

# KIRKLEVINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

## OUTDOOR PLAY POLICY

Opportunities for indoor and outdoor play are crucial to providing the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum for young children.

Fresh air and exercise are important factors in promoting good physical health. Outdoor play will be encouraged in all weathers, with the appropriate care taken to protect children.

The safety of children accessing this area is crucial, a full risk assessment will be carried out and reviewed regularly\* (Bi monthly/3monthly)

Prior to any child accessing the outdoor area a member of staff will complete a full 'daily check' of the area and all the equipment and remove any potential hazards. Although the principles of continuous outside play will be adopted, the safety and wellbeing of children will always be prioritised and outside play may be temporarily restricted if this compromises children's safety.

When children are independently free flowing from indoors to outdoors health & safety must be considered as a priority:

Children must be supervised at all times.

A minimum of one member of staff will be outside at any one time.

Should a child have an accident then contingency plans must be in place highlighting what to do in this case.

Due to the children independently accessing the outdoor space staff need to be vigilant and have a system in place that will ensure the children's whereabouts at all times.

A fire plan should outline a route to the fire collection point should a fire break out in nursery whilst children are outside playing.

A varied play experience will be provided outdoors as well as indoors.

To enable children to fully experience play opportunities offered parents are requested not to send children to nursery/school in expensive clothing that could

restrict play opportunities that children are able to participate in.

The following factors will be taken into consideration in different weather conditions:

### **Hot weather**

Children will be encouraged to play outdoors, however a risk assessment will be taken to determine if in the interest of children's safety outdoor play may be restricted at the hottest parts of the day.

Shade will be provided in the outdoor area.

Children will be encouraged to drink water regularly.

Children will be encouraged to wear sun hats and parents/carers will be asked to apply sun cream to their child before the nursery/school session begins.

### **Wet weather**

Suitable waterproof clothing will be provided to enable children to be able to experience splashing in puddles, playing in the rain or snow.

### **Cold weather**

Children will be dressed appropriately with coats, hats and gloves before playing out.

Where possible the school will try to build up a spare bank of additional clothing that can be used in emergencies to enable the children to continue to access the outdoors.

### **Staff Ratios**

At all times, staff:child ratios (both inside and outside) should be maintained within Ofsted guidance. A risk assessment should be undertaken and a contingency plan developed to ensure children's safety should ratio's change in the event of unforeseen incidents.