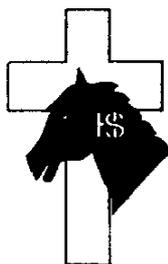


# HORSINGTON CHURCH SCHOOL



## MESSY PLAY POLICY

### RATIONALE

“Imagine children damming a tumbling stream with sticks and stones. Imagine them crafting bows and arrows deep in the woods or watching in wonder as a crumpled dragonfly emerges from its nymph case. This is play in the great outdoors – imaginary games, exciting adventures and amazing discoveries. The natural world is a place for exploration, learning about risk, building confidence and escaping into the imagination. Children should be encouraged to appreciate and enjoy wild places and above all to have fun in the freedom of the great outdoors.”

*Nature's Playground by Fiona Danks & Jo Schofield*

Playing outdoors should be a fundamental part of childhood. Life is full of risk, so the best way to prepare children for life is to ensure that they understand how to judge risk for themselves. If they graze a knee on a rough piece of grass it will help them to learn to be more careful next time.

### AIMS

Outdoor play should aim to:

- develop children in an understanding that life is full of risk and ensure that they understand how to judge risk for themselves.
- help them appreciate the diversity of nature and explore it in as many ways as they can.
- to develop an affinity with the natural world, an insatiable curiosity and a sense of wonder .
- to develop an innate love and respect for wild places.

### OBJECTIVES

Children should be able to:

- make discoveries and appreciate wild places.
- have adventures to build confidence and instil bravery.
- use their imagination and have time to become completely immersed in their games/adventures.
- be creative.
- use all their senses to appreciate the diversity of nature.

## **PLANNING**

Apart from issues of Health and Safety there will be no planning because we aim to provide a place for unsophisticated, unstructured, healthy play.

There, however, may be times when the area is used to enhance other areas of the curriculum in which case the activities will be planned.

Adopted: September 2007  
Reviewed by staff: April 2010  
Reviewed: February 2014