

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

St Joseph's school is a Christian community in which individuals are valued and respected, and encouraged to reach their full potential and be

'The Best They Can Be'

Faith, Hope, Love.



Outdoor Learning Area

SAFEGUARDING POLICY CROSS REFERENCE

Please read this policy in conjunction with the School Safeguarding Policy alongside the guidance found in the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Board Handbook www.gscb.org.uk/handbook and the guidance on safer working practices outlined in www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/safeguardingandsocialcare/safeguardingchildren/safeguardingadvisernetwork/sanetwork

Our ethos is one that nurtures education through recognition and celebration of all children's experiences and achievements, whatever the context. Each child is unique and made in the likeness of God. Every child should succeed at their own level and be praised for this success

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Other relevant policies: Safeguarding, EYFS, First Aid

Aims

At St Joseph's Primary School, outdoor play is seen as an integral part of our provision in Early Years. Both the indoor and outdoor environment will support all of the EYFS Prime and Specific areas of learning, so that whether a child chooses to explore indoors or outdoors they will be able to access all areas of the curriculum.

The provision and planning for outdoor play; just as indoor play, must reflect the diversity and richness of the experience and developing interests of the children and allow opportunities for **risky play** in a safe, managed environment. At St Joseph's we want to develop resilient, resourceful, reflective and reciprocal learners who will develop a lifelong love of the outdoors and of learning. The outcomes for the children in our care are enhanced by an exciting and stimulating outdoor provision to enable the children to develop fine and gross motor skills.

This policy should be read in conjunction with our EYFS Policy and EYFS Rationale.

Risk

Taking risks can have positive implications in the development of children's personal, social and emotional development as well as their overall health. By providing children with the opportunity to experience and to manage their own risk within a controlled environment we will help them develop vital skills for adulthood and to be able to face the unpredictable nature of the world.

By depriving children of all risk, we are depriving them of building vital life skills; such as the ability to cope with stressful situations, ability to manage risk and effective social skills. Children's involvement in 'deep play' which brings them into contact with risk is important for children to push their limits and to make progress. At St Joseph's we encourage children and staff to develop a '**Be the best you can be**' attitude which will help develop persistence, creativity, curiosity as well as motivation, communication and collaboration.

The outdoor area at St Joseph's Primary School is well laid out, comprises two parts and provides for:

Enclosed EYFS only area:

- Risky, challenging and exciting play

- Covered area under the outside shelter
- Tyres that are regularly planted with seasonal fruit and vegetables throughout the year.
- 'Bug Hotel' and nature area with natural materials and shrubs to attract insects and to provide opportunities for finding mini-beasts
- A sandpit that is covered at the end of each day to protect the sand from animals
- A mud kitchen
- A water area and water wall which is emptied and refreshed regularly (by the children where practical and supervised by an adult)
- A quiet area for stories, chat and reflection
- A large area for large scale construction and development of gross motor skills
- Large and small blackboards providing opportunities for mark making
- Guttering/planks/logs/tyres to encourage problem solving and gross motor development

Larger enclosed playground, shared with whole school:

- A large log trail to develop gross motor, balance skills and turn taking
- A large tarmac covered area and grass field providing opportunity for running, cycling and scooting, to develop gross motor and balance skills

The role of the adult

Adults should be **actively** involved with children in their games and activities where appropriate and should not be solely in a supervisory role.

Adults should be:

- Communicating with children in a variety of ways (conversing, discussing, questioning, modelling and commentating)
- Helping children to find solutions to their problem
- Extending their activities by making extra resources available and providing new ideas
- Providing a range of natural resources and materials for the children to explore wherever possible
- Initiating games and activities
- Joining in games and activities when invited by children
- Observing, assessing and recording
- Being aware of balancing risk against benefit to allow the children to explore in a risky, yet safe way
- Being aware of every child's equal right of access to a full outdoor curriculum which is broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated regardless of race, culture, religion, gender or disability
- Evaluating observations in order to plan appropriate resources, experiences and possible lines of development (PLD)

In these ways adults are making positive contributions to the children's play and setting up challenging, stimulating, risky experiences for children.

Managing risk in the outdoor area

- When setting out the equipment each day and during sessions, staff must look out for and remove any hazards e.g. mushrooms, broken toys etc.
- Staff must always be aware of the safety of the children in their care, be vigilant at all times and ensure that children who are outside are visible.
- If only one member of staff is in class, the children will have access to the EYFS outdoor environment and the adult in charge should position themselves so as to have the best view of indoor and outdoor area
- Hot liquids should not be consumed in any learning areas whilst children are present, unless the container has a lid. Hot liquids must not be left unattended
- All equipment should be stored away sensibly and carefully, to allow for safe and easy removal next day. The outdoor area should be tidy at the end of each day. Particular attention should be paid to equipment left in a position when water could collect in it overnight
- Children should be encouraged to help to tidy up; including picking up litter, stray toys and folding materials to be stored for the following day
- If a child is injured, and there is only one adult in class, all children should be brought inside, so as to ensure supervision, and one child sent to the office to get help. Details of the accident must be written up as soon as possible in the accident book. The child's parent must be informed of the accident and treatment at the end of the day.