

# West Earlham Infant and Nursery School

## Outdoor Play Policy

*“Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood.” - Fred Rogers*

### 1. Statement

- a. At West Earlham Infant and Nursery School we see children as individuals and emphasise the importance of high quality childhood experiences. Learning is a serious business and doing well at school gives children a great start in life. We recognise the important role that outdoor play has in this. We provide children with high quality outdoor play opportunities which promote their self confidence, self esteem, independence, building and maintaining of relationships and management of risk.
- b. At West Earlham Infant and Nursery School we recognise that play is:
  - Freely chosen
  - Intrinsically motivated and valuable
  - Personally directed
- c. Play at West Earlham Infant and Nursery School is not linked National Curriculum Standards, it is about children having the freedom ‘play’ in a way that suits them. Play at West Earlham and Infant School is about the process not an end result.

### 2. Objectives

At West Earlham Infant and Nursery School we will ensure that that:

- Outdoor play opportunities/resources are planned, managed, evaluated, resourced and staffed on a par with other elements of school life because of its high value in early childhood development.
- Outdoor design and layout is given principled and careful consideration.
- Our outdoor environment will enable children to experience freely chosen activities.
- Design of the outdoor environment will enable children to control, change and modify it within reason.
- Design of the outdoor environment will enable children to take acceptable risks and develop their ability to independently judge risk and learn self management skills.
- Our outdoor play environment will enable children to develop social skills, such as negotiation and co-operation and will build emotional resilience.
- Our environment will encourage creativity through using the senses to discover natural materials encouraging deeper understanding and appreciation of nature.
- We will offer time and space for repetition and elaboration on early patterns of activity for children to modify and extend their own learning.
- Adult interaction will facilitate and not direct and manage children’s play.

### 3. Play and Risk

West Earlham Infant and Nursery school will adopt a benefits/risk approach to managing the balance between the need to offer risk and the need to keep children safe. We will undertake carefully considered and comprehensive risk assessments of all play provision within the school and these will be reviewed on an annual basis, or whenever significant change/development in play provision/equipment takes place.

### Approval

This policy has been reviewed in line with the 2010 Equality Act and Public Sector Equality Act. Due regard has been given to Equality.

This Policy will be adopted in **June 2018**. The next date of the formal review will be **June 2021** and every three years thereafter, unless statutory legislation changes.

Policy approved by Head Teacher