



Premises and Environment Policy

Aim

In Early years we are committed to providing a welcoming and caring environment that provides for the children's safety and wellbeing and supports them in their development and learning.

We believe that the organisation and layout of the environment should enable children to be active, and involved in social and individual play activities and experiences.

A Unique Child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
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Implementation of the policy in Early years

The Headteacher, EYFS Leader, Senior Management and Governors must ensure that there are measures:

- to take positive steps to establish a welcoming and friendly environment for children and parents.
- to provide a safe, secure and supportive environment for the children's care, health and wellbeing, as well as their development and learning.
- to provide both indoor and outdoor play activities and experiences.
- to ensure that all parents and children have easy access to the premises.
- to implement specific local control requirements with regard to health and safety, planning and building requirements, provision of equipment and the use of staff.

Space within Early years

- We provide appropriate space for children to move freely and safely around Two Gates School.
- We organise the space to allow a wide range of play experiences, including whole-group activities.

Toilet facilities

- We provide appropriate and sufficient toilets and washing facilities for the number of children in Early years, as well as separate toilet facilities for adults. We ensure that facilities are clean and hygienic at all times.
- We provide appropriate space and facilities to encourage children to be independent.

Kitchen facilities

- We provide snacks and meals for children in Early years at meal times.
- Staffordshire county council ensure that kitchen facilities comply with environmental health and food safety regulations. We ensure that we comply with Food Hygiene requirements for preparing and giving out of food and snacks.
- We identify specific procedures for the safety of the children relating to the kitchen facilities, including risk assessment and supervision.
- A named member of staff holds a certificate in Food Hygiene.

Premises

- We provide defined relaxation areas appropriate for the children's needs, as well as separate rest/break facilities for the staff.
- We ensure that all areas of the building are clean, and well maintained.

- We ensure that there is a working telephone on the premises to contact outside assistance, as well as to receive incoming calls.
- We have efficient systems for contacting parents, support services and other agencies.
- We ensure that all the children have easy access to drinking water, toilet facilities and eating facilities.
- We provide an environment that reflects the children's development and learning and has relevance for local cultures and communities.
- We ensure that the premises are well lit and have some natural light.
- We take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children, staff and others on the premises in the case of fire or any other emergency, and we have an emergency evacuation procedure
- Fire exits are clearly identifiable, and fire doors are free of obstruction and easily opened from the inside.
- We ensure that the premises are kept at a comfortable temperature throughout the year.
- We ensure that the premises are for the sole use of Early years when the children are there.
- We provide safe storage facilities for all types of equipment: care and hygiene facilities, and play and learning equipment.
- We provide an area of privacy where parents, staff and other agencies can speak confidentially.

Indoor provision

- We create defined areas for different play activities, thus supporting the children in all seven areas of learning in the Foundation Stage.
- We use the available space creatively and flexibly to provide opportunities for the children's imaginative play, movement and large-scale play activities.
- We provide opportunities for both floor play and table activities.
- We create opportunities for children to access equipment and materials independently, by using low-level open-storage shelves and boxes.
- We encourage the children to care for their environment by making some cleaning equipment available for them to access and use independently to clean and tidy up play areas.

Outdoor provision

- We offer regular opportunities for children to play in a natural environment of grass, trees and bushes.
- We have free flow opportunities for children to play outside, providing open space where they can run, as well as using fixed or other play equipment.
- We ensure that there are areas of shade and shelter.
- We use the outdoor environment to offer a wide range of learning opportunities for investigation and exploration, thus developing all seven areas of learning in the Foundation Stage.

Display

- We create a rich and stimulating environment by using visual and interactive displays.
- We provide display areas for children's own work, including pictures, drawings, writing and models.
- We ensure that displays are informative, and relevant to all families within the local community.

Links to other policies

- Organisation.
- Care, Learning and Play
- Equipment
- Safety

- Health
- Food and Drink

Equal Opportunities

- Special Needs
- Disability Equality Scheme