



# **Hamp Nursery & Infants' School**

## **Outdoor Learning Policy 2020/2021**

# Hamp Nursery and Infants' School

## OUTDOOR LEARNING POLICY

September 2020

Outdoor learning is an important aspect of every child's growth and development. The Outdoor area offers children the opportunity to access and discover all areas of both the EYFS and KS1 curriculum. When children engage in outdoor learning, they not only develop their physical skills but also their creative, linguistic, problem solving, personal, social and emotional skills.

We believe that our outside areas are as important as the inside provision that we provide, and that the two should complement each other.

### Aims

- ❖ To make sure that all children are happy and confident in school.
- ❖ To help all children meet their full potential and celebrate their achievements.
- ❖ To offer all children equal access to a broad, balanced and exciting curriculum in the outdoors.
- ❖ To give children the chance to work together and on their own.
- ❖ To encourage children to become more independent with their own learning.
- ❖ To provide all children with a safe outdoor environment that helps them want to learn.
- ❖ To work together with all our parents and the wider community to create lifelong learning.
- ❖ To value the contributions of our whole staff team by making sure all have access to on-going learning and development.

### Rationale

**At Hamp Nursery and Infants' School we believe that:**

- ❖ Play is at the heart of childhood.
- ❖ Play is a central part of the learning process and it is play that helps to develop the children's skills.
- ❖ Play teaches children and young people many life skills that can be taught, such as risk taking, social skills, motor skills, building friendships and learning about boundaries.
- ❖ Play is satisfying to the child and freely chosen by the child. It may be serious, or it may be light hearted. It may produce something, or it may be done simply for its own sake.
- ❖ Play is at the heart of our school. A healthy and safe school will be one where we see children using the indoor and outdoor environment equally to develop and enhance their learning alongside all other members of the school community.

**At Hamp Nursery and Infants' School we aim to promote Outdoor learning by:**

- ❖ **Improving Access and the School Environment:** Ensuring that all children have access to rich, inclusive, stimulating and challenging outdoor learning environments.
- ❖ **Involving Children and Parents/Carers:** Working in partnership with children and parents/carers to listen to their views, respond to their needs and to include them in the delivery and evaluation of outdoor learning opportunities.
- ❖ **Including Risk:** Accepting that children have an innate desire to seek out opportunities to take risks as part of growing up. We will respond positively to this by extending the range of environments and opportunities available for children's independent learning while continuing to have due regard for their wellbeing.
- ❖ **Inclusive Outdoor Play:** Recognising that all children have a right to play and learn in the outdoor environment. Hamp Nursery and Infant School will work closely with all children and parents/carers to always consider what steps need to be taken to make learning through play in the outdoor provision as inclusive as possible for all our children.
- ❖ **Promoting the Value of independent learning:** Seeking to promote the value of independent learning and an understanding of why independent learning is important and how it supports children's development to all of the school's stakeholders.
- ❖ **Planning and Outdoor learning:** Ensuring outdoor learning will be a central component of all planning related documents produced by the school. Identifying a member of the school who will take a particular interest in the outdoor learning provision.
- ❖ **Providing Support and Building Capacity:** Continually looking for ways of supporting staff through better training and increasing the status of outdoor learning throughout the school.

### **Outdoor learning and the school curriculum**

At Hamp Nursery and Infants' School we use the vehicle of play and outdoor learning to provide many opportunities to bring about effective teaching and learning.

This Outdoor Learning policy is written as part of our commitment to: 'Every Child Matters' Agenda (2003) and the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto (2006).

### **The Policy links to:**

Citizenship Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy, Cultural Awareness Policy, Personal, Social, Health and Emotional Development Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Behaviour Policy, Healthy Schools and SEAL.

### **E Safety Statement**

E safety forms part of this, and all other policies. E safety rules, practices and procedures will therefore be followed by staff and pupils at all times.

### **The role of the Head teacher:**

- ❖ To oversee, monitor and evaluate the school's policy relating to Outdoor Learning.
- ❖ To provide a leading presence which encourages the positive ethos of Play/Learning within the outdoor environment.

### **The role of the Outdoor Learning Co-ordinator:**

- ❖ To maintain the Outdoor Learning portfolio.
- ❖ To oversee the monitoring of planning for, and delivery of, Outdoor Learning across the school.
- ❖ To facilitate regular Outdoor Play based events that respond to the interests and needs of the children.
- ❖ To identify areas for development by consulting parents/carers, governors, staff and pupils.
- ❖ To oversee the Forest School set within the school grounds.
- ❖ To continue to develop own qualifications and skills.
- ❖ To ensure all staff adhere to the guidelines within the Forest School Handbook.
- ❖ To develop Outdoor Play and Learning accordingly for all year groups and to deploy staff accordingly to both support and develop the use of available resources.

### **❖ The role of the class teachers and support staff:**

- ❖ To plan for and incorporate outdoor learning opportunities in specific lessons, and across the curriculum, which promote raised self-esteem for pupils.
- ❖ To have an on-going knowledge of each pupil's participation in outdoor learning and provide details of this through the personal comments in the child's annual report.
- ❖ Encourage children to take responsibility increasingly for themselves and their own actions.
- ❖ Work closely with parents and carers to develop positive attitudes to outdoor learning.

### **The role of the pupils:**

- ❖ To know that their outdoor play and learning will be supported, encouraged and valued.
- ❖ To affirm their own strengths, qualities, skills and successes.
- ❖ To take responsibility for themselves and their own actions and learning.
- ❖ To act upon and apply skills learnt in play both within school and their lives in the wider community.
- ❖ To show commitment to, and behave in accordance with, the school rules.

### **The role of governors:**

- ❖ It is the responsibility of the Governing Body to make sure all practices and policies relating to outdoor learning are implemented.
- ❖ To receive reports from the Head teacher and monitor the policy in accordance

with the review cycle.

**Policy Review:**

The Outdoor learning Policy will be reviewed annually by the Outdoor Learning Co-ordinator

Signed - Outdoor Learning Co-ordinator

Signed - Head teacher

Signed - Chair of Governors

## Action Plan

Action	Who is responsible	Time scale	Resources/ Fundraising	Outcome
Create a playground duty rota for Key stage one playground	Wendy Bryant	Must be available to all staff on first day of each term	Create using the computer. Key stage 1 template available	On-going each half term
Set up outdoor learning boxes for Reception Area.	Mrs Sharon Bonas	To be ready to use during Autumn term 1 - 2016	Mrs Bonas to resource boxes from classes and outdoor areas/stores	Achieved - Boxes resourced and in place in reception outdoor area.
Create and develop Forest School area within the school grounds	Wendy Bryant and SLT	By end July 2017	Arrange fundraising activities/discussion with SLT on trees, wild flowers & fencing.	
To complete Level 3 Forest Leaders course	Wendy Bryant	By December 2016	Funding in place from previous year	All tasks completed October 2016