

# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



## Our Mission Statement

We grow together in God's Love as we Pray, Learn and Play

*"Dyn ni'n tyfu gyda'n gilydd mewn cariad Duw wrth i ni weddio, dysgu a chwarae"*

## OUTDOOR AND WOODED AREA POLICY

### Article 24:

*All adults and children should have information about how to stay safe and healthy.*

### Article 28:

*Every child has the right to an education*

### Article 29:

*Children's education should help them fully develop their personalities, talents and abilities. It should teach them to understand their own rights, and to respect other people's rights, cultures and differences. It should help them to live peacefully and protect the environment*

This Policy was approved by the Governing Body on	June 2024	The first policy was drawn up and ratified by the Governing Body	Signed: 
This policy is due to be reviewed by the Governing Body	November 2025	This Policy was reviewed by the Governing Body and ratified	Signed:
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## **Introduction**

At St Joseph's Primary School, we recognise the importance of outdoor learning experiences in enhancing children's physical, emotional, and social development. We value the impact and importance outdoor learning has in realising the four core purposes of the Curriculum for Wales. This policy outlines our commitment to providing outstanding outdoor adventure and wooded area education opportunities for our pupils.

## **Aims and Objectives**

Our aims and objectives for outdoor adventure and wooded area education are as follows:

1. To promote and enhance children's physical development, coordination, and teamwork skills through challenging outdoor activities.
2. To develop an appreciation and understanding of the natural environment, fostering a sense of awe, responsibility and care towards it.
3. To provide opportunities for children to take risks in a controlled and safe environment, fostering resilience and problem-solving skills.
4. To encourage curiosity, creativity, and imagination through engagement with the natural world.
5. To develop strong links between classroom learning and outdoor experiences, enhancing the curriculum and promoting active learning.
6. To ensure the safety and well-being of all children during outdoor activities through appropriate risk assessments and supervision.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

### **Curriculum Integration**

Outdoor adventure and wooded area education will be integrated into the curriculum through the following:

1. Cross-curricular ties: Outdoor activities will be carefully planned and aligned with curriculum learning objectives, enabling children to apply knowledge and skills in authentic, real-life contexts.
2. Themed learning experiences: Collaborative projects and thematic learning experiences will incorporate outdoor activities and explorations, reinforcing key concepts across AOLES.
3. Forest school sessions: Regular forest school sessions will provide children with extended periods of outdoor learning, allowing for free exploration, problem-solving, and creative activities.
4. Community engagement: Children will have opportunities to engage with the local community and external organisations to deepen their understanding of the natural environment.

### **Health and Safety**

The health and safety of our pupils during outdoor activities is paramount. We will:

1. Conduct regular risk assessments of the outdoor adventure and wooded areas, identifying and mitigating potential hazards.
2. Ensure appropriate levels of adult supervision during outdoor activities, adhering to recommended ratios. There will be a minimum of two supervising adults per class. If working in small groups (8 or less) with only one adult, the climbing frame (A frame) must not be used and work should be limited to a specific area i.e. either overgrown wooded area or adventure area.
3. Provide necessary training and ongoing professional development for staff involved in outdoor adventure and wooded area education. Forest Schools leaders will be Forest School trained by a recognised trainer.
4. Maintain a register of any allergies or medical conditions that may affect a child's participation in certain activities.
5. Communicate with parents and guardians regarding upcoming outdoor activities, seeking necessary permissions and providing relevant information.

## **Resources and Equipment**

We will ensure that our outdoor adventure and wooded area education is well-supported by appropriate resources and equipment. We will:

1. Regularly maintain and update outdoor play equipment to ensure safety and functionality.
2. Provide children with access to suitable clothing and footwear for outdoor activities, taking weather conditions into consideration.
3. Develop and maintain a range of outdoor learning spaces that encourage exploration, creativity, and curiosity.
4. Foster a respectful and sustainable approach to the natural environment, providing children with the opportunity to engage in conservation efforts.

## **Expectations**

Based on the most recent research, the following expectations apply to outdoor adventure and wooded area education:

1. Outdoor learning experiences should be well-integrated into the curriculum, supporting the development of key skills and knowledge.
2. Opportunities for risk-taking and problem-solving should be provided in a safe and controlled manner.
3. Appropriate risk assessments should be carried out prior to any outdoor activities, ensuring the safety and well-being of all participants.
4. Staff involved in outdoor adventure and wooded area education should receive adequate training and support.
5. The school fosters a respectful and sustainable approach to the natural environment through outdoor education.
6. The use of outdoor spaces for teaching and learning should be emphasised and reflected in school policies.

At St Joseph's Primary School, we are committed to meeting and exceeding these expectations, providing outstanding outdoor adventure and wooded area education experiences for our pupils.

This policy is subject to regular review and will be updated as necessary in accordance with changes in national guidelines and best practice.