



Kingswells Nursery Outdoor Play Policy



Background

'Curriculum for Excellence offers opportunities for all children and young people to enjoy first-hand experience outdoors, whether within the school grounds, in urban green spaces, in Scotland's countryside or in wilder environments. Such experiences motivate our children and young people to become successful learners and to develop as healthy, confident, enterprising and responsible citizens.'

Education Scotland – 2016

"There is a growing body of research that shows that young children's access to nature and outdoor play is positively associated with improved self-esteem, physical health, development of language skills and disposition to learning."

Changing Landscapes, Changing Lives (2009) A Davy; Journal of the British Association For Early Childhood Education.

At Kingswells Nursery we aim to provide:

- routine access to a stimulating outdoor play area including daily opportunities to spend time outdoors...
- freedom of choice to move between the indoor and outdoor environments, whenever practicable
- the opportunity to explore the natural environment
- access to a range of high-quality outdoor play and learning opportunities throughout the year
- resources to support learning and development

Through access to a range of outdoor activities we expect that children will:

- participate in a wide range of activities that will support a healthy lifestyle
- develop the skills to assess and manage risk
- experience personal achievement and build confidence
- explore and make choices
- develop physical skills through movement and energetic play

Taken from My World Outdoors; What the Care Inspectorate Expect

Safety and security

Children in nursery, along with a member of staff, will create a risk assessment that is used to assess the safety of the nursery garden. Nursery staff will risk assess woodland spaces that are used and conduct live risk assessments with children on each visit. Both assessments will be live documents that are continually reviewed and altered as needed. The formats will be child friendly, where possible, to allow pupils to fully participate in and understand the process.

Adult to pupil ratios within the nursery garden are in line with ratios across the nursery setting as one area that encompasses both inside and outside. Additional adults are taken to any offsite outdoor learning environments, ensuring there is a minimum of ratio of 1:4.

Children are supported to:

- ❖ Dress appropriately for the weather conditions
- ❖ Access inside if they need medical attention or the toilet while playing in the nursery garden.
- ❖ Access the equipment they wish to use outside
- ❖ Tidy up outside
- ❖ Experience outdoor play in all weathers

Information to parents

- ❖ Parents are aware that the outdoor play area is used as an 'outdoor classroom' across all seasons of the year.
- ❖ Parental co-operation is required to ensure that jackets, hats & footwear are weather appropriate.
- ❖ At induction meetings and in the nursery handbook parents are asked to provide appropriate clothing for their children that will keep them warm or cool, as necessary for the season and that they can enjoy playing in without worry of getting dirty.

Planning, recording and assessment

Weekly planning will identify a focus for outdoor play which children will be supported to access. Outdoor play will also provide opportunities for free and structured play which staff can observe and record on children's Individual Learning Diary.

Information gathered from the children's learning and interests outside will be used to inform next steps and future planning.