



*'Loving to Learn, Learning to Love'*



## **Outdoor Learning Policy**

**Last Approved:** June 2023

**Review Date:** June 2025

## **Introduction**

The purpose of this policy is:

- ❖ Ensure all pupils have access to high quality learning in the outdoors.
- ❖ Provide a rationale for Foundation Stage outdoor learning.

## **Aims**

Ensure all pupils access a stimulating and exciting learning environment, which supports their learning and development across all aspects of the curriculum.

## **Rationale**

Outdoor provision is an essential part of a child's daily learning. The indoor and outdoor learning environments complement one another to provide holistic learning for young children. Provision in the EYFS contributes to young children's well-being, health, stimulation and all areas of their development.

## **Objectives**

- Use the outdoor environment as a context and a natural resource for learning
- Outdoor learning is planned effectively to support areas across the EYFS.
- All children access the outdoor area on a daily basis
- Ensure that the outdoor area offers children the opportunity to investigate and explore, problem solve, use their imagination and creativity both working alone and with others.
- Ensure the outdoors offers children opportunities to develop their gross motor skills
- Ensure that children enjoy energetic activity outdoors and the feeling of wellbeing that it brings
- Observe children accessing learning in the outdoors to identify their achievements and next steps.
- Respect the outdoor environment and to care for living things.
- Enable children to manage and use the space safely.

## **Staff Responsibilities**

### **Outdoor Learning Lead will:**

- Ensure that clear, agreed and differentiated plans are in place on a daily basis to support high quality learning

### **All staff will:**

- Organise and provide resources to enhance learning as necessary, e.g., picture prompts, tools, etc.
- Encourage children to treat the outdoors and equipment with care and respect at all times.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Existing procedures within the school are used to inform strengths and any areas for improvement.

This will include:

- Staff observations, discussions and feedback from the Outdoor Learning Lead, EYFS Lead, SLT, children and parents.
- Tracking pupils' engagement to ensure all areas are used well, accessed and support and further develop learning.

**Health & Safety**

- Staff will carry out outdoor checks daily to ensure area, perimeter and equipment are safe. See Appendix.
- Individual risk assessments are available for each area of outdoor provision, which are reviewed regularly.
- Staff will assess weather conditions and put in place additional safety measures when required (e.g., icy conditions affecting soft play surfaces).
- Staff will ensure that ratios meet the statutory requirements.

This policy will be updated every two years.

**Signed**.....

D. Sadler  
Headteacher

**Signed:** .....

Co-Chair Local Governing Board

**Date:** June 2024

## **Appendix**

Before setting up outside, staff will carry out the following checks every morning.

- Check the outdoor area for animal faeces and remove. Staff to wear protective gloves and use 'poop scoop'.
- Sweep grassed area and remove rubbish.
- Check all equipment is fit for purpose.
- Turn off and remove cat alarms.