

CHALCOT LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY: Sensory Garden

INITIAL COPY

Ratified

2022

22/03/22

Policy

This policy describes the purpose of a sensory room and sets out the requirements for when and how a sensory room may be used by a school to support a student.

Summary

- For the purposes of this policy, a sensory room is a controlled and intentionally created space that provides multi-sensory resources to support a student's sensory needs to enable them to engage in learning.
- Schools are expected to support a student's learning within regular learning spaces such as classrooms as much as possible.
- The Sensory garden must not be used in the disciplining of students.
- The Sensory garden is to be used to promote a student's engagement in their learning and achieve their learning goals in a manner that proactively supports and responds to the student's sensory needs. This will commonly involve making a sensory room available to a student proactively to prevent problem, challenging or maladaptive behaviours, before the problem, challenging or maladaptive behaviour occurs. The Sensory garden is not intended to be used in response to problem, challenging or maladaptive behaviours.
- The Sensory garden may sometimes be used to reinforce and reward positive behaviour where it will assist the student's overall learning and engagement, but this use should not be its main purpose.
- The Department does not support the use of deep pressure equipment, such as weighted blankets and vests, worn by or applied to students as they can pose a risk to the health and safety of students.

Details

Student learning

The Sensory garden is to be used as a resource to support students' sensory needs so they can achieve their learning goals.

The Sensory garden is to be used in a manner that proactively supports and responds to the student's sensory needs not reactively in response to challenging behaviours.

Use of sensory garden

All equipment in the sensory garden must undergo periodic checks by school staff to ensure they are in good working order and are safe to use.

Prohibited equipment and practices

The Sensory garden must not be used in the disciplining of students. Using the sensory garden in response to student behaviour may reinforce the student's use of the challenging behaviour.

The Sensory garden must not be used for the purpose of separating students from their peers, either during class or break times.

The Sensory garden is not an alternative curriculum or alternative to formal education.

The Sensory garden is not alternative play spaces for students who prefer not to play outside.

Definitions

Sensory Garden

A controlled and intentionally created space that provides multi-sensory resources to support a student's sensory needs to enable them to engage in learning.

EVALUATION

The Sensory Garden Policy will be reviewed by Professional Learning Teams in consultation with the Education Policy committee, every three years or sooner if required