



# **St Peter & St Paul**

CofE Primary School

## **School Environment Policy**

### **2019 - 2021**

(This policy has been drafted having regard for the school's Christian ethos.)

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Signed</b>
<b>Agreed by Staff:</b>	October 2019	Mr Steve Ginn Head Teacher
<b>Agreed by Governors:</b>	October 2019	Mrs N Ford Chair of Governors
<b>Lead:</b>	Strategic Leadership Committee	
<b>Review date:</b>	October 2021	

### **Our School Mission Statement**

We see it as our mission to grow the whole child - intellectually, emotionally, physically, socially and spiritually. To provide them, within a Christian environment, with every learning opportunity possible and to empower them to be the leaders of tomorrow.

# School Environment Policy 2019-2021

## Rationale:

The core purpose of our school is to ensure the best possible education and pastoral provision for our children, enabling them to be highly successful learners, to achieve their full academic potential, and to experience high levels of emotional and physical well-being. Our school provides the environment where this vision becomes reality.

The quality of that environment, and the extent to which it is conducive to effective learning, is of the utmost importance.

## Aims:

The aim of this policy is to ensure that our school environment will:

- contribute positively to the learning, well-being, attitudes, behaviour and motivation of our children;
- provide a safe and stimulating learning environment;
- raise achievement and attainment;
- promote independent learning, as well as confidence and initiative-taking;
- celebrate and represent learners' achievements in a visual and interactive way;
- provide a safe, comfortable and motivating place of work for all our staff;
- be attractive and demonstrate to visitors the ethos of the school;
- reflect our core values of care and respect towards each other and our school.

## Indoor Environment:

### a) Classrooms

All teachers take responsibility for ensuring that their classroom is an attractive, stimulating and well resourced place to learn. The benefits of providing this sort of environment are that it will:

- help children to be engaged and to promote interest and motivation;
- support learning in the topics being studied;
- show appreciation of the work and effort of all pupils;
- recognise excellent work and effort of all pupils.

We strive to engender a positive attitude toward the school environment. This means that we teach children to have respect for the equipment and facilities in the school and to play their part in looking after the classroom and other designated areas. Staff model this behaviour in order to demonstrate to the children the importance of keeping a clean and tidy working environment and to engender a respect for the school surroundings.

Providing a safe environment is of paramount importance, and all teachers give due regard to the Health and Safety Policy when organising their classrooms. All hazards are reported immediately and actioned by the caretaker.

Staff and children are expected to leave classrooms in a neat and tidy condition. No litter should be left on the floor and all equipment and supplies should be put away in the appropriate location before the children leave school for the day.

Classrooms are cleaned each day and we ensure that the children have a clean, safe and welcoming place in which to learn.

Each child is given an area(s) to keep their books and other supplies and it is expected that they will take responsibility for looking after it. All PE equipment, shoes and coats should be kept on the designated hook/peg at all times.

### **b) Displays**

Displays are developed that reflect the themes currently being studied by the children. Efforts are made to ensure that they are not only relevant and attractive but also, as far as possible, are interactive and model good standards of work. This means that children will be encouraged to look at the displays and to make use of the information to be found there. Displays are changed and refreshed regularly and always link to the work being undertaken in the classroom.

As well as showcasing the pupils' finished work, displays should also show work and learning in progress. 'Working walls' are a common feature of our classrooms, where methods and learning strategies can be demonstrated.

Displays in common areas are used to display themed work across both key stages as directed by the Head Teacher and Senior Teacher. They, like the classroom displays, reflect the school's values and celebrate pupils' achievements. They may also on occasion act as an information resource for pupils or parents.

### **c) Entrance Foyer**

We recognise the importance of our entrance foyer as being the area that creates the first impression for everyone who visits the school. We therefore ensure that it is kept neat and tidy, that the displays are current and refreshed regularly and that it reflects our Christian ethos and high expectations to everyone who visits. Names and photographs of those individuals who work in the school are kept on the wall and refreshed regularly to reflect any staffing changes.

### **d) Halls and Common Areas**

It is the responsibility of all members of the school community to ensure that all hallways and common areas are kept neat and tidy at all times. This not only demonstrates a respect for the school, but also ensures that they are free of trip hazards and ready for use by the next individual/group. In addition to generally keeping these areas tidy, on some occasions, certain classes or groups are designated responsibility for specific areas.

## **Outdoor Environment:**

Research shows that the outdoor environment and the school grounds can have a significant effect on children's well-being and motivation towards their school and their learning. For some children, it may be the only outside area for play and learning to which they regularly have access. It can provide unique experiences, opportunities and resources for teaching and learning.

We believe that it can provide the following benefits for our pupils. 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 all features of their local environment and sustainable development;
- teach children to value and love the natural environment.

The outdoor environment enables teachers to make learning as practical and 'hands on' as possible.

In order to enhance the outdoor environment, the school has a pond, wildlife area, sensory area and various garden areas. Children are encouraged to help in the maintenance of the garden areas particularly by aiding with planting and watering.

The school also have various bits of outdoor play equipment, a playing field and a 4D Multi Use Games Area which aid with physical recreation on a year round basis.

## **Equal Opportunities:**

At St. Peter and St. Paul CofE Primary School, we ensure that our learning environments and displays reflect the rich diversity, cultures and abilities of our pupils.

In each class, there will be children with a range of differing abilities and special needs, and the learning environments should explicitly cater to these to promote and facilitate learning.

As part of this, throughout the year, teachers will ensure that ALL children will have had the opportunity to contribute to work on display in the learning environment in the classroom or around the school.

Learning environments and displays will promote equal opportunities to learn and take account of disabilities and gender balance.

## **Health and Safety:**

The health and safety of all who use the school is of paramount importance. It is for this reason that a Health and Safety policy is in place and in addition to this, the Head Teacher, Chair of Finance and Resources (or another designated governor) and the

caretaker regularly inspect the school premises and grounds and update the school risk assessments. The Governing Body regularly receives reports from this governor and the Head Teacher about health and safety matters including details of any areas of specific concern.

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 access the wildlife area or to go near the pond without proper adult supervision.

### **Monitoring:**

The class teachers will ensure that their classroom, and those areas used by the children in their class, are well ordered and tidy. They will ensure that children take responsibility for their own belongings and for helping to maintain their classroom and communal areas.

The school environment will be monitored by the Head Teacher on a regular basis and a report on the state of the school environment will be included in each Head Teacher's report.

### **Period of Review:**

This policy will be reviewed every two years.