



Forest School and Outdoors Policy

Foundation Stage 1:1 through to 1:12

Mission and Vision of Stretton Pre-School

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To enhance the children's appreciation of the natural world and extend their learning experiences. To provide a healthy environment in which children can learn and develop group times (key) are ideal to carry out in the outdoor area especially in all weathers giving the children a different environment to express their feelings and energy.

To allow children access to activities that promote appropriate areas of learning from the growing garden planning. Room leaders must ensure that staff provide an activity to carry out to encourage children to participate and supervise outdoor space needs to be defined so that children know what activity takes place. This encourages the children to try different things rather than default to mainly running around.

To implement free-flow throughout the day this allows the children to play in the open environment. Growing garden will need planning as no free flow available due to logistics of the building. This will allow the children to experience different seasons and to enjoy the fresh air as this stimulates brain activity by using senses and improve motor skills. Some children who may not have access to the outdoors at

home will benefit from this. The growing garden and outdoors should reflect the curriculum for observations and the EYFS focused and spontaneous observations should be carried out by staff. Staff will update outdoor activities as 'in the moment' ideas occur folder provided.

Health and Safety

All garden areas will have an annual risk assessment check as well as a new piece of equipment or a new area will be introduced.

At the start of each session a member of staff will be responsible for health and safety. Checks should be completed before children enter the garden and all areas at the end of the day must be cleared of resources and the resources stored in an appropriate area.

Staff will encourage children to take part in risk training activities with good supervision. Jungle and Ocean room practitioners will ensure that they use the head count procedure to monitor the number of children in the garden areas along with using the room whiteboards and registers. Staff will use the whiteboard outside the main door when out in the growing garden to record the children's names who are in the garden.

The garden will be checked for areas where children can conceal themselves. The last team member that will leave the garden will check the known areas. If they can not do this they must ask another team member to check the area.

Sun cream should be applied before children are taken out to the gardens. Staff must provide shaded areas during the hottest part of the day and provide fresh drinking water for the children and encourage them to drink. This also applies to adults and staff. Sunhats should be worn and provided by parents for each child, if they do not have one Stretton Pre-School will provide this. During wet weather children should wear appropriate clothing such as waterproofs, wellington boots, hats, scarves, and gloves. Stretton Pre-School will provide waterproofs for all children, so that all children can take part in outdoor play.

In the event of the fire alarm going off, do not come back into the building but exit the garden areas via one of the exterior gates.

When playing out in the growing garden both gates should be locked, you will find the key hanging on a lanyard in the main office. This key must be visible when outside for all times. To help with slippery surfaces and resources out of bounds red and green hands will be used as a golden thread we use throughout Stretton Pre-School.

Staffing and Ratios

The outdoor ratio adheres to the ratio policy within Stretton Pre-School. The outdoor policy is flexible when children need the toilet and nappy changes as the staff may need to leave the area to supervise the children. Please ensure that all staff support each other in these circumstances even if you are not from the same room. Every member of staff in the garden should be vigilant of all children if they are in danger or could hurt themselves.

General Garden Procedures

Close gates to the garden and unlock outside gates. Ensure of parts of the garden that need attention are logged in the maintenance book (health and safety checklist)/ Ensure gates are closed after anyone entering and leaving the premises. If any issue of maintenance that could be a hazard, notify the hazard, notify the manager immediately and let the other rooms know so that they can avoid the hazard or delay outdoor activities.

In the winter areas can be slippery so using red hand to identify areas not to be used can be done by adults and children to identify risk

Outdoor trips

When making trips outside of the setting staff will take small groups with adult supervision (see ratio policy).

Staff will take an activity bag which will provide them with a learning opportunity about the environment around them. Waterproof trousers and jackets are available for all the children to wear, staff have been provided with waterproof jacks to wear on trips too.

For ratios and guidance when taking children off the premises using Stretton Pre-School supervision for children on outings and visits.

This policy was adopted by

Stretton Pre-School

On

01 November 2022

Date to be reviewed

Annually

Signed on behalf of the provider

E. Greenfield

Name of signatory

Emily Greenfield

Role of signatory

Chair

