



## **Grove Lea Primary Outdoor Vision Statement**

For some children outdoor spaces and the amount of time they spend in the outdoors is limited at home. Therefore, the outdoor opportunities we provide each child in our outdoor learning environment is significant part of our practice.

The outdoors are imperative in so many ways. It boosts confidence, social skills, communication, motivation, physical skills, knowledge and understanding, has an increase in children's self-esteem, self-confidence, ability to work cooperatively.

Within this safe environment, children are able to explore personal risk, whether that was how high they chose to climb, their proximity to spiders, or even the feel of damp leaves and squelchy mud on their fingertips. Children communicate differently with freer, louder 'outside' voices but also offers space for freedom and calmness resting between the willow tunnel on beanbags or the talk station.

The outdoor area at Grove Lea gives the children direct experiences of the world around them. Exploring and observing changes in the environment around them. The feel of snow as it falls from the sky. The awe and wonder of ice. Hot chocolate in the outdoor classroom. Observing caterpillars, they have cared for change emerge and be set free. The seeds they planted together grow into delicious vegetables to eat.

The liberation of the outdoors. The freedom to be loud, explore collaboratively and imaginatively create on large scales. Building large scale models/construction (trains, dens, space stations, obstacle courses etc).

Our outdoor space helps children develop and expand their language and vocabulary in new ways. They'll discover words and concepts they wouldn't come across in the classroom. For example, a child might seek out the names of specific insects, or want to discuss the different sounds and smells they experienced in nature.

