

# Early Years Outdoor Play Policy

## ST GEORGE'S MISSION STATEMENT

*"St. George's C of E Primary School seeks to provide a place where children can realise their full potential and maximise their academic achievement within a safe, caring, Christian setting"*

### Rationale

"The outdoors can provide a scale and freedom for a type of play that is difficult to replicate indoor."

"Children can be helped to develop independence, self-control and self-reliance if practitioners plan the environment carefully by making full use of available space, indoors and outdoors."

Curriculum Framework for Children 3 to 5

### Aim

To enable children to use the outdoor environment as a context for learning throughout the year.

### Objectives

We aim to:

- use the outdoor environment as a context and a natural resource for learning
- include the outdoor environment when planning for learning
- enable children to access the outdoor environment on a daily basis
- ensure that the outdoor environment offers children the opportunity to investigate and explore, problem solve, use their imagination and creativity
- ensure the outdoors offers children opportunities to develop their large motor skills
- ensure that children enjoy energetic activity outdoors and the feeling of well-being that it brings
- observe and assess and record the learning that happens in the outdoor environment
- give children opportunity to plan and have ownership for their learning in the outdoor environment
- help children to care for the outside environment through the context of the outdoor environment
- enable children to work on their own and with others
- enable children to develop an appreciation of natural beauty and a sense of wonder about the world
- respect the outdoor environment and to care for living things
- enable children to manage and use the space and freedom afforded by the outdoor environment
- give children the opportunity to be relaxed, enjoy and have fun outdoors
- use tools safely and effectively and to follow basic safety rules
- to grow and learn in a safe and stimulating outdoor environment

## **Method**

The staff will:

- facilitate access to the outdoor environment on a daily basis through discussion and staff meetings, planning and mutual agreement
- organise and provide necessary resources as appropriate, for example clothing, footwear, tools, etc.
- encourage children to use a variety of natural resources
- devise a set of 'rules for tools' through discussion with children

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

This will include:

- staff observations, discussions and feedback from children and parents
- discuss and review the validity of the policy to ensure it is meeting the needs of the children
- curriculum monitoring guidelines
- health and safety guidelines

## **Success Criteria**

This policy supports staff in consistently promoting the Curriculum Guidance for the Early Years document, and supports children in making progress in the five key aspects of the curriculum

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_