



Outdoor Policy

Aim:

At St. Bartholomew's Nursery we have a shared vision with Scotland and strive to give all our children 'the best possible start to life through access daily to out-doors play based learning to be successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

Role of Children:

- Children will be encouraged to risk assess.
- To have fun.
- Explore – free play and have contact with nature.
- Participate in a wide range of activities that will support a healthy lifestyle.
- Develop the skills to access and manage risk.
- Experience personal achievement and build confidence.
- Explore and make choices.
- Develop physical skills through movement and energetic play.
- A sense of belonging and pride in our garden.
- Confidence, self-esteem, independence and a sense of security/adventure as they acquire new skills.
- Develop a concern for their outdoor environment and nurturing it.

Role of Staff:

Create a safe environment for our children to explore, challenge themselves through supervised, managed risky play using all aspects of outdoors. Catering to individual and group needs for all stages of early years.

- Create a quality outdoor learning environment.
- Embrace the outdoors, understand benefits, values and ethos.
- Risk assess environment and equipment; including our children.
- Understand how to use and adapt outdoor environment for broad child lead learning experiences through play.
- Facilitate children's understanding of responsibility; protecting and nurturing our environment.
- Staff will model positive relationships and behaviours.
Provide waterproof jacket and trousers.
- Continuous staff training and development.
- Staff agree that as a team we are all responsible for setting up and clearing away equipment. Including securing and locking sheds and storage.
- Our outdoors environment is continually being developed and evaluated to maximise child engagement following children's ideas, interests and needs.

Role of the parents/carers:

- Parents and carers are welcome to volunteer to help maintain and develop our garden area, when safe to do so.
- Feedback and development ideas for our garden area.
- Dress children appropriately for the weather. For example; sun hats, woolly hats, gloves etc.
- Provide the nursery wellie boots for wet outdoor play.
- Apply sunscreen prior to attending nursery and supply a named bottle of sunscreen for the staff to apply throughout the day if necessary.

Signed: *Maxine Connolly*

Reviewed: November 2023

