Rakegate Primary School

Outdoor Learning Policy 2021-2022

Outdoor Learning Policy

Intent
We endeavour for the outdoor environment to be a part of the culture of our school curriculum to offer another context for learning and maximise learning potential. The outdoor learning provision will offer a holistic approach to learning, incorporating children's individuality and developing their skills for lifelong learning. We will provide a safe area to explore and investigate, where the children can direct their own learning.

Implementation
KS1 and KS2 will plan a minimum of two lessons per half term. EYFS will plan at least two outdoor zone activities per week. These activities will take place in the woodland area, the quad, on the playground or on the field. Planning will explicitly show where outdoor learning has taken place. Staff will scaffold the children learning and offer opportunities for the children to take some ownership over their learning.

Impact
Evidence of outdoor activities such as planning, photos, observations and follow up work, will be used for monitoring purposes each term.
Outdoor learning will;

Promote children's personal, social and emotional wellbeing developing self-confidence, raising self-esteem and providing support to form positive relationships with peers.

Have a positive impact on behaviour.

Develop children's skills in teamwork and communication through collaborative learning.

Woodland area
Code of Practice
The adults (staff and any other helpers as appropriate) will model good practice throughout the session. They will carry out any delegated roles and responsibilities as deemed necessary. The adults will support the children to manage their own risks, reminding them of the rules and boundaries. Children's learning will be extended where appropriate by asking relevant questions.

Health and Safety
Please refer to schools Health and Safety policy
The health and safety of the adults and children is paramount and reinforced through regular reminders. The ethos provides opportunities for the children to develop early risk assessment strategies and understand their actions have consequences.
Every adult involved is fully aware of the schools Health and Safety, Child Protection and Equal Opportunities policies and follows the guidance within.

The leader will assess the weather conditions to ensure suitable clothing is worn. Appropriate footwear will also be required. In cases of extreme weather conditions the children will return to school.

First Aid
Please refer to schools First Aid policy
A first aid kit and any relevant medications such as epipens or inhalers will be taken to each session and all staff will be aware of any medical conditions of the children within the group. If a member of staff is injured or taken ill during a session, the children will return into school as soon as possible. Medical assistance will be sought if necessary.

Risk Assessment
Please refer to the Risk Benefit Assessment - All adults will be made aware of dangers within the outdoor learning area and always monitor the levels of safety.
The children will be made fully aware of the rules and boundaries and the importance of adhering to this.

Use of Tools
Tools will be stored safely and kept out of the reach of children. They will be cleaned after each use to prolong their life. Broken and damaged tools will not be used. Children and adults will be informed of rules, safety and how to use them before handling the tools. Children and adults will be trained in the use of each tool. Any tools and equipment used will be checked before and after use.

Emergency Procedure
In case of emergency contact will be made with the school immediately with the safety of the children in the group paramount.

Access and Inclusion
Reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure no form of discrimination happens and the outdoor learning activities are inclusive for all regardless of ability, disability, gender, race, culture etc.
Policy review date on-going

Signed: _____ Headteacher

Signed: _____ Chair or Governors

Date: _____