through play and real-life experiences.