



School Environment Policy

Written by The Staff and Governors of Durand

September 2009

Agreed November 2009

Revised January 2017

Durand Primary School

School Environment Policy

Aims and objectives

At Durand Primary School we believe that 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. 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 promote high standards.

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 show. Displays will be changed regularly.

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. Any faults should 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 promote 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. The children will be expected to take responsibility for looking after their own equipment.

Each class will have a cloakroom area where the children can keep their coats, PE kit and other bulky equipment. Each child will have the exclusive use of a named 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, including the Welsh Culture and high expectations. There is an achievement area here which displays the awards earned by the school, such as sports trophies and pupil awards. There will be an area for newspaper cuttings that reflect the importance attached to the school by the community.

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 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.

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 includes a pond, a log circle and a variety of wild plants. Refer to Forest School handbook for further information.

We have two playgrounds, one for Foundation Phase pupils and one for the Key Stage 2 pupils. Children must play in their own playground only. This is particularly important for the Foundation Phase children who may otherwise feel intimidated by the older children. We endeavour to provide an imaginative play area for our children. Each playground has several pieces of equipment to stimulate play. There are a number of benches provided for the children to use. The playgrounds are also marked out for a number of games, including netball and football.

The 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 when dry and directed by the teacher. The school does not allow the public to walk dogs on the school field, and staff will take all reasonable measures to ensure that the field is free from excrement.

The grounds are maintained by a contractor via a Service Level Agreement. The contractor provides a grass-cutting service, maintains the trees on the site and marks out the sports pitches.

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 is of paramount importance. The school also follows the Local Authority guidance on health and safety matters, and it has adopted the relevant Local Authority policy.

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 (between 8.50am and 3.10pm), whether indoors or outdoors. Children will not be allowed to use the Forest School area, including the pond, without proper adult supervision.

Monitoring and review

The class teacher has the responsibility for maintaining a well-ordered and tidy classroom. The school will ensure that the classrooms are cleaned on a daily basis during term time. The school environment will be monitored by the Headteacher as part of her daily duties.

This policy will be reviewed by the governing body every two years, or earlier if necessary.

Headteacher:

Chair of Governors:

Date: