



# ALEXANDRA COLLEGE DUBLIN

## Alexandra College Preschool Outdoor Play Policy

Alexandra College Preschool recognises the importance of outdoor play and experience for all children. The outdoor environment provides a range of developmentally appropriate, challenging, diverse, creative and enriching experiences for all children.

### **Principle**

This policy is underpinned by the Child Care act 1991 (Early years services)\_ Regulations 2016.

The philosophy adopted in Alexandra College Preschool-the Froebelian approach encourages opportunities for positive risk taking and adventurous play outdoors. Froebel argued that children who have experienced risk and challenges in their play were safer than those who had been protected and discouraged from challenging themselves. Froebel emphasised that children should experience all aspects of nature, not just plants and animals. One of the best ways children can experience nature he argued is through their play outdoors in the garden and wider natural environment.

When the children are playing outside they are learning together and supported while they develop at their own pace. They are encouraged to questions probe and challenge answers. The classroom is outside too as they develop their skill, playing socially, discussing, questioning, talking and learning together. Play is considered such a vital role in their learning and overall development. "Hands on minds" approach to learning-Play and Learn. Outside we choose stimulating topics to stimulate their learning and help them become aware of themselves and their wider world. Holistic education plays such a pivotal role here, developing the child in a physical, intellectual, emotional and social way.

Alexandra College provides:

A suitable safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access to on a daily basis.

The equipment and furniture is checked to ensure it is safe, appropriate, well maintained and clean. Sufficient suitable toys, play materials and resources are made available to provide stimulating and play opportunities for the girls. Risk assessments of the play equipment are undertaken and regularly reviewed.

To this end Alexandra College recognises the importance of outdoor play and experiences for all children and provides access to outdoor play each day weather permitting. On a daily basis Alexandra College offers diverse, creative, challenging and enriching experiences for our girls. We provide a stimulating, enjoyable and safe environment allowing the girls to play, investigate, explore, problem solve and use their imagination and creativity in an outdoor environment whilst stimulating their senses.

The Health and safety of the children is of the utmost importance in Alexandra college. To this end we ensure that Incident reports are kept on file for accidents that occur in the playground. Medical boxes are kept in both rooms and Ice Packs are applied where necessary after visiting the office where the child is brought to a designated person. The outdoor playgrounds have fencing and gates around each one. All entry and exit points are secured during play time. The children are encouraged to tidy up the outdoor play area after they have played with it. The outdoor area is checked every day for litter, faeces and any objects that might be harmful.

Review Date      May 2025

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

(Chairperson of Board of Management)

(Principal)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_