

How we link to the Froebelian Principles

Unity and Connectedness – we...

- ❖ Are proud of our outdoor environment and help to look after these spaces.

Autonomous Learners – we...

- ❖ Value individual progression in all curricular areas, well enhanced with the use of a more varied environments.
- ❖ Build individual understanding of how to manage risk and keep safe in outdoor spaces.

Childhood in its own right to be valued – we...

- ❖ Support and build and develop learning and understanding that can be taken throughout life.

Relationships Matter – we...

- ❖ Build relationships with our children, families and staff.
- ❖ Make connections with the community and wider local environment.

Creativity and the Power of Symbol – we...

- ❖ Use materials found outdoors to create, understand symbols.
- ❖ Enhance the experiences of literacy, numeracy and other areas of the curriculum.

Central Importance of Play – we...

- ❖ Value play as being enjoyable, meaningful and unique to each bairn.

Engaging with Nature – we...

- ❖ Provide environments where bairns feel safe and nurtured to explore and learn.

Knowledgeable Nurturing Educators – we...

- ❖ Have educators who expand bairns learning and their own, through being outdoors.

Wir Family Engagement

We encourage parents/carers to be involved in the outdoor spaces of the school. For example planting, weeding, maintenance of outdoor resources, painting etc. We encourage parents/carers to get in touch if they would like to become more involved in the life of the school.



Wir Community Involvement...

- ❖ Visits to local market garden (Da Barn).
- ❖ Use of Seeds from local charity (NDCD).
- ❖ Links with Transitions Turifield
- ❖ Grow North Mainland.
- ❖ Repotting of house plants and sold off to people in the school and wider community.

Date : November 2022

Review : October 2023

Urafirth Early Years

At Urafirth Early Years we use our overarching school values to meet "Wir Promise to Wir Peerie Folk".



Wir Outdoor Play and Learning Policy

Wir Vision

We value a nurturing child centred approach and link this to the Froebelian Principles to inform our outdoor practice.

We use outdoor play and learning as an everyday experience, therefore parents are encouraged to keep bairns home if they are too unwell to go outdoors.

To keep safe we...

- ❖ use a benefit risk assessment for all our areas.
- ❖ value and support risky play.
- ❖ share an understanding of risky play benefits.
- ❖ will not take bairns outside if it is unsafe to do so (i.e. very strong winds).
- ❖ remind the bairns of any safety points and ensure suitable clothing is worn before leaving the school grounds.
- ❖ monitor slippery surfaces and make our bairns aware of risks before accessing.
- ❖ apply sun-cream in accordance with parent/carers wishes and consent.
- ❖ in sunny weather we provide shaded areas and hydration are freely available.
- ❖ discourage the wearing of jewellery.

Clothing and footwear...

- ❖ should be appropriate to all weather conditions and suitable for outdoor activities.
- ❖ should be easy to take on and off to encourage independence in dressing and changing.
- ❖ clothing is provided for our bairns: rubber boots, waterproofs, salopettes, woollen hats, gloves and high visibility vests.



Our Adults

As Staff who are Knowledgeable, Nurturing Educators we...

- ❖ provide a safe a nurturing environment.
- ❖ allow bairns freedom and space to explore outdoors.
- ❖ facilitate and support bairns in their outdoor learning.
- ❖ enhance individual progression.
- ❖ support learning of each individual bairns.
- ❖ build nurturing relationships with bairns, families and the wider community.
- ❖ keep our unique community at the heart of our play, learning and conversations.
- ❖ keep up to date with information about outdoor learning.
- ❖ take part in training that promotes outdoor play and learning.
- ❖ link with Froebelian principles, see the link: <https://www.froebel.org.uk/about-us/froebelian-principles>

Wir experiences can...

- ❖ create a positive impact on health and wellbeing.
- ❖ open up learning opportunities with cycles in nature through first hand experiences.
- ❖ allow bairns to re-create experiences from home using open ended materials.
- ❖ give a larger more varied space for creative individual learning.
- ❖ give bairns opportunities to explore their natural environment and their individual interests unique them.
- ❖ allow access to a wider range of natural materials to explore mark making and creativity.
- ❖ gives opportunities of risk taking, risk benefits and enables to build an understanding of their abilities.

Wir spaces we use...

- ❖ Early years outdoor areas and shelters.
- ❖ Forest area.
- ❖ School grounds and play-park.
- ❖ Beach.
- ❖ Community walks and visits.
- ❖ Poly tunnel for growing and woodwork.
- ❖ Tree planting spaces.
- ❖ Outdoor growing spaces.
- ❖ All that is in the air, sea and land.

“Children are like tiny flowers: They are varied and need care, but each is beautiful alone and glorious when seen in the community of peers”

- Friedrich Froebel