



Outdoor Learning Intent

Approved by:	Liz Bennett	Date: 1 st September 2022
Reviewed on:	September 2022	
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“Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential” (EYFS statutory framework 2021)

ST PAUL'S CRAY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL - EARLY YEARS OUTDOOR LEARNING INTENT

Within this document, the term Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) refers to all the children in our Nursery and Reception classes.

What is our Intent?

- To create **enabling environments** within our outdoor learning spaces where children feel confident to have a go and take risks within their learning.
- To promote the importance of the Prime Areas within our outdoor learning spaces.
- To plan learning that will support the needs of our children and that will enhance the current topic/theme.
- To create stimulating outdoor learning opportunities that are progressive – so that Nursery and Reception are using age appropriate resources that reflect quality first teaching.
- To create outdoor learning opportunities that challenge and support learning so that children know more and remember more through the experiences offered to them.

Implementation of Outdoor Learning

- We will provide Forest School sessions for our children within Nursery and Reception. Reception will attend this for up to 6 weeks every term and Nursery will attend regularly throughout the year.
- Both classes have purpose built outdoor areas, which have been resourced appropriately for the age of the children who are using it.
- Nursery will use their outdoor area within their learning time – it will be set up with a range of outdoor activities that reflect current themes and interests of the children. Where possible, (when staffing allows), this will be more 'free flow', enabling the children to become independent and resilient learners as they may select where their child initiated learning is going to take place. Where staffing does not allow for this, there will be planned outdoor sessions where all the children go outside together with staff.
- Reception will use their outdoor area at lunchtimes and break times as an outdoor play space; this will include the use of climbing equipment and wheeled toys. Outdoor learning for Reception will be very different and will be taught mainly within small groups with a targeted adult led focus. Children will be taught the difference between outdoor learning and playtime. Where staffing does not allow for this, there will be planned outdoor sessions within the week where all the children go outside together.
- Both Nursery and Reception have covered areas so outdoor learning can still take place under cover if the weather is poor.
- Learning will be planned and will be different to what is being taught inside.
- Behaviour for learning expectations will be the same as inside – staff will follow our behaviour policy. Outdoor learning will be fully inclusive.
- Staff will interact with children in a positive way, developing **positive relationships**; they will be modelling high quality language and scaffolding the learning so that each **unique child** is able to make the most of the outdoor learning opportunities available.
- We recognise that the three characteristics of effective teaching and learning - playing and exploring, active learning and creating and thinking critically – are essential within outdoor learning.
- Outdoor equipment and areas will be regularly checked and a risk assessment will be carried out daily.
- There will be times within the week where children will have opportunities for child initiated and adult focussed learning outside – staff will be taking observations within these times in order to plan for next steps. **Learning and development** outside will involve all staff.