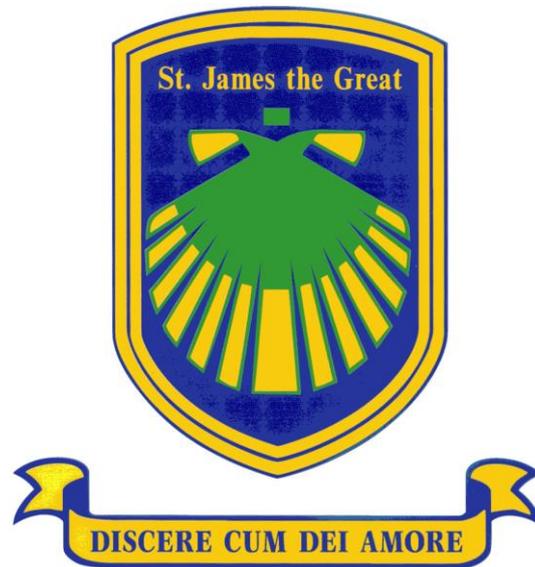


St. James the Great School RC Primary and Nursery School



Outside Environment Policy

Date Created: Autumn 2007
Date Reviewed: Spring 2011
Date Reviewed: Spring 2017

Rationale

From St. James the Great Mission Statement:

“.....the School will provide a framework within which all pupils are enabled to develop the highest possible level of achievement, fulfilling their academic, moral, physical and spiritual potential.”

Introduction

The Outside Environment Policy serves as a guide for all adults and children involved with St. James the Great to promote their commitment to safeguarding, using and valuing the external areas of the School.

The Nature of Environmental Education

It is important for the members of the St. James the Great community to have an awareness and understanding of the effects of their actions upon the environment in which they live, work and relax. In order to do this, each individual is encouraged to take responsibility for his or her own actions and to demonstrate a sense of duty and care for the immediate and long-term sustainability of God's world.

The knowledge, skills and attitudes which children experience in the Outside Environment contribute to and enrich many other areas of the curriculum.

Aims

- Children to develop a sense of `awe and wonder` at the beauty of their local and global environment, understanding that the state of the world in which they live has been shaped by the actions of past and present societies.
- Outside Environment provides a safe environment at all times for all children, adults and visitors.
- Children to act as knowledgeable role models for the benefit of the School and broader environment.
- The use of the Outside Environment is maximised to contribute to and enrich many other areas of the academic curriculum and the children's lives in School.

Objectives

- School Eco-Council to act as a student discussion forum for environmental issues concerning St. James the Great, increasing the awareness of relevant environmental issues amongst all children and adults involved with the School.
- To promote the role of Play Leader amongst the older children in order to encourage and facilitate safe play within the School grounds, in all Key Stages, including the fair use of games equipment, playground furniture and playground markings.
- To develop and protect the Nature Areas within Foundation Stages 1 and 2, thereby facilitating the children's close examination of mini-beast habitats.
- To continue to develop the Environmental Area as an allotment and salad garden area, run by Key Stage Two, reinforcing our position as a Healthy School.
- To continue to develop the Environmental Area as a garden area, growing plants and flowers for their aesthetic value, which adds to the spiritual life of the School.
- To continue to develop the Environmental Area, including the pond, as a curriculum resource in a wide variety of subjects.
- To continue to develop the Environmental Area and school grounds as a community resource, available for hire for outside meetings, clubs and social events.
- To minimise the use of non-renewable and environmentally-damaging resources.
- To maximise recycling.
- To ensure that children are given every opportunity to explore and learn from both the local and wider area, undertaking appropriate visits where possible.
- To promote sustainable modes of transport where possible e. g. walking, bicycling, public transport, including during school trips.
- To include and welcome the involvement of the wider community, particularly carers, for example, in the Environmental Area
- To ensure that the School complies with all appropriate and applicable environmental laws and regulations
- To ensure that all School purchases are made in accordance with the aims of this Policy.

Teaching and Learning

The local and broader Outside Environments at St. James the Great provide a variety of teaching and learning opportunities for the children, both from a curricular and extra-curricular perspective and all staff are encouraged to use the grounds as much as possible in their work with the children.

The Role of the Subject Leader

It is the Subject Leader's responsibility to ensure:

- Development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of whole-school policy.
- Colleagues are supported in accessing local and wider outside environments to support teaching and learning.
- Continued professional development is available for all colleagues.
- The school is aware of developments through establishing links with fellow Outside Environment Leaders.
- Resources are developed and maintained.

The Role of Governors

A nominated Governor will liaise with the coordinator to monitor the Policy and provision for the Outside Environment.

Involvement of Parents

Our school recognises parents as the first educators of their children and recognises the importance of an effective partnership with parents. Parents have full access to the Policy and can use the appropriate channels within St. James the Great to communicate their ideas regarding the Outside Environment. Parents are, of course, fully welcomed and included in the community aspects of the Policy, particularly the Environmental Area initiative.

Inclusion

Children with special educational needs, physical, emotional or behavioural, will be identified and supported as necessary to facilitate their full inclusion in all activities and opportunities within the Outside Environment.