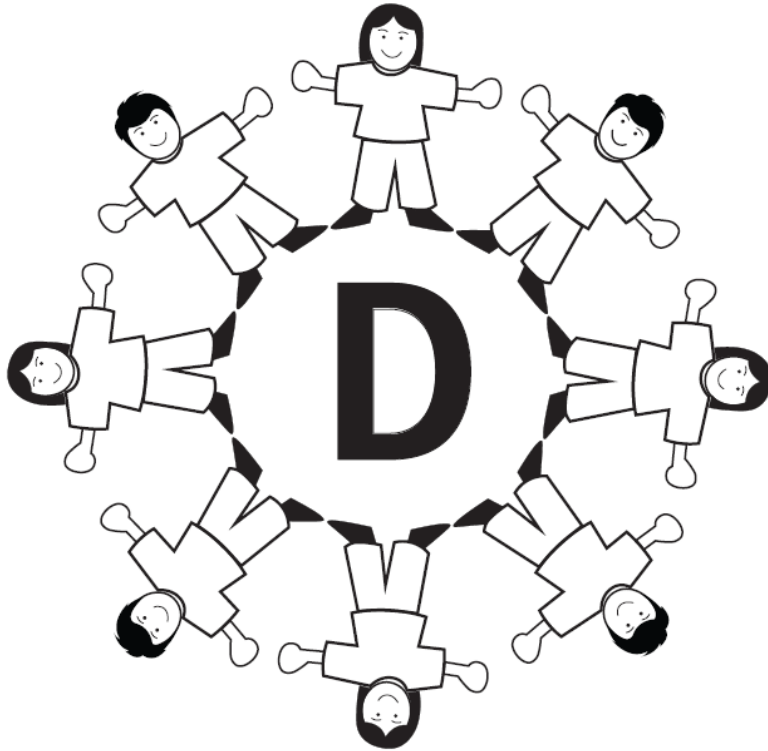


Dalestorth Primary and Nursery School



Outdoor Learning Policy November 2024

Outdoor Learning Intent

At Dalestorth Primary and Nursery School, we believe every child should be given the opportunity to experience lessons beyond the classroom. Our aim is to encourage, inspire and challenge children to explore the natural world, understand their place within it, and experience the seasons and changes that happen in a hands-on way. Outdoor learning allows children to explore skills and knowledge on a grander scale than can happen inside. It also helps children to develop their resilience and understand how to manage their own risks and safety. At Dalestorth we develop the children's personal, social and emotional skills as well as physical skills and give them opportunities to explore different concepts within the natural world. Research shows that outdoor learning helps children become resilient, develops creative thinking, and has a positive impact on a child's behaviour and well-being. There are no boundaries to outdoor learning, it can be linked with every subject across the Early Years Foundation Stage and National Curriculum. At Dalestorth we are fortunate to have extensive grounds, including a playground, a stage, trim-trail, outdoor classroom area, football pitch and orchard area.

We aim to achieve this by ...

- Empowering children to be independent in their learning, providing open-ended resources.
- Providing a safe and secure, yet challenging, environment to encourage children to take measured risks and manage their own safety.
- Using our extensive grounds to support our teaching across a range of subjects.

To develop our pupils as resilient and curious children we:

- Provide open-ended, high quality resources to encourage children to become independent and creative thinkers.
- Track changes in the weather and seasons through observation and investigation.
- Provide opportunities for problem solving and collaboration.
- Make links between subjects and previous learning.
- Develop a love for nature and an understanding of their place in the world.
- Teach them to care for and respect nature.
- Provide challenging questions and allow them time to pose their own questions.
- Develop an enjoyment of learning through practical activities, discussion, exploration and discovery.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

- All children are given access to a broad and balanced curriculum regardless of gender, ability, race or religion.
- Provision will be made for individual needs (SEND).
- The outdoors can provide a unique therapeutic and sensory experience for children with SEND.
- Equal opportunities are provided for boys and girls, also for children with special needs, those who are talented or gifted and children from different cultural backgrounds.
- Outdoor Learning acts as a bridge to higher order learning and opportunities to challenge misconceptions and ways of thinking.
- Children with English as an additional language (EAL) will be given access to additional resources and teaching to support their learning and to ensure they make maximum progress from their individual starting points.
- A feeling of self-worth will be engendered throughout the activities.
- Children of all ages will share the same outdoor learning space so that they may learn from and with each other.

SEND

Teachers will plan lessons so that pupils with SEN and/or disabilities can study every National Curriculum subject, wherever possible, and ensure that there are no barriers to every pupil achieving. We do this by responding to each child's different needs. Level of challenge should not be altered, rather that we change the tools we give to the children, so that they can be successful. If a child is being tracked on BSquared they may receive a more individualised curriculum and may receive a different level of challenge as appropriate. See SEND policy for further details.

Curriculum Organisation

Foundation Stage

Outdoor learning is an integral part of the Early Years Foundation Stage and is included as a priority in the school day, whatever the weather. Children in FS1 and FS2 have daily access to the outdoor area, which includes a construction area, sand and water, mark-making, games and story-telling areas. The outdoor area gives an opportunity for children to access learning on a grander scale, creating dens using blocks and crates, transporting water, using mathematical skills in creating a game. Our youngest children, in Nursery, take part in a weekly Welly Walk across the school grounds, exploring and tracking changes across the seasons.

Key Stage 1 and 2

Children in Key stage 1 and 2 enjoy a 15-minute morning play time, and a longer play time during their lunch hour. Currently the children are separated into their Key Stages on their own playgrounds. Each playground has a shed with outdoor equipment including balls, skipping ropes, hoola-hoops, small world toys and vehicles. Provision is rotated each day. Teachers are encouraged to take learning outside wherever possible for example PE lessons, science lessons about seasons, weather and habitats, and geography lessons including map and fieldwork.

Teaching and learning

When staff are planning and delivering outdoor sessions, they will use the guidance set out in the Teaching and Learning Framework. This may include teachers modelling their thoughts as a critical thinker, using retrieval of knowledge and subject specific sentence starters for writing and oracy work.

Assessment

See the Whole School Teaching and Learning Policy and subject expectations for more information.

Monitoring this Policy

SLT will ensure that staff are clear on the policy. Curriculum leaders will scrutinise work in outdoor learning to ensure the policy is being followed and feedback to the Head with regards effectiveness and issues that have arisen.

It is the responsibility for all staff members to ensure they are clear on the expectation and ethos behind the Outdoor Learning policy and to seek clarification from SLT if unclear.

The policy will be evaluated and reviewed with staff having an input into any changes.

Parents and Stakeholders

Any parent wishing to read the Outdoor Learning policy will be directed to the school's website.

The policy will be shared with the governing body and all members of staff to ensure all are clear on the expectations.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy is to be reviewed every two years.

Policy written by R. Torr and R. Marshall

Policy adopted: November 2024

Policy due to reviewed: November 2026