



Saint Brendan's Nursery Class



Outdoor Play Policy

"There is a growing body of research that shows that young children's access to nature and outdoor play is positively associated with improved self-esteem, physical health, development of language skills and disposition to learning." (Davy, 2009)

Aims

Through access to a range of outdoor activities children will:

- 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.

To continue to improve the Nursery outdoor area in order to provide children with the choice of experiencing all curricular areas outdoors throughout the nursery session.

To this end, staff should:

- Include the outdoor area when planning for learning
- Give children the opportunity to be involved in the planning of their learning
- Provide the children with opportunities to care for living things e.g. plant/fruit/vegetables
- Help children to care for outdoor environment e.g. by raising awareness of litter
- Enable children to develop an appreciation of natural beauty and a sense of wonder about the world
- Provide opportunities for children to enjoy energetic activity outdoors and the feeling of wellbeing that it brings
- Ensure that the outdoors offers children opportunities to develop their motor skills
- Ensure that the outdoor area provides children with the opportunity to investigate, explore, problem solve and to use their imagination to develop their creativity skills
- Provide opportunities for the children to play both co-operatively and independently
- Enable children to be safe in their movement and in using tools and equipment

Staff Responsibilities

Staff should:

- Follow risk assessment which are updated regularly
- Organise and provide necessary resources as appropriate, for example, shade, shelter, clothing, footwear, tools, sun cream, first aid boxes etc.
- All weather clothing is supplied and available for staff and children
- Be aware of sun cream policy
- Be aware of hygiene policy (hand washing)
- Risk assessment of the outdoor area is continual throughout the day as circumstances may change e.g. the weather
- Ensure an appropriate staff: pupils ratio is maintained
- Ensure clearing/tidying of outdoor area is completed
- Ensure outdoor yard is swept and storage area is kept tidy/organised

Monitoring/Evaluating

Outdoor play will be monitored through Staff planning, evaluations and review meetings

Reviewed: June 2024

Reviewed: June 2025

Reviewed: June 2026

Review by: June 2027