

GREAT COATES VILLAGE NURSERY SCHOOL

POLICY FOR

OUTDOOR PLAY

Reviewed every 3 years.
November 2022
To be reviewed November 2025

“The outdoor area has a special value, a place of space, changing light, temperature and sense. It is of no surprise therefore that it can fully engage children in a way that is wonderful to behold.”

Claire Warden ‘Nurture Through Nature’

“Outdoor learning complements indoor learning and is equally important. Play and learning that flow seamlessly between indoors and outdoors enable children to make the most of the resources and materials available to them and develop their ideas without unnecessary interruption.”

The Early Years Foundation Stage

Rationale

We recognise that children are active learners and that brain and body develop together. Outdoor play offers unique opportunities that cannot be provided indoors. Outdoor play enables us to build on children’s natural motivation to be outside as well as promoting active healthy lifestyles. If we are to support children’s holistic development outdoor play must be an integral part of our practice.

Aims

- We aim to provide a safe and secure, yet stimulating environment for all children to explore, engage and learn in the outdoor area.
- We aim to provide experiences that will enable all children to progress in all aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- We aim to ensure that all staff understand the value of outdoor play and so are enthusiastic and active in their approach to learning outside.

Objectives

- All children will be given the opportunity to access the outdoor area each session, moving freely between indoors and outdoors. During the colder months we may split the outdoor and indoor times rather than moving freely between both areas due to growing fuel costs.
- The resources provided will support learning across the curriculum.
- Planning will reflect individual interests and will develop group work.
- The “Golden Rules” will be promoted in the outdoor area to promote a safe and secure environment.
- Practitioners will have regard for health and safety whilst allowing opportunity for positive risk taking.

- Practitioners will act as positive role models and facilitators of children's learning.
- Equality of play opportunities will be promoted by all adults supporting outdoor sessions.

Forest School

What is Forest School?

"Forest School is an inspirational process, that offers ALL learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees"

Forest School Association

The Benefits of Forest School

- Links in with the EYFS
- Develops health physically, mentally and emotionally
- Provides opportunity for children to take risks and provide a challenge
- Develops confidence and self esteem
- Learn life skills
- To work as part of a group
- Develop independence
- Develop imaginative skills
- Positive communications
- Social skills
- Develop physical skills
- Develop an understanding of the natural world around them
- Become more motivated
- Develops a positive approach to learning
- To learn how to use tools
- To learn survival skills, for example, fire lighting and building shelters

Forest School Activities

Activities include:

Den building, lighting fires, cooking on fires using a Dutch oven, making drinks using a Kelly kettle, using a range of tools, making crafts using natural resources, rope trail, nature trail, observing mini beasts and circle times.

Policy Review and Evaluation

Policy written Summer term 2019.

Review Record

- ❖ Policy adopted by the Governing Body at the **Autumn Term meeting 27/11/19**.
- ❖ Policy reviewed by the Governing Body at the Curriculum Meeting 2/11/22
Changes made to 'free flow' play being split inside and outside during the colder months to save fuel costs.