



St Luke's C.E. Primary School

EYFS – Outdoor Policy

Langport Avenue
Longsight
Manchester
M12 4NG

Outside Play Area

used by Nursery and Reception children only

- Large EYFS playground
 - Large climbing equipment
 - Wheeled toys
 - Mud kitchen
 - Planters
 - Nature garden
 - Sand/Water areas
 - Wooden block construction
 - Small world play
 - Den Making
 - Literacy Area - reading/writing resources
 - Story benches
- Grass Area with planters and play houses
 - Play houses for imaginative play
 - Fairy garden - creative play
 - Vegetable planters
 - Fire circle - (see Forest School Policy)
- Quad Area - Quiet garden area
 - Benches
 - Planters
 - Musical instruments + wind chimes

Principles of Outdoor Play

The outside learning environment offers children the opportunity to access and discover the whole EYFS Curriculum through a wide range of exciting, stimulating and challenging experiences. Outside learning is equally as important as the inside classroom and is an important aspect of every child's growth and development. When working outside, children not only develop their physical skills but also their communication, linguistic, problem solving, personal, social and emotional skills.

Specific Role of Adults

EYFS practitioners engage the children with a range of teaching methods:

- Focused teaching in small groups
- Individual teaching
- Team teaching - whole class
- Observing, directing and targeting children for specific teaching
- Supporting social interactions, sharing, turn taking, supporting social skills
- Modelling language, questioning, introducing and reinforcing taught vocabulary in practical situations.
- Children also spend time collaborating with their peers independently under the supervision of an adult. This develops social skills and builds a sense of independence and resilience.

Health and Safety

- The outdoor equipment is set up by staff before the children start the school day.
- Tidy up time - children are actively involved in the tidying up process under careful staff supervision. Throughout the day, children are encouraged to keep resources tidy and off the floor to prevent accidents.
- Regular safety and equipment monitoring checks are carried out by EYFS staff and the Site Managers.
- Outdoor resources should be well maintained, safe and help to provide a stimulating learning environment for the children.
- Plants, shrubs, weeds and branches are pruned regularly by EYFS staff and gardeners.
- EYFS staff hold paediatric First Aid Certificates.
- Minor bumps and grazes will be treated by first aiders and parents will be informed at the end of the day verbally and given a first aid note. If a child is unwell, distressed or if an injury is more serious, parents will be contacted.
- Children are always supervised in the outside area in line with EYFS staffing ratios.
- Children are directed to wash hands when entering the classroom after an outside play session.
- Children are taught to wash their hands after handling minibeasts or natural objects which they find in the outside area.
- Large climbing frame - only 6 children allowed to play on it at any time and always supervised by a member of staff.
- Climbing areas and soft surfaces not used in wet conditions.
- Canopy provides shelter for children to work under when raining.
- Fire circle - Forest School practitioner does this activity with groups of children (see Forest School Policy)

- EYFS staff should be constantly aware of what is going on and where children are outside.
- After tidying up outside, staff should ensure that all children have returned indoors. The member of staff should be the last one to return indoors.
- Staff should be aware of situations which may be dangerous, and if unable to prevent accidents, can appropriately respond to them.
- Children who have had accidents outside should be passed to an adult inside for treatment. Only in exceptional circumstances, if there is a serious accident (such as a fracture), should children be cared for outside.
- Clothing:
 - Footwear - strong shoes with grip on the soles to help children climb and run safely. Wellies can be kept in school for your child to change into when the ground is muddy/wet.
 - Coat - warm coat which can be fastened in cold weather ideally with a hood to protect from the rain
 - Scarves, head dresses, hats with long tassels or pom poms must not be worn in the EYFS for safety and safeguarding reasons. Children are using climbing equipment and these can become entangled causing a choking hazard.
 - Jewellery - Earrings, necklaces, rings and bracelets must not be worn in school at any time as they can get caught on equipment during play and cause injuries.

Weather Conditions

- Children access the outside learning area all year round.
- Staff ensure children are dressed appropriately before working outside i.e. coat, strong shoes, wellies, hat + gloves if needed.
- Rain jackets and trousers will be provided if children do not have adequate clothing in school.
- Children are sent inside to change if they become too wet or cold.
- Staff constantly monitor weather conditions and children's welfare.
- On colder days, staff encourage children to be active, moving around as much as possible. Opportunities for learning are planned to account for the weather. For example, it may be more appropriate to count objects while moving around the playground and counting footsteps rather than sitting at a table counting beads.