



St James & Emmanuel
Academy Trust



Didsbury CE
Primary School

EYFS - Outdoor Play Policy

Didsbury CE/West Didsbury CE Primary School EYFS Outdoor Play Policy

Principles of Outdoor Play

Outdoor play is an important aspect of every child's growth and development. The Early Years Foundation Stage outdoor area offers children the opportunity to access and discover the whole EYFS Curriculum through many exciting, stimulating and challenging experiences. When playing outside children not only develop their physical skills but also their communication, linguistic, problem solving, personal, social and emotional skills. We believe that our outdoor area is as important as the indoor provision we provide and that the two should complement each other.

Specific Role of Adults

Many people associate the role of the adult in the outdoor area as being one of a supervisory nature only. Whilst obviously it is crucial that both the environment and the activities going on within it are safe, if this is the only focus for adults outside, many opportunities for learning and development will be missed.

EYFS staff should act as role models, to support children in developing skills, and in some situations, to teach them new skills. When appropriate, EYFS staff should be actively involved in playing with the children. While staff need to be sensitive to the children and know when it is or isn't appropriate to become part of the play, it is not enough to always take on a 'looking on' role. For the play to be successful and meaningful, staff need to interact and collaborate with the children, and where appropriate support, stimulate and model creative thinking and ideas to children.

Here at Didsbury CE, our EYFS staff want outdoor play to be exciting, stimulating and rewarding for all involved.

Health and Safety

We are aware that Health and Safety outside is crucial, and that good organisation in setting up and tidying the outdoor area is essential. In Nursery, the outdoor play equipment should be set up by staff before the children start the school day (and stored to the side of the walkway into Nursery) or one member of staff can set up the equipment in the playground when children are in the classroom with the other member of staff, and all doors are securely closed. In Reception, the outdoor play equipment should be set up by staff before the children start the school day or one member of staff can set up the equipment in the playground when children are in the classroom with the other member of staff and all doors are securely closed. No more than 4 helpers should be selected to help the member of staff set out the equipment. No children will be

unsupervised and playing on their own in the playground while equipment is being set up.

To ensure that 'tidy up time' is safe, we bring the outdoor play session to an end by saying "123 and Stop!" Children should be asked to stop what they are doing and listen for instructions on how to help tidy up.

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 usually 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.

Outdoor resources should be well maintained, safe and help to provide a stimulating learning environment for the children.

All hot drinks must be in a safety mug. No hot drinks are to be taken into or carried around the playground during teaching time.