



Farnborough Road Infant School

Policy on the School Environment

'Learning, Caring and Achieving Together'

Aims and objectives

The school environment, both indoor and outdoor, must contribute positively to the attitudes, behaviour and motivation of the pupils. The quality of the learning environment is very important to children, and has a considerable influence on their progress. We aim therefore to provide a safe and stimulating learning environment, making maximum use of the opportunities provided by both the grounds and buildings of the school.

Indoor environment

All teachers will take responsibility to ensure that their classroom is an attractive place in which to learn. The purposes of providing a stimulating classroom environment are:

- to engage the children and promote interest and motivation;
- to support learning in the subjects studied;
- to show appreciation of the work and effort of all pupils;
- to recognise excellent work and help to promote high standards.
- to support equality, diversity and inclusion.

Displays will reflect the themes currently being studied by the pupils. Displays should not only be relevant and attractive, but should also aim to be as interactive as possible. This means that children will be encouraged to look at the displays and make use of the information on working walls. Subject/Topic based displays will be changed at least once a term.

Providing a safe environment is of paramount importance, and all teachers will give due regard to the health and safety policy when organising their classrooms. For example, tears to carpets or faulty electrical fittings etc. must be reported immediately. Classrooms will be cleaned each day and we will ensure that the children have a clean, safe and welcoming place in which to learn.

In all that we do, we will strive to engender positive attitudes towards the environment. This means that we will teach the children to have respect for the equipment and facilities in the school, and to play their part in looking after their classroom and the environment in general. Children will be expected to leave classrooms in a neat and tidy condition. No litter will be left on the floor and all equipment will be put away in the appropriate place.

Each class will have an area, where the children can keep their coats and PE kit.

The appearance of the entrance foyer is very important, as it creates the first impression of the school for all visitors. We will ensure that this area reflects the school's ethos and high expectations.

Outdoor environment

Research shows that school grounds have a significant effect on children. These grounds are the one external environment to which all children have regular access, and for some of our children, they provide the only regular experience of the outdoors. They can provide unique experiences, opportunities and resources for teaching and learning in a safe and supervised external environment. They can be a stimulating and enjoyable place for both work and play.

We believe that the outdoor environment provides the following benefits. It can:

- enrich all areas of the curriculum, by providing a unique and varied context for learning;
- stimulate motivation and curiosity, encourage creativity and help pupils to develop a broad range of skills, competencies, knowledge and understanding;
- create opportunities for pupils to increase their understanding of sustainable development;
- afford opportunities for pupils to work together with adults for the common good, thus encouraging a sense of pride, ownership and responsibility.

The outdoor environment is very important in providing opportunities to enrich the curriculum.

By using learning strategies that enable the children to make use of all their senses, we can appeal to all learning styles. It is easier to remember what you have heard, seen, touched, tasted and smelled. The outdoor environment enables teachers to make learning as practical and 'hands on' as possible.

The school has an internal **Forest School** garden and shares an outdoor games area, 'Space for Sport'.

We have five outdoor areas – one for Caterpillars, one for Nursery, one for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Children generally play in their own playground except on a Friday when Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children enjoy a 'MASH UP' playtime of mixed year groups. We endeavour to provide an imaginative age appropriate play area for our children with a wide range of toys and activities.

The grounds are maintained by a contractor employed by the school governors. The contractor provides a grass-cutting service and maintains the trees and flower beds on the site.

Health and safety

The governing body abides by the Education (School Premises) Regulations of 2016, in which standards are set regarding school premises for all decisions concerning the school environment. The health and safety of all who use the school are of paramount importance. The school employs a health and safety company, Compliance to advise on all health and safety matters, and it has adopted their Health and Safety Policy and Staff Handbook.

The Headteacher and **School Improvement** committee have the responsibility of ensuring risk assessments are carried out on all equipment and the general school environment. The governing body will ask for regular reports from the headteacher about health and safety matters, including a record of what accidents have occurred in each term, and what safety inspections have been carried out.

Children will be supervised at all times when they are on the school premises during normal school hours, whether indoors or outdoors. The school will ensure particularly that there is adequate supervision of pupils at break and lunch times.

Monitoring and review

The school environment will be monitored by the headteacher and caretaker as part of his daily duties as well as being monitored by the **Premise Lead** on a termly tour of the school environment.

September 2025

This policy will be reviewed regularly.

Signed: _____ **Date** _____ **Headteacher**

Signed _____ **Date** _____ **Chair of Governors**