

The Friars Primary School

Cannon Street

Salford

M7 3EU

# Outdoor Learning Policy



**Happiness – Achievement – Respect - Determination**

**Written by:** Jenny Hanrahan

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## **Introduction**

Our outdoor learning policy aims to foster children's love of learning. At The Friars Primary School, we believe that all children have the right to experience the unique and special nature of being outdoors. We further believe that it is important to enable children to use the outside environment as a context for learning.

## **Intent**

- To raise the profile of Outdoor Learning.
- To empower children to take ownership of their learning.
- To encourage children to develop the skills to solve problems, developing resilient and reflective learners.
- To develop skills of communication, cooperation and collaborative learning.
- To provide a challenging, safe and secure environment within which children can take and manage risks.
- To encourage children to care for their environment
- To demonstrate to children that learning can take place outside of the classroom.
- To encourage children to use the outdoors for learning.

## **Rationale**

- Outdoor learning can provide a dramatic contrast to the indoor classroom. There is strong evidence that good quality learning outside the classroom adds much value to classroom learning. It leads to a deeper understanding of concepts that span traditional subject boundaries and which are frequently difficult to teach effectively using classroom methods alone.
- Direct experience outdoors is powerful, motivating and has impact and credibility. The results from outdoor learning can be instantaneous as well as active and therefore impact on behaviour as well as tapping into the learning styles of the more kinaesthetic learner. Through skilled teaching, outdoor experiences readily become a stimulating source of fascination, personal growth and can lead to breakthroughs in learning.
- Active learning readily develops the learning skills of enquiry, experiment, feedback, reflection, review, communication, problem solving, an enterprising attitude and cooperative learning – to name only some of the benefits.
- Outdoor Learning can help to bring learning alive. For that reason the outdoors can have an impact on areas of the curriculum as diverse as imaginative writing and personal and social development. Outdoor learning also provides experiential

opportunities allowing pupils to respond positively to opportunities, challenges and responsibilities, to manage risk and to cope with change.

### **Impact of Outdoor Learning:**

- Outdoor learning helps to ensure that children are successful learners enabling children to develop knowledge and skills in ways that add value to their everyday learning experiences.
- Outdoor learning enables children to be confident individuals and impacts positively upon young children's attitudes, beliefs and self-perceptions. Outdoor learning contributes towards creating independent learners with high self-esteem and self-sufficiency.
- Outdoor learning can have a positive impact upon children's behaviour.
- Outdoor learning contributes towards the promotion and children's understanding of the importance of developing a healthy lifestyle.
  
- Outdoor learning has a positive impact upon children's personal and social development. It can also bring about community cohesion and allow children to develop as responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to their wider community. It can create pride in the school and wider community and promote community involvement, renewing children's pride and creating a sense of belonging and responsibility.

Assessment of the children's learning will be valued equally indoors and outdoors and should be part of the same process.

### **Managing the delivery of Outdoor Learning**

Through the monitoring of teaching and learning e.g. forward planning meetings and photographs, we closely monitor the use of outdoor learning as a learning tool. Each class will deliver at least 1 outdoor lesson per half term in order to enrich children's learning.

### **Equal opportunities and inclusion**

Outdoor learning will be inclusive of all children at The Friars. We believe that every child must be provided with equal opportunities and are entitled to a learning environment that allows them to grow and develop as an individual. We aim to provide a secure outdoor environment, where all children are valued, included and are encouraged to continue to achieve their best.