

Downs Way School Outside Learning Policy

1. Aims

We aim to use the outside classroom daily throughout the school year in all areas of our curriculum in order to

- encourage independent learning
- create challenge and adventure
- encourage risk taking and discovery
- facilitate different learning styles
- foster cooperation and develop social skills
- encourage and improve speaking and listening
- develop and extend physical co-ordination

2. Management

The head teacher is responsible for overall provision of learning outside.

The teachers are responsible for safety, planning the provision, identifying and communicating the objectives, managing the support staff and ordering the resources.

Teachers and support staff are responsible for ensuring learning objectives are met and that resources are maintained and stored appropriately.

Safety, cleanliness and order are the concerns of all staff.

3. Planning

The planning focus is identified by the class teacher and incorporated into weekly and daily plans which are shared with the teaching assistants. Learning objectives should be clear and communicated to the children. It should always be clear who is in charge of any group of children who are learning outside.

4. Resources

All resources are stored neatly in the sheds and large boxes provided and any resources that are kept outside should be tidied at the end of each day by the children to encourage care for our resources and responsibility for our school environment. Sheds should be tidied and sorted each half term. Teachers are required to allocate a story time for TAs to be free to do this. At the end of each school year sheds should be cleaned and tidied and resources checked through. Any that are damaged should be discarded and re-ordered.

5. Assessment, Reporting, Evaluating

Outside learning is monitored by either the teacher or the teaching assistant. Pupil progress is evaluated through observations and discussions. Achievements may be recorded in a written or photographic form and stored in a pupil's folder.

6. Planned Improvements

Blank grids for number work, geography and other curriculum areas are in use.

Numbered parking bays for bikes need to be made permanent, especially for Early Years.

Class gardens are up and running and maintained by school council.

Gardening equipment is stored in the greenhouse.

Reviewed Summer Term 2013

Review Summer Term 2016