

**Outdoor Play**

**Rationale**

*The outdoor environment provides an ideal setting to allow children to develop curiosity, be active in their learning and develop a sense of physical, mental and emotional well-being, through participation in a range of experiences and spontaneous social interaction.*

*A Curriculum for Excellence*

**Aims**

At Woodlands Nursery Class we aim to provide a safe, stimulating outdoor environment where space is used effectively to enable children to explore a broad and balanced curriculum using a range of interesting resources suitable to their individual needs.

**Objectives**

We will:

* Enable children to access the outdoors on a daily basis
* Ensure that the outdoors offers children the opportunity to investigate and explore, problem solve and use their imagination and creativity
* Ensure that the outdoors offers children opportunities to develop their large motor skills
* Ensure that children enjoy energetic activity outdoors and the feeling of well-being which that brings
* Give children opportunities to plan and have ownership for their learning in the outdoor area
* Help children to care for the outdoor environment and resources
* Enable children to manage and use the space and freedom afforded by the outdoor area
* Give children the opportunity to relax, enjoy and have fun outdoors
* Encourage children to use resources safely and effectively, following nursery safety rules

**Role of the Adult**

Staff will undertake risk assessment procedures on a daily basis, including risk assessing the weather situation and any related safety issues (e.g. high winds causing structural damage.)

**Planning, Assessment and Recording**

Learning experiences in outdoor play are planned, observed and assessed in line with the nursery planning policy. Staff evaluate their planning and provision on a daily basis, in consultation with the nursery team. This is paramount in the area of outdoor play as it is highly responsive and prone to change due to factors such as inclement weather. Children will be given opportunities to access all areas of the curriculum through outdoor play.

**Updated August 2018 by N. Ferguson**

**Woodlands Nursery Class – OUTDOOR PLAY** 

