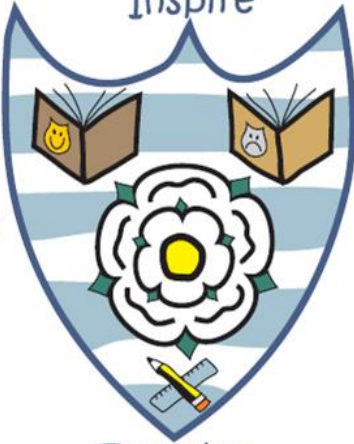


Birkwood Primary

Inspire

Cherish



Achieve

Together

School

Pond Policy

FEBRUARY 2011

Pond Safety

A pond is proposed as part of a wildlife garden in one corner of the school field. The area will be fenced with a lockable gate. Children will only have access to the garden in small groups with appropriate adult supervision.

Design

- Ponds should be designed so that the edges of the pond do not exceed 1 in 3 gradient from the shallow to the deepest zone. The deepest part of the pond should preferably be in the centre or towards one end of the pond where access is more limited.
- The depth of the water should be kept as shallow as possible but must not exceed the following depths:
Primary School – 600mm
- The surrounding area adjacent to the pond should be flat. However, where this is not possible the sides must slope gently to the edge.
- Potholes or other tripping hazards must be eliminated where possible.
- Suitable provision should be made at the water's edge so that groups can work safely. This is best provided by timber decking at parts of the pond which are accessible. Pond dipping platforms – can become very slippery when wet, therefore, they should be made of a non-slip material or if wooden covered with a wire mesh e.g. chicken wire fixed tightly to the boards. Where a pond is provided with a soft edge in part for the development of wildlife this edge must be inaccessible to people.
- A suitable and safe means of access must be provided ~ Access will be through a locked gate and along a path.
- Electrical equipment near ponds is not encouraged. Pumps should be solar powered. In rare circumstances where electrical equipment is required this must be specified and installed by competent qualified electricians in accordance with minimum standards ~ No electrical equipment will be near the pond.
- Ponds in school must be fenced to prevent accidental approach. The fencing may be around an area containing the pond or directly around the pond if necessary. If the fencing has slats those must be vertical not horizontal with no gaps large enough for a child to pass through. The fence must be a minimum of one metre in height. A lockable gate must be provided to deter unsupervised entry ~ The slats will be close together so that the children cannot climb over the fence. The fence will be 1 metre high.
- Excessive plant growth deposits of silt or mud should be removed on a regular basis ~ Dawn Hooper, Jayne Cattell and Jo-anne Whitfield to be responsible for maintenance.
- Appropriate warning signs must be posted warning of the presence of a pond and detailing safety rules for use. Signs must be used in addition to, not instead of, other control measures.

Management

- The school must carry out risk assessments in relation to the pond and activities involving the pond. The risk assessment must be reviewed regularly, at least once a year or when appropriate e.g. any changes to the area. All relevant information (ie the findings of the assessment and the control measures) must be relayed to staff and other people who may carry out activities involving the pond.
- The classes or groups using the pond must be supervised at all times.
- The pond must be regularly maintained to ensure that the perimeter does not deteriorate.

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of the Science Co-ordinators to monitor the standards and impact on children's learning in the outdoor classroom environment. Appropriate Health and Safety measures must be adhered to at all times.

This policy will be reviewed in February 2012.

Signed _____ Headteacher Date _____

Signed _____ Chair of Governors Date _____