



CHRIST CHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## Policy for Outdoor Learning

**Current Policy Date:** **September 2017**

**Date for Review** **September 2019**



## CC Outdoor Learning Policy

### VALUES

The staff and Governors of Christ Church School believe that everyone is created in the image of God and is of infinite worth. We believe that our pupils need to be involved in outdoor learning to maintain physical and emotional wellbeing as well as being able to experience the awe and wonder of God's creation.

### AIMS

We create a positive climate where children can learn outdoors and achieve their full potential. Our involvement in outdoor education has enriched and extended the curriculum. It has encouraged more cooperation between pupils, developed teamwork, developed problem solving skills, encouraged independence, and self-confidence.

Our aim is to develop a happy hardworking atmosphere based on mutual respect and trust that values the joy of being outdoors. It is the responsibility of all school staff to actively promote the principles set out in this policy.

### RESEARCH

Outdoor education has had a significant role to play in the development of personal and social qualities of all pupils. We feel pupils are now more aware of how to assess and manage risk for themselves. Being outdoors brings a sense of wellbeing.

We work closely with the School Garden Leaders and hear their views and opinions as we acknowledge and support Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that pupils should be encouraged to form and to express their views.

We as a school community have a commitment to promote equality. Therefore, an equality impact assessment has been undertaken and we believe this policy is in line with the Equality Act 2010.

### OBJECTIVES

- To introduce outdoor education to all pupils.
- To assist in the development of the personal and social qualities of all pupils
- To utilise core maths and English skills working in the outdoors
- To ensure that all visits and off-site activities are safe, well managed and educationally beneficial.
- To ensure compliance with all relevant legislation connected to this policy.
- To work with other schools and the local authority to share good practice in order to improve this policy.

**Whole School:** As a school community staff and Governors aim to teach the children about the positive aspects of outdoor learning by our example to them and their example to each other especially older to younger pupils.

**Class:** The Governors expect that in each class outdoor learning will be taught so that all pupils have ownership of it.

**Parents:** The Governors expect that outdoor opportunities will be shared with parents who will then be able to support their children and benefit from the wellbeing it brings.

### POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

The outdoor learning team receive regular INSET training in outdoor learning. Central to this system of outdoor learning all staff receive training from the outdoor learning team. Pupils are taught the rules and the appropriate outdoor behaviour in a systematic and explicit way.

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## CC Outdoor Learning Policy

Specific directions will be taught for every activity undertaken. Behaviour narration is used to support the teaching of outdoor behaviour.

The Governing Body has:

- Appointed a link outdoor learning governor
- responsibility to ensure that the school complies with all procedures;
- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure all school personnel and stakeholders are aware of and comply with this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring that the school complies with all equalities legislation;
- responsibility for ensuring funding is in place to support this policy;
- make effective use of relevant research and information to improve this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring all policies are made available to parents;
- the responsibility of involving the Garden Leaders in the development, approval, implementation and review of this policy;
- responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy.

The Headteacher will:

- work with the Governing Body to appoint a suitably experienced member of staff to be the Outdoor Learning Teacher;
- work with the Outdoor Learning Teacher to ensure that all outdoor learning activities have specific and appropriate objectives;
- after all checks being undertaken, approve all visits and activities;
- Keep the Governing Body informed of all outdoor learning and off-site activities especially residential.
- ensure all school personnel, pupils and parents are aware of and comply with this policy;
- provide leadership and vision in respect of equality;
- make effective use of relevant research and information to improve this policy;
- provide guidance, support and training to all staff;
- monitor the effectiveness of this policy by:
  - monitoring learning and teaching through observing lessons
  - monitoring planning and assessment
  - speaking with pupils, school personnel, parents and governors
- annually report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy

The Outdoor Learning Teacher will:

- work closely with the Headteacher and Governing Body;
  - lead the development of this policy throughout the school;
  - make effective use of relevant research and information to improve this policy;
  - provide guidance and support to all staff;
  - ensure that all outdoor learning and off-site activities have specific and appropriate objectives;
  - ensure that the correct staffing ratios are in place;
  - ensure that the outdoor leader has complied with the school outdoor learning procedures;
  - ensure all risks have been assessed, significant risks have been recorded and the appropriate safety measures are in place;
  - attend appropriate training;
  - provide in-house training for members of staff who will become outdoor leaders
  - keep up to date with new developments and resources;
  - undertake risk assessments when required;
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## CC Outdoor Learning Policy

- review and monitor; annually report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy

The Nominated Governor will:

- work closely with the Headteacher and the coordinator;
- ensure this policy and other linked policies are up to date;
- ensure that everyone connected with the school is aware of this policy;
- attend training related to this policy;
- report to the Governing Body every term; annually report to the Governing Body on the success and development of this policy

The Local Authority will:

- be sent a summary programme plus risk assessments of all:
  - hazardous outdoor and adventurous activities
  - visits abroad
  - activities with health and safety concerns

Class Teachers will:

- work closely with the Headteacher and Outdoor Learning Teacher to ensure that all procedures are adhered to;
- have the permission of the Headteacher before the visit or activity begins;
- have the overall responsibility of the visit or activity;
- comply with the procedures as outlined in the school outdoor learning plans ;
- comply with the policy and procedures of the Local Authority

School personnel and parent helpers who support in outdoor learning and off-site visits must:

- undertake training from the Outdoor Learning Teacher;
- be clear of their roles and responsibilities;
- ensure compliance with all health and safety procedures;
- be DBS checked

Before any visit or off-site activity takes place pupils will be instructed by the Outdoor Learning Teacher to:

- follow instructions of the teacher and other members of outdoor learning support staff;
- follow the school code of conduct;
- avoid unnecessary risks;
- inform the Outdoor Learning Teacher of any significant hazards

We ask all parents to:

- sign the consent form;
- provide all relevant medical information of their child and emergency contact details;
- support the application of any agreed code of conduct;
- take part in periodic surveys conducted by the school.

We will raise awareness of this policy via:

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## **CC Outdoor Learning Policy**

- the School Handbook/Prospectus
- the school website
- the Staff Handbook
- meetings with parents such as introductory, transition, parent-teacher consultations and periodic curriculum workshops
- school events
- meetings with school personnel
- communications with home such as weekly newsletters and of end of half term newsletters
- reports such as annual report to parents and Headteacher reports to the Governing Body
- information displays in the main school entrance

### **Review**

October 2015-Identify any areas of the policy that need guidance or practical interpretation for any stakeholder.

Mrs Colette Morris

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