Wild Beach Policy

1. Introduction and Approach

Wild Beach is a unique method of Outdoor Education that takes the ethos of Forest School to the seaside. It promotes an understanding of the natural world through play and regular visits to a local coastal setting providing an opportunity to build a connection with nature. A typical Wild Beach setting is an area of beach local to the nursery.
Regular visits allow the children the opportunity to develop a sense of ownership of their local beach supported with visits to other coastal locations to experience different marine environments.
Wild Beach takes key elements of the Forest Schools approach:

- Reconnecting children to the natural environment, learning the wonder of an outdoor setting
- High ratio of staff to children
- A less formal approach to planning sessions, learning that has a natural flow
- Repeat visits to a familiar site to experience the changing landscape
- A regular and expected part of the preschool timetable

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Risk Assessments particular to Wild Beach
- Medication Policy
- Food Handling, Hygiene and Nutrition Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Equality & Inclusion Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Outings Policy
- Lost Child Policy and Procedure
- Play Policy
- Adverse Weather Policy
- Mobile Device and User Policy
- Sun UV Protection Policy
- Lockdown Policy

Paper copies can be located in the Policy Folder in the office, with Wild Beach Risk Assessments available in the Wild Beach folder.

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3. Purpose/Aims of Wild Beach

- To provide children with experiences that encourages an appreciation, awareness and knowledge of the natural environment.
- To engender respect and care for their own local environment, build a relationship with the place and feel confident in it.
- To abide by rules and set standards of behaviour, to work cooperatively in groups and to respect each other.
- Develop children's self-esteem and self-confidence through the setting of small achievable tasks, to build up on skills and learning, to learn try again if not achieved.
- Support health and wellbeing through time in the outdoors environment and the benefit of exercise from the walk to and from the beach.
- Positive impact on the development of Physical and gross motor skills due to the uneven surfaces of the beach environment

4. Environmental Considerations and Conservation

One of the principles of Wild Beach is to promote environmental awareness and encourage sustainability. The children are taught about respect and responsibility for the world around them. Both the children and adults are encouraged to respect their environment and to be aware of conservation issues of the beach area around them.

We approach this in an age appropriate way, discussing the environmental impacts of misuse of the coast. We use books such as 'Otto's Ocean' to talk about this and to add context to the litter pick that we carry out at the end of every session.
Encouraging children to care for the environment is an essential part of Wild Beach. In order to encourage the children to look after the site we will always leave it tidy and never damage anything growing in it. We will only collect things that are on the ground and leave the area as we found it when we leave. The Wild Beach Leaders will monitor the site so that it does not become overused and an alternative area will be found and risk assessed if necessary

5. How Wild Beach can support delivery of the EYFS framework

Learning & Development Area	How these are being met on the beach
Personal, social and emotional development	Develop children's self esteem and self-confidence through the setting of small achievable tasks, to build up on skills and learning, to show pride in achievement and understand to try again if not achieved. Presents opportunities to try new activities and take risks when they are ready. Children develop an understanding of boundaries which promotes safety and positive behaviours as well as risks Social skills can be developed through working cooperatively in groups and helping peers, learning to respect each other
Communication, language and literacy	Children are naturally curious about their environment and introducing a new unexplored environment involves investigations, asking questions and inquiry. Elicitation is a key practitioner skill required here Vocabulary will naturally be broadened and listening skills developed on a 121 and group context. Conversational skills will be developed in practical way
Problem solving, reasoning and numeracy	Enable children to take part in activities that support them to understand risk. Experiments and activities and finding out answers concerned with the environment will develop thinking and inquiry approaches to learning
Knowledge and understanding of the world	Providing children with experiences that encourages an appreciation, awareness and knowledge of the natural environment To engender respect and care for their own local environment and build a relationship with the place. Observation and exploring will allow appreciation of patterns and relationships, show an awareness of similarities, differences and change. Identifying and finding out about living things will encourage enquiry
Physical development	Strength is built due to the uneven and unfamiliar surfaces of the beach environment. Physical and gross motor skills developed through using tools, picking up a carrying objects and drawing. Gain an understanding of the effects of different environments on movement. Support health and wellbeing from being outdoors and the benefit of exercise from the walk to and from the beach

	The natural world is stimulating and can engage all senses
Creative development	Allow children to express themselves in a new environment through imaginative play, storytelling and creative activities using the natural resources supplied. Exposure to new materials, colours and textures

* Elicitation is a process of discovering and clarification of children's existing ideas developed from experience and interaction with others

6. The Home from Home Wild Beach programme

Wild Beach encourages outdoor play and child-led learning allowing children to develop confidence, independence, self-esteem and awareness and knowledge of the natural environment. This fully supports our ethos at Home from Home. It is a child centred and child led programme that provides the opportunity for the children to use their personal learning style to complete their chosen tasks.
Initially the group will be encouraged to explore the space There will be discussions around setting boundaries, how to stay safe on the beach and other perceived risks. Activities will be introduced to the group in order to stimulate interest and provide the group with ideas to develop themselves.
Typical activities include:

- Identifying plants and animals at the coast
- Creating pictures using materials found on the beach
- Building shelters
- Games to promote environmental awareness
- Understanding tides and weather
- Litter picking

As the weeks progress and the children become familiar with their outdoor space and the possibilities open to them, they are encouraged to initiate their own activity and develop ideas at their own pace.
Wild Beach sessions are child led and will be impacted by variable conditions such as the tide and the weather.
We also take trips further afield to explore other aspects of seaside life such as the pier where can appreciate the coast and tide from a different view and observe local artwork and sea life information boards. We visit the coastal office where they show us their fish tank that contains different species from rockpools under the pier. We like to go and meet the local fishermen that have small boats based in the town and we can see what they have caught locally.

7. Structure of the programme

- Preschool children will experience Wild Beach in the year before leaving for school.
- Children will be part of a small group (maximum 6) that will visit the beach once a week for a six week programme each term.
- Each session lasts 2 hours.
- Children walk to the local beach and back.
- Snack time is a part of the beach activity
- Any visits further afield will involve transportation via public bus.

8. Attendance, Permissions and Fees

Attendance - Wild Beach takes place on a variety of days throughout the Year. Dates are set by the Outdoor Activities Practitioner and are planned for the academic year alongside the Forest School program. Invitations to attend Wild Beach are emailed directly to parents individually in advance. Information is sent home to parents before sessions including our Wild Beach Parent Information and Dressing for Outdoor Play document.

Permission – By accepting the invitation for your child to attend Wild Beach you are providing Parental Consent for your child to attend this off site activity. Parents are requested to explicitly give their permission for their child to be taken on the bus when confirming their space.

Fees - There will be a charge of £39 per term (i.e., 6-week programme) per child to attend Wild Beach

9. Legislation and Beach school

Several key pieces of legislation guide Early Years Education in the UK. The Childcare Act of 2006, Equality Act 2010 and Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework and Working Together to Safeguard Children.

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 covers Home from Homes duties towards employees and members of the public. It also covers the duties that employees have towards themselves and to each other whilst in the work place. This act means that an employer has a duty to ensure the Health, Safety and Welfare at work of their employees and any equipment used by them, and that employees are responsible for the Health and Safety of themselves and others that may be affected by their acts. The risk assessments carried out at Home from Home are written with the Health and Safety of all participants in mind; children, volunteers and members of staff.

Routines and procedures at Home from Home are developed with reference to the above legislation and our Wild Beach program follows the relevant policies.

10. Health and Safety

The Wild Beach programme supports children to develop responsibility for themselves and others. It will encourage early risk management strategies that will ensure that young children start to consider the impact of their actions on themselves and on others

A copy of the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) can be found in the document folder in the Wild Beach bag that is taken to each trip. Also, in this folder is copy of the Emergency Site Information for each designated site that is visited. Hard copies are located in the Wild Beach Folder and digital copies in the Outdoor Activities Folder within Drop Box.

The Wild Beach Leader has an up-to-date certificate in ITC Outdoor First Aid and is in charge of first aid arrangement. All staff have first aid training. A first aid kit is taken on all sessions. In the case of an accident requiring further assistance, an emergency contact form is kept in the Office/Preschool and 2 mobile phones are carried. Procedures will be followed as laid out in the Wild Beach EAP. As per the 'Outings Policy' the Nursery Manager will contact the child's parents.

11. Essential equipment needed at Beach school sessions

- Up to date Trip Form
- EAP (Emergency Action Plan)
- Emergency Site Information

- Charged Mobile phones x2
- Wet wipes
- SPF 50 Sun cream
- First Aid Kit
- Any specific medicine i.e., Inhalers, EpiPens
- Carry bag for dirty / wet items
- Spare hats & gloves for children and adults
- 3m rescue throwline
- Plastic whistle
- Scissors
- Hand sanitizer
- Drinks bottles
- Snack

We would also take the tent to use as a shelter

12. Clothing requirements for Wild Beach

The following clothing requirements are for everyone attending a Beach School session (even adult volunteers).

- Woolly hat/sunhat
- Gloves
- Jacket/waterproof coat
- Fleece/sweatshirt
- Waterproof trousers
- Spare socks
- Stout shoes/wellies/boots

13. Safeguarding

Wild Beach sessions are led by a qualified Wild Beach Leader, supported by other employees.
Everyone involved in Wild Beach is fully briefed on health and safety, risk assessment of sites and activities. Employees are made aware of the relevant policies and procedures and ensure that they adhere to the guidance contained in them.
All Home from Home employees have current DBS checks. If they are new and awaiting this then they will always be supervised.
Any concerns about a child's physical or mental well-being will be shared in writing with our named Safeguarding Officers as soon as possible, so that our Safeguarding Policy can then be followed. Confidentiality should be maintained at all times. Any concerns should only be shared with those who need to know, i.e., the Safeguarding Lead, or their deputy in their absence, who can then ensure the correct channels are then informed.

14. Equality and Inclusion

During Wild Beach all persons are treated equally. We aim to provide a secure environment in which children can flourish and in which all contributions are valued.

15. Behaviour Management

At Wild Beach we follow the Behaviour Management Policy of Home from Home. When a child's behaviour threatens the wellbeing of him/herself or others, and he/she does not respond to a verbal warning, he/she may be returned to nursery.

16. Medical and Emergency contact details

All Medical Care Plans and Emergency contact details are held in the Nursery School Office.
Emergency contact details for each child are recorded on the Trip Form that is taken to each session.

17. Risk assessments and Risk management

Risk assessments are in place to cover the following:

- Wild Beach General Assessment
- Collecting Foreign Objects
- Rock Pooling
- Shelter Building
- Pier Visit
- Litter Picking
- Bus Trips

These Risk Assessments can be found in the Home from Home Wild Beach Folder in the HfH Outdoor Activities and Individual Policy folder in Drop Box. Printed Copies can be located in the Wild Beach Folder in the Nursery office.

18. Cancelling Wild Beach

In line with our Adverse Weather Policy and risk assessments, Wild Beach may need to be cancelled in extreme weather conditions, e.g., high winds, rain of high UV rating. This may happen on the actual day as a dynamic Risk Assessment will be carried out. Children will attend nursery based activities as normal instead. Attempts will be made to run a 'Catch Up' session if this can be accommodated, but this cannot be guaranteed.

Under the EYFS Statutory Framework, Home from Home must ensure statutory requirements for child to staff ratios are met Wild Beach will not be able to go ahead if there are not enough qualified practitioners to lead the session. If no replacement adult can be found then the session will be cancelled. The session may also be cancelled if the Wild Beach Leaders are unable to attend.

19. The role and responsibilities of the Wild Beach Leaders

- The Wild Beach Leaders are trained Level 3 Beach School Practitioners and hold an up to date ITC Outdoor First Aid certificate. They are responsible for organising the planning and running all Beach School sessions.
- The Wild Beach leaders have the safety of the children uppermost at all times. The leaders will carry out a safety check at the beginning of each session and comply with health and safety risk assessments.
- The leaders will ensure that all documentation is relevant and up to date.
- The leaders will carry an emergency pack at all times.
- The leaders are responsible for all equipment and will ensure that it is checked before use and returned to the resource area after use.
- The Wild Beach leaders will update the Famly app (or accident book depending on severity in line with RIDDOR)

with any injuries or incidents in line with nursery policy.

Designated Person Responsibility for each Wild Beach session
Overall responsibility for the sessions– Rebecca Devlin
(Risk assessments, safety sweep, and essential equipment, rucksack, planning, observations and next steps for learning).

20. Routines and procedures for Wild Beach

Leaders will check the Wild Beach Trip bag to ensure that all necessary items are packed, in line with the trip form. * *See essential equipment needed

Children must be wearing weather appropriate clothing, including wellies. Children without waterproofs will be provided with nursery spares.

Prior to the session children will be toileted, put on their waterproofs as required. Sun lotion will be applied as required (additional SPF 50 lotion will be carried in the Wild Beach Bag). Walking safety rules will be shared with the group.

During the sessions children participate in a variety of activities which are totally inclusive, thus catering for all ability levels. They are exposed to a variety of Wild Beach experiences through practical hands on activities. Children are encouraged to listen attentively to instructions and to take responsibility for their actions. This is achieved by games that also encourage respect for the environment.

Safety Sweep and checklists the area will be checked for any potential hazards by the Wild Beach Leader, and dealt with appropriately, either by removal of any hazard, moving the group to a different location or returning to the nursery. The leader and assistant will be vigilant throughout the session, continuing to check for any risks.

After the session Equipment will be washed and stored as appropriate. Waterproofs will be dried and hung on rails. Flasks and water containers will be emptied and cleaned out. The Trip bag will be returned to the preschool cupboard after any used items are replaced. The Wild Beach Leaders bag and litter pickers will be returned to the Forest School shed.

Wild Beach Rules for Attending Children

- Listen to Leaders and follow instructions at all times
- Do not approach the water without an adult
- Do not approach the top of the beach/promenade without an adult
- We do not stroke any dogs
- Keep your hands away from your mouth
- Respect all Flora and Fauna

Toileting considerations All children will visit the toilet before leaving the nursery. Any children needing the toilet during the session will use the Public Toilets where available. If these are not available then children will be taken for a 'wild wee'. They will be taken by member of staff to an area of the beach by a groyne and they will be assisted and shielded by the member of staff. Both child and staff member will use the hand sanitizer in the bag after.

21. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually and also in line with any changes in statutory guidance

22. Version Control

Version	Date	Status	Comments	By
1	Sept 2018	1st Issue		Julia Pattenden
2	Sept 2019	Annual Review		Julia Pattenden
3	July 2025	Annual Review	Reformatted in line with current practice	Julia Pattenden & Rebecca Devlin
4	May 2026	Reviewed		Sophie Eade

Appendix 1 – Wild Beach Emergency Action Plan

WILD BEACH EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN - EAP

1. Contents

The following sections are included in this policy document:

1. Contents
2. Introduction/Context
3. Emergency Information
4. Responsibilities of Wild Beach Leader
5. Responsibilities of Wild Beach Assistant

2. Introduction/Context

In case of an emergency during a Wild Beach session, we have a procedure in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and staff, and to keep disruption to a minimum for all children, parents and staff attending Home from Home.
1.2 The purpose of this policy is to outline the EAP Emergency Action Plan for staff to follow in the case of an emergency

3. Emergency Information

Emergency Site information sheet – this is held in the Wild Beach Trip Bag; this should be referred to in the case of an emergency or Lost/Missing child procedure. This provides information to advise emergency services, parents or additional staff in the case of an emergency
First Aid Kit – this is held in the Wild Beach Trip Bag
Mobile Phone x 2 – These will each be kept in the pockets of the Wild Beach Leader and Assistant. The Wild Beach Leader will carry the Smart Phone and the Assistant will carry the Analogue Trip Phone. Both phones will have the following numbers stored in its contacts:

- Managers Phone
- HfH Office
- HfH Preschool
- HfH Toddler Room
- HfH Baby Room
- Worthing Coastal Office

4. Responsibilities of Wild Beach Leader

Home from Home has an EAP that clearly outlines the responsibility of the Wild Beach Leader, Nursery Manager and staff in the event of an emergency
Where two Wild Beach Leaders are in attendance at the session, one must be designated as the 'lead' for the session and becomes responsible for implementing the EAP if /when required.
It is the responsibility of the 'lead' Wild Beach Leader for the session to ensure that all staff and volunteers are familiar with current risk assessments and emergency procedures at the start of each session.
It is the responsibility of the Wild Beach leaders to ensure groups stay within agreed boundaries

5. Responsibilities of Assistant attending Wild Beach sessions

Staff and volunteers should report any concern to the 'lead' Wild Beach Leader
Staff should keep calm, if possible, remove the danger or person from the danger

6. Emergency Acton Plan

In the case of a Major injury:

- Any concern should be reported to the Wild Beach Leader – keep calm.
- The leader will assess the situation and if necessary, remove the danger, or the person from the danger, if not already done so.
- A first aid bag will always be located in the same place. Wild Beach leaders Rebecca Devlin, ITC First Aider or the Wild Beach Assistant Paediatric First Aider would attend the casualty and give First aid, if appropriate, until the Emergency Services arrive
- The second member of staff will gather the remaining children and sit them down to read a book (located in the Wild Beach Leaders bag)
- Risk assessments will be followed as appropriate.
- The 'lead' Wild beach Leader will use a mobile phone to make an emergency call to the relevant emergency service or delegate this task if necessary
- Whoever has called for the emergency services/further assistance will also inform the Nursery Manager. This may include a request for an additional staff member. The Nursery Manager will delegate someone to attend in a pre-arranged place.
- The nursery Manager will inform the parents/carers
- The casualty must be accompanied to hospital by a member of school staff.
- The Wild Beach Leader or Wild Beach Assistant would oversee that the rest of the group are head counted and prepared to return to school.
- The adult accompanying the casualty would return to Home from Home once the child was in the care of their parent/carers
- The incident will be recorded in the school accident/incident book.