

EDUCATION MATTERS

Outdoor spaces to help children explore and grow

At Tetherdown Primary School in Muswell Hill, we believe a child's early years should be filled with curiosity, discovery, and, most importantly, fun.

We are incredibly proud of our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) provision, where we nurture young learners in a vibrant, dynamic environment designed to help them thrive. With a Good Level of Development (GLD) rate of 81%, we are significantly outperforming London, Haringey and national averages - an achievement we're proud to share with our community.

Even without a nursery of our own, we welcome children from 20 different nurseries across the area, seamlessly settling them into our environment of high expectations and joyful learning.

One of our standout strengths is the way we create a space for children to explore and grow, especially through our fantastic outdoor learning provision.

Children can often be found playing together, problem-solving through carefully designed activities. Just the other day, a group of children explored balance with an outdoor scale while others negotiated basketball rules, all while developing their communication



**View
from a
head**

Annie Ashraf

and teamwork skills.

"I was amazed at how quickly my daughter settled in," says Kate, a Tetherdown parent. "She's from a different nursery, but the staff really know how to engage the kids and make learning exciting. She talks about school every day - it's such a joy to see her thriving."

We've designed every corner of our classrooms and outdoor spaces to encourage learning. From cosy book corners that spark a love of reading to vibrant maths displays that help children make connections, our learning environments are second to none.

Children are encouraged to talk about their learning with peers, reinforcing their understanding in an interactive way. During group activities, engagement is always high, with skilled staff using their voices and gestures to



Children problem solving in the outdoor space at Tetherdown

Image: Tetherdown Primary School

bring subjects like maths and literacy to life. Phonics sessions are paced perfectly to keep little minds active, while children's ideas are consistently valued and celebrated.

Our Drawing Club, for example, introduces new words giving children time to explore language and develop an extensive vocabulary. And it's not just academic growth we focus

on - children at our school learn the importance of positive behaviour, regularly reminding each other of the rules with a maturity beyond their years.

"The outdoor provision is a game-changer," says Tom, another proud parent. "My son has developed so much confidence from the problem-solving activities. He's always excited to learn something new, whether it's inside

or outside."

Our dedicated staff, outstanding resources and joyful approach to learning ensure that every child is not only ready for the next stage in their education but also excited for it.

■ **Annie Ashraf is headteacher at Tetherdown Primary School, Muswell Hill (tetherdownschool.org).**

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