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.

In line with expectations from the Care Inspectorate as documented in My World Outdoors *2016* Kingswells Nursery offer;

- Routine access to a stimulating outdoor play area including daily opportunities to spend time outdoors and, if children attend full-time, part of their day should be spent 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

We offer access to outdoor play in our nursery garden as well as a weekly visit to our onsite woods.

Safety and security

Nursery staff check all outdoor spaces on arrival with children and ensure the area is safe for use. We support children to develop an appreciation for and understanding of risks. As part of their

learning experiences nursery pupils learn about potential risks and what to do to reduce the likelihood of danger e.g only climb on healthy trees, not skinny weak trees. Nursery staff support children to dynamically risk assess their surroundings throughout their play experiences. Nursery staff and children create risk benefit assessments as required in our setting. Outdoor areas are considered an integral part of our setting and staff ratios reflect their continual use.

Children are supported to:

- Dress appropriately for the weather conditions
- Access inside if they need medical attention or the toilet when playing in the nursery garden. First aid supplies and a toilet tent are available in the woods.
- Access the equipment they wish to use outside
- Tidy up outside

Information to parents

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

Planning, recording and assessment

As most learning in nursery is pupil led, staff are skilled at identifying play which demonstrates progress and they share this with parents via Seesaw. Information gathered from the children's learning and interests outside is used to inform next steps and future planning.