

The Federation of Angel Road Schools



HAPPY! HEALTHY! AIMING HIGH!

Outdoor Learning and Play Policy

Reviewed and Updated by:

Committee

at the meeting dated

Approved by the Full

Governing Body

at the meeting dated

(for policies that cannot be
fully delegated to sub-
committees)

Next due for review:date.....

Outdoor Learning and Play Policy for the EYFS

Reviewed by Lizzie Morgan June 2016

Rationale

Children are born ready, able and eager to learn. They actively reach out to interact with other people, and in the world around them. Development is not an automatic process, however. It depends on each unique child having opportunities to interact in positive relationships and enabling environments.

We know that a rich and varied environment supports children's learning and development. It gives them the confidence to explore and learn in secure and safe, yet challenging, indoor and outdoor spaces.

Aims

At Angel Road Infant School we aim:

- To provide opportunities for all children to access a well-planned outdoor environment and to meet their needs and interests through a range of resources and experiences
- To provide equipment which not only develops physical skills but also skills across the whole curriculum
- To create a stimulating outdoor environment in which children can feel safe, secure and confident
- To develop or change activities to further stimulate the children and follow their interests
- To make good use of outdoor space so that children are enabled to learn by working on a larger, more active scale than is possible indoors
- To provide opportunities to work independently and collaboratively
- To allow extended periods of time to develop enthusiasm and perseverance
- To support and further the children's learning in the outdoors by sharing in their experiences and interests
- To provide appropriate adult intervention to help the children make progress in their learning and to develop and enhance the children's learning through play
- For children to access the outdoor areas and activities in most types of weather, if appropriately dressed
- To provide the opportunity for children to develop their gross motor skills and their general health and fitness in the outdoor environment
- To promote social and emotional development and negotiating skills through talking with friends and sharing in their outdoor play

Policy into practice

At Angel Road Infant School we have:

- a separate outdoor area for the EYFS children to access
- a defined boundary in which the children can feel safe, secure and confident
- watchful adults to provide appropriate intervention to engage children in the learning process
- a range of large and small equipment and cross-curricular activities which help to promote interactive and independent play and sharing and physical skills
- a space for growing and caring for plants
- opportunities for self-initiated activities (under adult supervision)
- access to the wider environment of the school field, playground, secret garden (under adult supervision)
- access to regular “Back to Nature” sessions to explore the nearby Forest Schools site in which children can also access to a pond area

Resources

Our varied resources aim to support learning and progress in all developmental areas as outlined in the EYFS framework. Most resources for use in the outdoor learning environment can be accessed by the children independently. Others are stored in a secure shed and can only be accessed by adults when they are needed.

Observation, Assessment and Recording

Assessment is by systematic observations of each child's achievements and interests and by interaction with the children during their play. Observations help to form a holistic picture of each individual's development. Observations are recorded by all staff and these are then added to the children's learning journeys. They are also used to inform current and future planning.

Parents can also contribute to their child's learning journey to show learning that has happened in the outdoor area of the home environment.

Equality and Inclusion

At Angel Road Infant School we are committed to providing for each child, whatever their individual and/or special need, the opportunity to play and explore the outdoors within the school grounds and further afield. When and where necessary we will adapt the facilities and activities to enable *all* children access to them. We will also respect the religious beliefs, customs and traditions of individual children. Please refer to our Inclusion policy.

Health and Safety

As children participate in the various outdoor activities they will be learning the significance and importance of being aware of others in a physical situation. We aim to provide safe and yet challenging experiences within a controlled environment, which naturally develop children's abilities to take risks. We adhere to the school 'Health and Safety' policy.

A risk assessment is carried out by the EYFS leader on a regular basis to ensure that the outdoor learning area is safe for children to be in. This is shared with all EYFS staff and displayed in all reception classrooms for everyone to access. A daily 'grounds check' is also carried out and any potential hazards removed.

In the event of an accident, appropriate first aid will be administered and a record of this will be made in the accident book. A copy of this record will be given to parents at the end of the school day.

We will also adhere to the schools behaviour policy when in the outdoor area.

Monitoring and evaluation

The EYFS leader and teaching staff are responsible for monitoring and evaluating learning and play in the outdoors. The effective use of our outdoor space and equipment, for delivering all areas of the EYFS curriculum, is evaluated through observation and by monitoring the children's progress. This in turn allows EYFS staff to gauge the effectiveness of their practice and of this policy and subsequent changes made if necessary.

Policy Review

This policy should be considered alongside other relevant policies, particularly the EYFS Policy, the Teaching and Learning Policy and the PSHE Policy. It will be reviewed by the governing body as part of its schedule of policy review.