



## OUTDOOR PLAY POLICY

### **Rationale:**

#### **The outdoor environment**

- *Being outdoors has a positive impact on children's sense of well-being and helps all aspects of children's development.*
- *Being outdoors offers opportunities for doing things in different ways and on different scales than when indoors.*
- *It gives children first-hand contact with weather, seasons and the natural world.*
- *Outdoor environments offer children freedom to explore, use their senses, and be physically active and exuberant*

(EYFS)

- *“Outdoors should provide opportunities for children to engage in planned & freely chosen play experiences & should offer risk, challenge, variety & fun”.*

(Learning Through Landscapes)

- *“Outdoor play is a vital element of young children’s Physical, Social & Emotional development & as every practitioner knows, play is a young child’s mechanism and medium for learning. Therefore making the most out of outdoor play is essential, providing rich & varied experiences for children & early years settings are in a unique position to offer these”.*

(Learning Through Landscapes)

### **Aim:**

*To enable children to experience the outdoor environment.*

- For the outdoor environment to be a continuation of the indoor environment with continuous provision available for all children in the nursery including those with special needs.
- For the outdoor environment to be made available throughout the whole session providing a good balance between child-initiated and adult-led experiences.
- To provide appropriate clothing encouraging children to experience the outdoors in all weathers.

### **Objectives:**

*We aim to:*

- Provide free access to outdoor environment throughout the whole day.
- Provide continuous provision in order to encourage independent learners in the outdoor environment.
- Plan for a good balance between child-led & adult-initiated experiences.
- Observe, access and record children's learning in the outdoor environment to inform future planning.
- Ensure the outdoor environment is seen as a continuation of the indoor environment.

### **Method**

*The staff will:*

- Provide appropriate clothing for example rain coats, waterproof trousers & wellies and sun hats and sun cream in the summer.
- Plan for a wide range of exciting & stimulating experiences, planning to meet all children's interests.
- Encourage children to be independent learners and to freely access the indoor & outdoor environment.

### **Health & Safety (See Health & Safety Policy)**

- Site supervisor to check grounds daily & carry out litter pickup
- Regular garden maintenance
- Staff to do a visual check before children access outdoors.
  - Children to be made part of carrying out risk assessments of the garden so that they can manage their own safety.
- Risk assessments to be carried out on enhanced provisions.

### **Equal Opportunities**

*All children will have access to the outdoor play curriculum regardless of gender, special educational needs, race, home or cultural background.*