

## Outdoor Play Policy

Date ratified: January 2023	
Period: Jan 2020– Jan 2023	
Headteacher Signature:	Lynsay Falkingham
Chair of Governors Signature:	Sue Barham
Review Date: January 2023	

Outdoor play is essential for the healthy growth and development of children. Children at Lanterns are able to access the garden daily throughout the year through free-flow continuous provision. Outdoor play is an integral part of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum and it enhances the child's learning in all areas of development.

### Aims

- All areas of the Early Years Curriculum are planned and delivered indoors and outdoors, accessible in all weathers.
- We aim to provide all children with a wide range of opportunities for outdoor play which promotes the development of confidence, co-ordination, well being and strength.
- We endeavour to create an atmosphere where children can learn to take risks in a safe and secure environment.
- All children will have the opportunity to learn about their environment and be able to observe and experiment with natural resources, creating a sense of wonder about the world around them and learn about looking after themselves, others and taking care of the environment.

### Objectives

- To provide a safe and supportive outdoor environment which provides challenges, stimulation and enjoyment.
- To promote social skills such as sharing, turn taking, decision making and co-operation.
- To provide a balanced programme of learning experiences outdoors that builds on children's interests and their age and stage of development.
- Resources and learning experiences will be suitable for children's age and stage of development and accessible to every child building on what they can do and providing challenge.
- Teachers and practitioners will use their knowledge of the children, observation and assessment to plan learning experiences, which support children's cognitive, emotional, physical and social needs.

## Procedures

- Staff will ensure that the garden is secure and checked daily for safety, cleanliness and hazards. Hazards will be reported.
- Staff will ensure that child ratios are met and staff will move indoors and outdoors dependent on need.
- Staff will ensure that all children are appropriately dressed for the weather (e.g. sun hats, coats). Children are encouraged to develop their self-help and independence through this.
- Outdoor play equipment will be closely monitored for safety and removed if unsafe.
- Sun cream should be applied by parents for those children attending only morning or afternoon sessions. Where a child attends all day sun cream will be applied to children with permission from parents.
- Drinking water will be available to children at all times. In colder weather this is kept inside.

## The benefits of outdoor play

- enhanced immunity
- enhanced bone density and Vitamin D levels
- reduced myopia
- improved concentration and attention
- better mental wellbeing
- improved sleep
- improved co-ordination and physicality
- opportunities to master skills not feasible indoors
- improved energy and enhanced opportunities for movement
- reduction in cases of obesity, diabetes etc.
- enhanced interpersonal skills and negotiation
- build strong attachments to places and people
- gain a moral understanding and awe of the importance of nature
- gain a symbolic inspiration from the world around for imaginative and creative exploration and learning
- chances to make sense of and learn more about many concepts which underpin learning for life such as gravity, speed, gradient, life, death, reproduction and excretion

Kathryn Solly, January 2019

## The role of the adult

- to model, observe, provide, facilitate, interact, intervene and evaluate
- to identify the potential learning possibilities of activities and develop these through enhancements and interaction
- to ensure that storage and provision is arranged so that children can access equipment and set up activities themselves developing their independence
- enhance learning to raise the quality of play and to support development in all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum including the characteristics of Effective Learning
- to provide opportunities for challenge, stimulation, risk taking and progression
- to identify any health and safety concerns and take appropriate action