



Rettendon Primary School

Learning out of doors policy for the Foundation Stage

Rationale

"Children learn by moving, and movement needs space. Only through ready access to the outdoors and stimulating outdoor provision can a child's physical development, personal, social and emotional wellbeing and learning across the curriculum flourish."

Marjorie Ouvry, 2001

"To be effective, an Early Years curriculum should be carefully structured. This includes planned and purposeful activity that provides opportunity for teaching and learning, both indoors and out."
Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation stage

Aims

At Rettendon Primary 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 use the activities.
- To develop or change activities to further stimulate the children.
- 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 with enthusiasm and perseverance.
- To support 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, appropriately clad, to access the outdoor areas and activities in all types of weather.
- 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 Rettendon Primary School we have:

- Two separate outdoor areas for the Foundation Stage children to access.
- Defined boundaries 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.
- 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 under adult supervision.

Development

At Rettendon Primary School our aim is constant improvement through continually reviewing our resources and facilities.

Although we enjoy two outdoor areas in which to access all areas of the Foundation Stage curriculum, we feel there is even greater potential for their use as positive learning environments.

Our objectives are, subject to available funding:

- To provide equipment on a more permanent basis so that activities are more easily accessible at any time.
- To provide a sit and rest and sheltered area alongside the curricular, physical and creative activities.
- To develop a garden or environmental area to enrich the outdoor experience for all our children.

Inclusion

The outdoors curriculum of shared and physical activities is an important part of a child's overall development. At Rettendon Primary School we are committed to providing for each child, whatever their individual and/or special need, the opportunity to access all areas of the Foundation Stage curriculum. We adapt the facilities and activities whenever possible, to enable all children to use them.

Resources

Our varied resources aim to cover all areas of learning in the Foundation Stage curriculum. To maintain a high standard, these resources will be continually reviewed, thus enabling the maximum input in the important area of learning out of doors.

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 and awareness. We adhere to the school Health and safety policy.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The outdoor curriculum is monitored by the Early Years Co-ordinator. The effective use of our outdoor spaces and equipment, for delivering all areas of the Foundation Stage, is evaluated through observation and by monitoring the children's progress. Medium and short term planning are regularly reviewed.

Signed: S Marsh

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