



# The Orchards Primary Academy

*Where learning has no limits and personal growth is endless...*

## Our Intent for Outdoor Learning

At The Orchards Primary Academy, we are committed to providing a rich and engaging outdoor environment that fosters the holistic development of every child. Our outdoor provision aims to promote physical health, social skills, curiosity, creativity, and a connection with the natural world. We believe that outdoor play is essential for young children's cognitive, emotional, and physical development, and we strive to create a safe, stimulating, and inclusive outdoor space where children can explore, learn, and grow. Our Get Set Principles, underpin the ideologies that fundamentally sit within the bracket of outdoor exploration.

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## Implementation Statement

*To achieve our intent, we have:*

1. Designed a Diverse Outdoor Environment: Created various curiosity zones including natural areas, structured play equipment, and open spaces to encourage different types of play and learning experiences.
2. Ensured Safety and Accessibility: Regularly inspecting and maintaining all outdoor equipment and areas to ensure they are safe and accessible for all children, including those with special educational needs and disabilities.
3. Facilitated Free and Structured Play: Offered a balance of child-initiated free play and adult-led activities to support different learning styles and outcomes.
4. Incorporated Natural Elements: Included nature gardens, STEM areas, Ecosystems, physical areas, sand, water, and other natural materials to promote sensory exploration and environmental awareness.
5. Provided Appropriate Resources: Equipped the outdoor area with a variety of resources and materials that can be used in multiple ways, encouraging creativity and problem-solving.
6. Trained Staff: Ensured all staff are trained in outdoor education principles and understand the importance of outdoor play in early years development.
7. Engaged with the Community: Involved families and the wider community in outdoor activities and projects to foster a sense of belonging and partnership.
8. Regularly Monitored and Reflected: Continuously assessed and reflected on the outdoor provision, seeking feedback from children, staff, and parents to make necessary improvements and adaptations.

Through these actions, we aim to continue to create a dynamic and nurturing outdoor environment that supports the well-being and development of every child in our care.