

# **Stanton Drew & Pensford Preschool & Forest Club**

## **Free Flow Policy**

### **Aim**

Our aim is to achieve free flow between indoors and outdoors in the setting for as much of the session as we can. We want to do this in a way which is safe, educationally valuable, and also enjoyable, for all our children and staff.

### **Safety**

- Free flow will not commence until all children are safely received into the session and the register has been completed. This will happen at approximately 9.30am. Until this time, the front door will remain closed
- At least one member of staff will be on duty in the outside area at all times when free flow is in operation
- Staff will position themselves where they can see all the children outside as far as is practicable, help will be called if this is not possible
- When working outside, staff will focus on the safety of the children rather than on any adult led or adult directed activities. This is particularly important where there are a high number of children in a session
- Should an emergency situation occur, the staff member will shout if this will work more quickly.
- The 'golden rules' will be reinforced with the children, and any specific dangers or issues pointed out to them. (See risk assessment.)
- Any children who do not comply with the golden rules will, after 2 warnings, be asked to return inside.
- Staff will do a regular head count of the total number of children at the setting.
- One member of staff will act as a 'floating' person, able to move between indoors and out. This person will assess the best place to be situated, depending on the numbers of children playing indoors/outdoors.
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- If a 'situation' occurs, and extra staff are needed inside, those children playing outdoors will be brought into the hall so that all the staff can be available inside
- On sunny days, children will be asked to put their hats on while outside. The member of staff outside will be responsible for ensuring that all children do have their hats on
- As per our risk assessment – ensure no toys are kept by the railings
- Planks are to be used to decrease the gap in the fence by the trees
- At all times, the safety of the children will be our paramount concern.
- Before returning inside the staff member will ring the bell to ensure all children know it's time to go in, along with informing and checking all areas
- During prolonged periods of wet weather – free flow may be suspended if the grass is considered too slippery and the car park to be used as an alternative.

### **Learning**

- Staff will explore interesting ways for using the outdoor area.
- Even where most children are choosing to play outside, staff will ensure that there are sufficient activities inside to (a) engage the children until free flow commences and (b) still cover all areas of learning in the EYFS.
- There will be a balance between physical activities, such as ride on toys, obstacle course and more small-scale, focused activities, such as mark making or digging.
- Staff will give the setting leader an informal overview of how many children are choosing to play indoors and outdoors, so that she can assess any ongoing changes required to the way we operate free flow.

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These policies and procedures were adopted at a Committee meeting of Stanton Drew and Pensford Pre-school

Held on (date)	Reviewed April 2024
Date to be reviewed (date)	April 2024
Signed on behalf of the committee	
Name & role of signatory	
Signed on behalf of the pre-school	Melissa Diaz
Name & role of signatory	Melissa Diaz- Preschool leader