



Edge Hill Academy

School Environment Policy

Document Control

Document Title	School Environment Policy
Effective date	September 2022
Review Date	September 2023
Policy owner	Jane Foster
Policy Approver	Local Governing Bord

Version Control

Version	Date	Amended by	Comments

Section	Changes Made

Vision and Aims:

At Edge Hill, we believe that learning should be fun, purposeful and challenging. Through our broad and stimulating curriculum, we aim to equip all children with the knowledge and skills they need for lifelong learning. We believe that every child matters and through positive attitudes and partnership we endeavour to develop the whole child meeting individual needs so that have the confidence to 'believe in themselves, achieve and shine every day'.

We aim to achieve this through developing an environment

- Within which every child is valued, respected and cared for and happy.
- That is safe and within which children can feel secure and happy.
- That is attractive and provides extensive opportunities for learning in and outside the classroom.

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 academic standards and attitudes to learning. 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 topics being studied;
- to show appreciation of the work and effort of all pupils;
- to recognise excellent work and help to promote high standards.

Displays will reflect the themes and topics 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 show. Displays will be changed regularly, and should reflect our school vision and values.

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, heaters, 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 child will have a drawer to

keep books and equipment in. The children will be expected to take responsibility for looking after their own equipment, collecting it at the start of lessons and putting it away at the end.

Each class will have a cloakroom area, where the children can keep their coats; PE kit and other equipment for Forest School. Each child will have the exclusive use of a peg in the cloakroom area, but any valuables should be given to the class teacher for safekeeping.

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. There is an achievement area here which displays the awards earned by the school, such as sports trophies.

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;
- decrease the incidence of inappropriate behaviour, bullying, damage and vandalism;
- 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. The LOTC Curriculum and Forest Schools is a central part of teaching and learning. The outdoor environment is used to enrich and enhance all areas of the curriculum building on skills and knowledge as children progress through the school.

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 a Forest School area which all classes have planned activities that build on and contribute to work in the classroom.

We have a large playground that is used by all children and provide ample space and opportunities for games and play. There are a number of benches and tables provided for the children to use. The playgrounds are also marked out for a number of games, including netball. There are also playground markings and equipment that support play and encourage cooperation.

We have a very large sports field is used for a variety of games activities and is used by all children during their PE lessons. We encourage the children to use the field during the summer

term at lunchtime for games, but they are not allowed to go on the field during the winter, because it is unsafe then.

The grounds are maintained by a contractor employed by the school governors. The contractor provides a grass-cutting service, maintains the trees on the site and marks out the sports pitches.

There is an Orienteering Course that is laid out and cover the whole school site. This is used to support all areas of the curriculum and in particular Geography and PE. The school field also has a Trim Trail that children are allowed to use at lunch times on a rota basis.

Health and Safety

The governing body abides by the Education (School Premises) Regulations of 1999 (SI 1999/2), 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 also follows the Trust and LA's guidance on health and safety matters, and it has adopted the relevant Trust Policy.

The Site Supervisor regularly check the school grounds to ensure that there are no hazards and any Health and Safety issues are reported and dealt with promptly.

The Headteacher has the responsibility of carrying out risk assessments 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 before school, at break and lunch times, and after school, when they are using the playground and the school field. Children will not be allowed to use the Forest School Area or Trim Trail without proper adult supervision.