



## St Mary's C of E Primary School Outdoor Learning Policy – Autumn 2017

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### Rationale

At St Mary's Primary School we believe that learning outside of a classroom environment has much to offer children, with Outdoor Learning providing relevant and engaging experiences that enable learning in all areas of the curriculum. Outdoor Learning contributes to the 5 "Every Child Matters" outcomes of: enjoyment and achieving; being healthy; making a contribution; learning skills for life and learning to be safe and secure. The Department for Children, Schools and Families has found reliable evidence proving how learning outside of the classroom enables children to:

- Attain a greater understanding of knowledge and practical skills;
- Improve both their physical health and motor abilities;
- Socialise and interact with their peers and adults in new and different ways;
- Show improved self-esteem, mental health and capacity for attention;
- Change their attitudes, values and behaviour towards both their local and the wider environment.

### Mission Statement

We aim to provide the children with Outdoor Learning experiences throughout many facets of school life. The school grounds offer excellent opportunities for both formal and informal learning and play. Additionally, the locality around the school boasts a wealth of opportunities to support the development of the children's skills. We offer the children chances to visit places such as Wisley Gardens, Hobbledown Farm and activity-based residential trips, all of which will provide opportunities to develop key life skills such as teamwork, and encourage an understanding of the world around them.

### Aims and Objectives

- To raise the profile of Outdoor Learning;
- To encourage our teachers to develop a creative curriculum that embeds Outdoor Learning opportunities throughout;
- To encourage our students to value those opportunities for learning that take them out of the classroom.
- To provide a safe and secure environment for our students where they feel confident to take risks;
- To encourage our students to care for their environment, both locally and around the world.

Policy written by: Alex Gubb (Outdoor Learning Co-ordinator)

Next review due: Autumn 2018