



Outdoor Play Policy

Purpose

This policy outlines the procedures that are in place in order to ensure that all children have access to an outdoor environment which is physically challenging, stimulating, safe and developmentally appropriate.

Aims

- To ensure outdoor learning has equal value to indoor learning.
- To demonstrate an approach to outdoor learning that considers experiences rather than equipment by placing children at the centre of the provision being made.
- To create an outdoor space and opportunities which harness the special nature of the outdoors by offering children what the indoors cannot through complementing and extending our provision.
- To provide a rich outdoor environment full of irresistible stimuli, context for play,
- To provide the opportunity to work with nature, harnessing natural resources for play through forest school, gardening, and construction activities
- To provide an environment which encourages exploration, real experiences and creativity
- To allow challenge and risk within a framework of security and safety, helping children learn how to be safe and to be aware of others

Approach

Pupils at Alamiyah School are offered daily opportunities for outdoor play as it enhances all areas of their development and contributes to the child's overall fitness and well-being. Being active in the fresh air improves breathing, circulation, and appetite. Therefore all staff will seek to maximise the opportunities offered to children for outdoor play. We have covered areas so that pupils can play outdoors in all weather.



Early Years Pupils: Activities Offered

Each week the garden activities for early years pupils are carefully planned to ensure that all areas of the EYFS are continued in the outdoor area. On a weekly basis children will have access to a variety of new planned activities [See garden planning file], as well as standard activities available all year round. Staff continue observing the children outdoors, and then plan activities which will engage and interest them. The following activities are available on most days;

- Role play
- Water play
- Sand play
- Construction
- Messy play/Mark-making
- Painting
- Bug hunting
- Trikes, bikes and scooters
- Planting
- Walking beams
- Games
- Various other activities

Primary Pupils: Activities Offered

Open ended play will be encouraged allowing children to be creative and active during play times. Play is important for children of all ages and a significant part of the day is devoted to this to encourage a time for rest, relaxation and physical activity. Climbing and play equipment will be available to develop agility, balance strength and coordination. Den making and natural materials will be available to allow pupils to build structures and experiment with the mechanical and structural aspects of engineering. Scooters will also be made available and access to the elements of water, sand and mud to experiment with as wished. Pupils will also have access to gardening and scientific equipment to observe wildlife and interact with their natural environment. They will also have a range of games to play that involve exercise and coordination. Sports equipment will also be available for football, basketball, rounders and other sports involving bats and balls. Traditional playground games and equipment will also be encouraged by the use of balls, hula hoops, skipping ropes and chalk.



Safety In the Garden

Each morning the garden area is thoroughly checked and prepared for the children. A risk assessment has been carried out for the area and daily checks for hazards and health and safety risks are carried out by a member of staff each play session. The outdoor gates are kept locked whilst the children are outside. Only authorized adults have access to the garden during play sessions.

Children's personal water bottles are always taken out to allow them to access drinking water during play. Wellies, coats, application of sun cream / sun hat are required to be provided by parents to allow their child to go out in all weather.

Outdoors, staff have access to a first aid kit and accident forms outdoors in order to treat and record any accidents which occur. Garden accidents are monitored on a regular basis and changes are made when necessary to avoid accidents.

Staff Ratios

Children will always be supervised outdoors by at least one member of staff [depending on the number of children outside]. At all times one member of staff will take the role of the overseer, monitoring all activities in the garden and keeping an eye on areas which need close supervision. Staff outdoors will have access to a whistle in order to alert other staff if extra support is needed.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years or sooner or if there is any change in statutory guidance or legislation. See 'Policy Review Schedule'.

Adopted in a meeting at Alamiyah School on 07/07/2017

Signed: H Musa (Headteacher) and S Motara (Chair of Trustees)