

Environmental Learning and Teaching Policy



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ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING AND TEACHING POLICY

Within the context of outdoor environmental education, Kingswood Nursery and Infant Centre aims to encourage children to use woodland and other natural spaces to excite and motivate learning across the whole curriculum, with a particular emphasis on Personal Social and Emotional Development. The natural environments are a context for many varied learning opportunities, catering for the individual needs and learning styles of all its visitors. Interacting with our unique environment will, we hope, plant lasting memories for all who enter it.

The planning of activities and visits links to current educational standards is aimed at meeting the needs of individuals and groups. Liaison with schools and lead practitioners takes place before every visit. Copies of planning, activities and the programmes of study are all available on request.

We believe that all curriculum and subject learning can be enhanced greatly through the environment and outdoors.

Subjects including science, geography and history are particularly well supported through our learning opportunities. In addition, Communication, language and literacy opportunities are very practical and memorable through the interaction of children and their peers, staff, teachers and visitors.

From first hand and real experiences, the children learn:

- In, through and from the environment (as a real context and using the natural resources)
- About the environment (gaining knowledge and understanding)
- To care for the environment (fostering values and positive attitudes)
- Skills to assist in the investigation and exploration of the environment and in other real life situations.

Learning and Teaching will involve learning THROUGH the environment

Outcomes for children:

- Using relevant first hand resources and real life experiences as a basis for learning.
- Developing skills of enquiry and exploration within the Centre grounds and contrasting environments elsewhere.
- Developing a holistic view of environmental education with the links across the curriculum to areas such as PSHE, Citizenship and Sustainability.
- Developing self-reliance, responsibility and independence.
- Increasing self esteem.
- Improving communication skills.
- Building an understanding of places, time, change and relationships using actual phenomena.

Learning and Teaching will involve learning ABOUT the environment

Outcomes for children, developing knowledge and understanding of:

- The natural processes which take place in the environment.
- How life is dependent on the environment.
- The impact of human activities on the environment.
- Different environments past and present.
- How the present environment has been affected by past actions and decisions.
- Environmental issues such as litter and pollution.
- The importance of action to protect the environment.

Learning and Teaching will involve children understanding about the PROTECTION of the environment.

Outcomes for children:

- Develop an interest in and appreciate the environment through the care of all living things and their habitats.
- Develop a respect and liking for the environment through relevant and interesting studies of it.
- Develop an awareness of the importance of the diversity of life.
- Learn to care and be sensitive towards people, animals and plants.
- Children understand what they can do to protect the environment and the wildlife which rely on it.

Children will have opportunities to develop skills in:

Communicating
Free Thinking
Problem solving
Independence
Collaboration and Cooperation
Handling Information
Technology

Environmental education will be closely linked to the EYFS, National Curriculum and PSHE and Citizenship along with Education for Sustainability. Every Child Matters is a continuous thread.

Managing and Caring for the Environment:

- The Kingswood staff will monitor the use of habitats across the seasons, to ensure that habitats are not eroded. They will build new habitats where necessary.
- Staff and friends/volunteers will attend relevant courses to ensure that new knowledge and skills can improve the environment.
- Liaison with environmental partners, grounds maintenance and volunteer groups will be used to maintain habitats such as ponds, woodlands and hedgerows.
- Activities such as planting, felling and coppicing will form part of the Centre Woodland management plan.

- The children will be encouraged to maintain habitats by careful use.
- Utilising off site visits, and rotating activity areas will enable rest times to green areas.

Health and Safety:

- All activities are risk assessed and there are emergency procedures in place. All details about Health and Safety and Risk Assessments can be found in the Health Safety and Welfare Policies.

CHILDREN ARE OUR ECO WARRIERS

During visits, children are encouraged to look after the environment and adults are asked to lead by example.

Children can become an “Eco- Warrior” during a residential visit and are asked to wear a badge and carry out checks which will help save the planet. There are reminders displayed around the Centre.

Be a Kingswood Eco Warrior

Turn off lights in empty rooms

Save electricity

Close doors behind you

Keep heat in

Turn taps off

Save water

Put rubbish into bins

Recycle it or re use it

Only take what you need

Try not to waste anything

KINGSWOOD ENVIRONMENTAL CHARTER

The Kingswood Team and its Visitors will work hard:

- To keep the Centre and grounds clear of litter.
- To save energy by switching off electrical appliances, lights and heaters when not in use and keep doors closed.
- Not to waste natural resources like food and water.
- To use environmentally friendly products where possible.
- To recycle as much as possible
- To develop and improve the grounds for wildlife.
- To encourage all our visitors to help care for our environment and put into practice the above where appropriate.
- To ensure purchases come from the most sustainable sources possible.