Approved: Summer 2024
Review Due: Summer 2026

THE GLEBE PRIMARY SCHOOL

EYFS Outdoor Play Policy

Early Years Foundation Stage Outdoor Play Policy

The Glebe Primary School is a Rights Respecting School.

RRSA Article 29: Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full.

1. Aims

This policy aims to ensure:

- That children have access to an outdoor area which is an integral part of the everyday routine.
- That the quality and consistency in teaching and learning is continued outdoors so that every child makes good progress and no child gets left behind
- A range of experiences for the children and the opportunity to practice skills and explore the world they live in.
- That every child has the opportunity to experience outdoor play which support and develops their physical, mental and emotional development.

2. Legislation

At The Glebe Primary School we implement the guidance set out in statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) for 2023.

Children's entitlement to high quality outdoor play experiences is strongly endorsed throughout this statutory framework and we have a strong commitment to ensuring that all children have the opportunity to engage in outdoor play on a daily basis.

- Our aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum which will enable each child to develop personally, socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically, creatively and intellectually to his/her full potential, is also reflected through the outdoor area.

3. Curriculum

The EYFS states:

'Being outdoors has a positive impact on children's sense of well-being and helps all aspects of children's development. Being outdoors offers opportunities for doing things in different ways and on different scales than when indoors. It gives children first-hand contact with weather, seasons and the natural world. Outdoor environments offer children freedom to explore, use their senses, and be physically active and exuberant.'

At The Glebe Primary School, we ensure that learning outdoors is given equal status as indoor learning and is planned for as an integral part of the play and learning provision for EYFS. Children have daily access to the outdoor environment for both continuous provision and focused activities. Wherever possible, inside and outside should complement one another, and learning in one area should reinforce learning in the other. Therefore, planning links to our themes and literacy and math's learning, extending skills by providing opportunities on a larger scale.

Our outdoor curriculum is outlined in the 2023 statutory framework of the EYFS in the same way as our indoor curriculum and is therefore underpinned by the 3 characteristics of effective learning, the 3 Prime areas and the 4 specific area. (See our Early Years, Foundation Stage Policy for details)

4. Planning and Teaching

As our outdoor area is an extension of the teaching and learning in the indoor area, activities and experiences are planned for in the same way. The resources provided encourage and support the children's learning and develop in all areas of the curriculum and are therefore planned and taught in the same way as indoor activities or experiences. (See our Early Years, Foundation Stage Policy for details)

5. Safeguarding

- When working outdoors with the children we believe that they should be allowed to take reasonable risks and face the challenges of being outdoors. They will be engaged in range of activities which encourage them to take some small calculated risks, which may include climbing, digging, jumping, riding bikes etc.
- All EYFS practitioners are responsible for the safety on the children at all times. All outdoor play equipment is checked at least once a week and is removed if broken or dangerous. It is the responsibility of every member of staff to ensure that the outdoor area is safe and secure before allowing the children access.
- Staff will ensure that all children are dressed appropriately for the weather conditions.

6. Safety

Staff outdoors must always be aware of the safety of the children in their care, be vigilant at all times and never leave the area for any reason unless another member of staff has taken over responsibility. Staff must be made aware of any medical needs of children outside. If an accident occurs outdoors, the pupil will be treated, and forms completed outdoors as appropriate. Only in exceptional circumstances, if there is a serious accident (such as a fracture), should children be cared for outside. In the event of a serious accident more staff will obviously be needed outside.

7. Hot weather

- All children and staff are advised to wear a sun hat.
- Parents are requested to apply sun protection cream (SPF15 or more) to their child prior to attending the setting. Children may then 'top' this up during the day, if parents have provided the cream in their bag.
- Children and staff are encouraged to drink more water when playing outside.
- Children are directed to areas of shade where appropriate, particularly during the hottest parts of the day (11am-3pm).

8. Cold weather

- All children are required to attend the setting with a suitable warm and waterproof outdoor coat, hat or hood and gloves or mittens.
- If it is wet underfoot or raining we ask that children should wear boots and have alternative indoor footwear.

9. Policies

Any policies mentioned within this document can be viewed by contacting the school office.

10. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed every two years. At every review, the policy will be shared with the governing board.

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This Policy has been approved at a meeting of the full Governing Body of the Glebe Primary School

On: Summer 2024

To be Reviewed: Summer 2026

Chair of Governors:

Gill Broome