



Ghanshyam Nursery School

'Laying the foundations for life'

S.K.S.S. TEMPLE, WESTFIELD LANE, HARROW, HA3 9EA

020 8909 9389

Outdoor Play Policy

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Presented and Agreed by Governors:

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Outdoor Play Policy

Ghanshyam Nursery School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children as we believe that this is of paramount importance. We expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We uphold the rights of everyone to equality under the law regardless of gender, age, race, belief, ability, disability, sexual orientation or identity.

We believe that our core school motto ('Laying the foundations for life' - We strive to provide the highest quality childcare facilities and personnel for the social, personal, cultural and religious advancement of the child) and British values are not mutually exclusive. We focus on ensuring our work is effective in securing this motto; challenging children, staff and parents/carers who express opinions contrary to the British values with regard to our duty to prevent extremism and radicalisation. Ghanshyam Nursery School has the highest regard for the safety of the children in our care and will carry out its duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children at all times.

Outdoor play is essential for all aspects of a child's development. It provides children with experiences which enable them to develop intellectually, emotionally, socially and physically. In doing so, it provides opportunities to develop their communication skills and encourages positive attitudes towards a healthy lifestyle.

Our aim for both indoor and outdoor play will be to provide a stimulating and safe environment for children's learning in all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Close observation is essential in order to assess children's ability and to ensure appropriate supervision is provided.

When planning Outdoor play, adults will consider the following:

- Safety.
- Is the area offering challenging and exciting play and learning environment.
- Different age groups of children and levels of ability using the space.
- Supervision and delegation.
- Children's individual needs.
- Continuation of indoor activities.
- Both adult-led and child-initiated opportunities are on offer.

Adults planning an activity will think carefully about what it should include and why. They will have clear goals for children's learning, at the same time they need to be responsive to children's enthusiasm and their interests. Within the planning, there will be flexibility to meet individual needs as they arise during the session.

Planning and safety for outdoor play:

- Use the garden as a context and a natural resource for learning and provide a stimulating, safe and challenging environment for children to play and learn with enjoyment and carry out daily risk assessments and safety checks to ensure areas are safe and secure.
- Plan outdoor learning experiences to extend the indoor learning experiences.
- On completion of the daily risk assessment, staff may opt to close parts of the garden that they feel maybe hazardous due to weather conditions.
- Any restrictions identified by the daily risk assessment will be recorded on the board whilst in force.
- All staff using the garden will check the board before going into the garden.
- All staff will be aware of the procedures in place, and where appropriate, trained to ensure that these procedures are followed effectively.
- Staff outdoors will always be aware of the safety of the children in the garden in their care, they will be vigilant at all times and never leave the garden for any reason unless another member of staff has taken over responsibility.
- Staff will also choose to close off areas of the garden depending on the age group using it and number of staff available for supervision.
- Where possible, members of the supply/agency team or students counted in the ratios, will be used to carry out duties away from the garden e.g. snack preparation, changing a nappy. They will NEVER leave the children unattended and call for assistance if needed.
- It is most important for staff to remain in their designated area at all times, this will ensure the outdoor area is adequately supervised.
- Each member of staff will position themselves in separate areas of the garden so that no space is unsupervised.
- Enable children to access the garden on a daily basis in all weathers.
- Ensure that the garden offers children the opportunity to develop fine and gross motor skills, investigate and explore, problem solve, use their imagination and creativity.
- Observe, assess and record the learning that happens in the garden/outdoor area.
- Provide protective clothing (water-proof trousers, capes and sunhats).
- Ensure that children enjoy activities and the feeling of wellbeing that it brings.
- Help children to care for and respect the outside environment through the context of the garden.
- Enable children to develop an appreciation of natural beauty and a sense of wonder about the world.
- Enable children to manage and use the space and freedom afforded by the garden.
- Give children the opportunity to relax and have fun outdoors.
- Support equality by ensuring that all areas and play opportunities are accessible to all children.
- At the end of each session, staff will ensure that all children are lined up at the door before they enter the building and return to their rooms.
- Children will be taken back into the nursery one room at a time using the appropriate entrances.
- All equipment will be stored away sensibly and carefully to allow for safe and easy removal the following day.
- Children will be encouraged to climb and balance independently but staff will always be aware of and consider different levels of ability.
- Accidents will be dealt with appropriately, following the procedures in place. All accidents will be recorded in the accident book and information will be shared with the parents.