



Rawmarsh Ryecroft **Infant School**

Foundation Stage **Outdoor Policy**

Reviewed: June 2026

Next Review Due: June 2027

Rationale

Childhood is filled with natural wonder and curiosity. The learning environment must reflect a classroom and outdoor space that inspires a sense of wanting to investigate, to find out and to explore.

Kathy Walker

Aim

At Rawmarsh Ryecroft Infant School we recognise the importance of outside play, and we aim to create an outdoor area which is stimulating, exciting, takes account of the children's interests and is used throughout the year as a learning environment.

Objectives

We aim to:

- Use the outdoor environment as a context and a natural resource for learning.
- Include the outdoor area when planning for learning.
- Enable children to access the outdoor area on a daily basis.
- Include the children when planning for outdoors.
- Ensure that the outdoor area offers children the opportunity to investigate and explore, problem solve, use their imagination and be creative.
- Ensure the outdoors offers children opportunities to develop their gross motor skills.
- Ensure that children enjoy energetic activity outdoors and the feeling of well-being that it brings.
- Observe the learning that happens in the outdoor area and use this to inform future planning and necessary assessments.
- Engage in high quality interactions with adults. Where adults will model, question, support and develop children's play, thinking and learning in ways that are developmentally appropriate for each child.
- Help children to care for the outside environment.
- Enable children to work on their own and with others.
- Enable children to develop an appreciation of natural beauty and a sense of wonder about the world.
- Respect the outdoor environment and to care for living things.
- Enable children to manage and use the space and freedom afforded by the outdoor area.
- Give children the opportunity to relax, enjoy and have fun outdoors.

Method

The staff will:

- Facilitate access to the outdoor area on a daily basis through discussion and

staff meetings, planning and mutual agreement.

- Organise and provide necessary resources as appropriate, e.g., overalls, aprons, gloves, tools, etc.

- Encourage children to use a variety of natural resources
- Include the children in the planning process by observing them and asking them what they would like to do outdoors.

Safety

- At all times the safety and welfare of the children is of paramount importance. When planning and setting up the outdoor area consideration is given to appropriate and safe resources to use within the environment and within the particular space available.
- Staff monitor, observe and engage with the children using all equipment and demonstrate safe practices.
- Children are encouraged to be physical and explorative and often this will involve using large scale equipment such as large building blocks or crates, sticks, guttering and den building resources etc. Staff will teach children to transport and use this equipment safely and will monitor children's use of the equipment.
- We will conduct an informal risk assessment when setting up the outdoor area each day. All staff will be mindful of safety outdoors and if they feel it is compromised in any way we will act accordingly.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This will include:

- The outdoor provision will be continually monitored, adapted and improved to ensure it meets the needs and interests of all children.
- Observations and staff discussions will inform planning and provision in the outdoor area.
- Discuss and review the validity of the policy to ensure it is meeting the needs of the children.

Next Steps

- Continually audit resources with regard to safety and the quality.
- Continue to develop the area and resources.