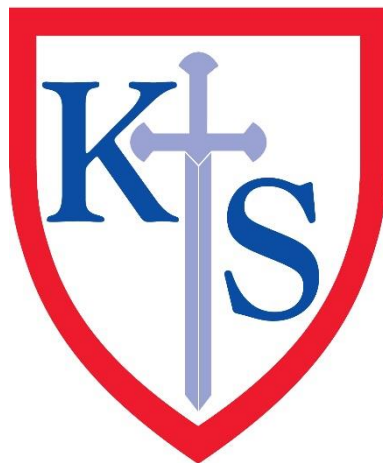


# Kingsland CE Primary School

## Outdoor Learning Policy



### Let your light shine

**“Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16**

**Let your light shine** on our vision:

*As God's children, overflowing with His light, we will shine before others to inspire, nurture and bring joy so all may embrace life in its fullness to the glory of God.*

**April 2024**

# Kingsland CE Primary School

## Outdoor Learning Policy

Date for full implementation:

April 2024

Review Date:

April 2027



### **Our vision:**

At Kingsland CE Primary School, our vision is for every child and every adult to 'Let their lights shine' and to experience life in all its fullness. We do this through engendering a deep love of learning.

Our outdoor learning policy aims to foster children's love of learning. At Kingsland CE Primary School, we believe that all children have the right to experience the unique and special nature of being outdoors. We further believe that it is important to enable children to use the outside environment as a context for learning.

### **What do we mean by Outdoor Learning?**

Outdoor Learning is a broad term that includes: outdoor play [learning through play], school grounds' projects, environmental education, recreational and adventurous activities, personal and social development, forest school activities, and using the outdoors as a stimulus for learning. Outdoor Learning does not have a clearly defined boundary but it does have a common core ...

Outdoor learning can provide a dramatic contrast to the indoor classroom. There is strong evidence that good quality learning outside the classroom adds much value to classroom learning. It leads to a deeper understanding of concepts that span traditional subject boundaries and which are frequently difficult to teach effectively using classroom methods alone.

Direct experience outdoors is powerful, motivating and has impact and credibility. Through skilled teaching, outdoor experiences readily become a stimulating source of fascination, personal growth and can lead to breakthroughs in learning.

Outdoor learning readily develops the learning skills of enquiry, experimentation, feedback, reflection, review, communication, problem solving, an enterprising attitude and cooperative learning – to name only some of the benefits.

Outdoor Learning can help to bring learning alive. For that reason, the outdoors can have an impact on areas of the curriculum as diverse as imaginative writing and personal and social development. Outdoor learning also provides experiential opportunities allowing pupils to respond positively to opportunities, challenges and responsibilities, to manage risk and to cope with change.

### **Benefits of Outdoor Learning:**

- Outdoor learning helps to ensure that children are successful learners enabling them to develop knowledge and skills in ways that add value to their everyday learning experiences.
- Outdoor learning enables children to be confident individuals and impacts positively upon young children's attitudes beliefs and self-perceptions.
- Outdoor learning contributes towards creating independent learners with high self-esteem, wellbeing and self-sufficiency.
- Outdoor learning can have a positive impact upon children's behaviour.
- Outdoor learning contributes towards the promotion and children's understanding of the importance of developing a healthy lifestyle.
- Outdoor learning has a positive impact upon children's personal and social development. It can also bring about community cohesion and allow children to develop as responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to their wider community. It can create pride in the school and wider community and promote community involvement, renewing children's pride and creating a sense of belonging and responsibility.
- It raises learners' attainment, promotes and strengthens communication skills, team work and sense of cohesion.

### **Aims and Objectives of this policy:**

- To raise the profile of Outdoor Learning.
- To empower children to take ownership of their learning, allowing their minds and bodies to thrive.
- To encourage children to develop the skills to solve problems, developing into resilient and reflective learners.
- To develop skills of communication, cooperation and collaborative learning.
- To provide a challenging, safe and secure environment within which children can take and manage risks.
- To encourage close links with parents and the school in celebrating our outdoor space and the rich learning that can take place within it.
- To encourage children to care for their environment.

### **Health and Safety:**

We will support children in taking risks within a safe and secure environment. Pupils will be taught to manage risks. It is important to ensure that the outdoor environment offers challenges and teaches the children how to be safe and aware of others. Outdoor learning opportunities will be grasped when available and teachers will assess risk.

In the first instance, the school's policies relating to Health and Safety and Risk Assessment should be referred to and applied prior to any outdoor learning activity that may require additional support beyond the reasonable activities one would normally apply within the classroom. It is also important that the school applies robust safety measures to effectively manage and minimise risks. It is equally important, however, that all involved acknowledge that a degree of residual risk remains.

**Resources:**

Being a village school in rural Herefordshire, serving many farming families, we understand the value of the natural environment, and the relationship pupils and families already have with the natural environment. Despite our limited resources, classes use the natural environment in a variety of ways:

- Pond area:
  - Frog spawn, life cycles, insect investigations; using our senses to explore different plants and herbs
- Outdoor classroom:
  - Reading buddies, a base for outside learning
- The Coronation Hall “forest school” area:
  - Used by Class 1 to investigate habitats, plant and animal investigations
- The Village Green:
  - Used for forest school activities, den building, PE; used for celebrations and church services
- National Trust membership:
  - For class visits to Croft Castle / Berrington Hall - for den building, forest school activities
- The Meadow:
  - Outdoor learning activities, habitat investigations, science work
- Pinsley Brook
  - Visits for river dipping, exploring habitats in and around rivers