



Outdoor Learning Policy

Last Approved: February 2026

Review Date: February 2028

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-Chairs Local Governing Board

Date: February 2026

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.