

School Environment Policy

1 Aims and objectives

- 1.1** The school environment, both indoor and outdoor, must contribute positively to the attitudes, behaviour and motivation of the pupils. The quality of the learning environment is very important to children, and has a considerable influence on their academic standards. We aim therefore to provide a safe and stimulating learning environment, making maximum use of the opportunities provided by both the grounds and buildings of the school.

2 Indoor environment

- 2.1** All teachers will take responsibility to ensure that their classroom is an attractive place in which to learn. The purposes of providing a stimulating classroom environment are:

- to engage the children and promote interest and motivation;
- to support learning in the topics being studied;
- to show appreciation of the work and effort of all pupils;
- to recognise excellent work and help promote high standards.

Displays will reflect the themes currently being studied by the pupils. Displays should not only be relevant and attractive, but should also aim to be as interactive as possible. This means that children will be encouraged to look at the displays and make use of the information on show. Displays will be changed regularly, and at least once a term.

- 2.2** Providing a safe environment is of paramount importance, and all teachers will give due regard to the health and safety policy when organising their classrooms. For example, tears to carpets or faulty electrical fittings, heaters etc. must be reported immediately. Classrooms will be cleaned each day and we will ensure that the children have a clean, safe and welcoming place in which to learn.

- 2.3** In all that we do we will strive to engender positive attitudes towards the environment. This means that we will teach the children to have respect for the equipment and facilities in the school, and to play their part in looking after their classroom and the environment in general. Children will be expected to leave classrooms in a neat and tidy condition. No litter will be left on the floor and all equipment will be put away in the appropriate place. Each child in KS2 will have their desk to keep books and equipment in. Children in KS1 will have a place for their bags and folders in the classroom. The children will be expected to take responsibility for looking after their own equipment, collecting it at the start of lessons and putting it away at the end.

- 2.4** Each class will have a cloakroom area where the children can keep their coats, PE kit and other bulky equipment. Each child will have the exclusive use of a named peg in the cloakroom area, but any valuables should be given to the class teacher for safekeeping.

2.5 The appearance of the entrance hall is very important, as it creates the first impression of the school for all visitors. We will ensure that this area reflects the school's ethos and high expectations. There is a good work board which shows a sample of work from each class. There is a photograph gallery with the names of all staff who work within the school. This recognises the contribution of all those who give time to the school, and will help to develop a sense of teamwork.

3 Outdoor environment (to be developed with the proposed extension)

3.1 Research shows that school grounds have a significant effect on children. These grounds are the one external environment to which all children have regular access, and for some of our children they provide the only regular experience of the outdoors. They can provide unique experiences, opportunities and resources for teaching and learning in a safe and supervised external environment. They can be a stimulating and enjoyable place for both work and play.

3.2 We believe that the outdoor environment provides the following benefits. It can:

- enrich all areas of the curriculum, by providing a unique and varied context for learning;
- stimulate motivation and curiosity, encourage creativity and help pupils develop a broad range of skills, competencies, knowledge and understanding;
- create opportunities for pupils to increase their understanding of sustainable development;
- decrease the incidence of inappropriate behaviour, bullying, damage and vandalism;
- afford opportunities for pupils to work together with adults for the common good, thus encouraging a sense of pride, ownership and responsibility.

3.3 The outdoor environment is very important in providing opportunities to enrich the curriculum. For example in a project on 'sunflowers' the children grow their own sunflowers from seed, harvest them, record what they find and make use of the data in both mathematics and ICT. They research the sunflower through art and history, and write about it. They learn about the seed-to-seed cycle for science. They learn about sunflowers as a crop, and how oil is produced. They can also enjoy the visual and tactile appeal of these striking plants, and every child takes a sunflower home as the project ends.

3.4 By using learning strategies that enable the children to make use of all their senses, we can appeal to all learning styles. It is easier to remember what you have heard, seen, touched, tasted and smelled. The outdoor environment enables teachers to make learning as practical and 'hands on' as possible.

3.5 The school has plans to develop the garden area, (see action plan)

3.6 We have a large playground which is shared between KS1 and KS2. Break times are staggered so that all the children are not using the playground at the same time. Children are encouraged to take an active part during playtimes. We have recently purchased resources to provide the children with a focus. The

lunch time supervisors encourage children to play skipping games, organise football on a rota system in a cordoned off area, use the giant Connect Four and Jenga games. There are a number of benches provided for the children to use. The playgrounds are also marked out for a number of games, including netball and football. There is also a friendship stop where children go if they haven't anyone to play with.

4 Health and safety

- 4.2 The Principal has the responsibility to ensure the safety of all the children. A record is kept of any accidents that have occurred.
- 4.3 Children will be supervised at all times when they are on the school premises during normal school hours, whether indoors or outdoors. The school will ensure particularly that there is adequate supervision of pupils before school, at break and lunch times, and after school, when they are using the playground and the school field.

During hot weather children are reminded to wear their sun hats and apply sun cream. Areas of shade are provided with the use of sun umbrellas. Water is always available and on extremely hot days children may be supervised in their classrooms if it is considered they need more shade.

5 Monitoring and review

- 5.1 The class teacher has the responsibility for maintaining a well-ordered and tidy classroom. The school will ensure that the classrooms are cleaned on a daily basis during term time.
- 5.2 The school environment will be monitored by the Principal as part of his or her daily duties.
- 5.3 This policy will be reviewed every two years or earlier if necessary.

Signed:

Date: