

#### Ulva Primary School

#### WET WEATHER PROCEDURES

We are a rights respecting school and we believe children have a right to fresh air and exercise at break time.

**UN Convention on the rights of the child** Article 31: (leisure, play and culture) Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

It is our expectation that children will go out to play twice per day, the exception being if the weather conditions are extreme. We shall use a common sense approach, supported by the pupils.

**Why does this matter?** Quite simply, outdoor play is good for children.

**The benefits of outdoor play are well documented, and include:**

* increasing physical activity
* increasing the body's vitamin D levels
* reducing anxiety and improving mood
* improving concentration and focus
* enhancing imaginative and creative play
* promoting problem solving and leadership skills
* developing stronger immune systems

### BEFORE 9.30 AM

When weather is severe children will be allowed into the school as they arrive. The pupils will take responsibility to come into school, change and go into the classroom. The class will be supervised by classroom assistant or member of staff in her absence.

### MORNING BREAK and LUNCH BREAK

The expectation is that all pupils will play outside at break-times.

If the weather is severe, the children will remain in their classrooms with something to do from the play resources. The classroom assistant or, in their absence, another staff member will monitor the class.

**PUPIL VOICE**

* **We want to play outside unless the rain is very heavy and playing outside is not comfortable (head teacher would prefer we all came in rather than huddled in the shelter)**
* **We really like having a staff member present. This member of staff will decide if weather has become so bad that play needs to move indoors.**
* **We will take responsibility to come to school with appropriate outer clothing. If we come to school with no coat we will be provided with a school one.**

**OUTDOOR LEARNING**

*Curriculum for Excellence through Outdoor Learning has set out a vision for all schools and educational settings to provide frequent and progressive outdoor learning opportunities which are clearly part of the curriculum. It is the responsibility of all involved in education to recognise the place of outdoor learning within the curriculum and plan accordingly to ensure that all children and young people in Scotland receive these opportunities as part of their learning journey.* Page 26, 2010

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/cfeoutdoorlearningfinal_tcm4-596061.pdf>

We at Ulva Primary School are committed to provide experiential learning, using the local environment to enhance learning.

**When should outdoor lessons be abandoned?**

1. When there is a potential risk to the children’s safety; if the surfaces are too slippery; or if the children do not have appropriate footwear for the activity.

2. If the teacher deems that the weather will have a detrimental effect on teaching and learning.

3. When the health of either party may be at risk.

**Damage limitation to the curriculum.**

* Rather than cancelling the lesson an indoor lesson should occur.
* As far as possible, the activity done inside should reflect the timetabled activity either through a small game or skill session.
* We will endeavour to add on an extra session outdoors to the timetabled block so that the children do not miss out. Should the inclement weather persist, then it may be pertinent to bring forward an ‘indoor’ block and revert to the outdoor block at a later date.

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