**A policy for Class One’s Outdoor Classroom**

At Steam Mills Primary School we believe that the whole curriculum can be covered in a well-planned outdoor environment, and that there is some learning that can only take place outdoors. The children have the right to the outdoor environment all the year round and access to the area is available daily throughout the different sessions with constant adult supervision and interaction.

We provide a space where children can move freely. Movement is a vital part of play and learning. Young children learn about themselves and their environment through movement.

Growth and the development of the body, brain and feelings are inseparable. Our children have first to experience the world through all their senses before they can think in the abstract. Our outside area is planned to provide opportunities for both independent sensory exploration and adult directed learning opportunities.

Experiences in running, climbing, crawling and balancing are necessary if our children are to learn to read and write successfully. We provide the space necessary for large physical movements with safe surfaces to allow all our children the opportunity to be safely adventurous.

We hope to compensate for the lack of opportunities for children to play safely and be physically active in the home environment and to reduce the risk of heart disease by providing a rich well planned physical learning environment.