

## 53 Garden Policy

### Objective:

*To provide and maintain a safe and interesting free flow learning environment between the indoor and outdoor spaces incorporating all elements of the EYFS.*

Outdoor play is a vital part of children's development and through playing outside children can develop greater physical, social, sensory, language, mathematical and scientific skills.

We will include outdoor play in our regular planning ensuring that we offer a wide range of learning experiences. We will encourage running, jumping and climbing and balancing on appropriate equipment in order to aid and promote physical development and good co-ordination. Such activities will also make children aware of the space around them and will encourage them to use space appropriately.

We agree that all indoor activities can be transferred to the outdoor play area. These will include sand and water play, arts and crafts, small world, construction etc.

Activities planned for outdoor play and education will include planting and gardening, discussion of growing and living things, animals and birds that use our garden. The seasons of the year will be incorporated into outdoor play and there will be time for reflective and quiet play.

The whole team are responsible for setting up and clearing away equipment, the rota for this is found on the planning sheet. All staff must be aware of the children's safety at all time. A safety check of the outdoor play area must be completed before children go out. This will be performed by the first member/s of staff using the garden. Each time the garden is used the outside gate must be locked from the inside.

We will encourage children to be confident in the outdoor play area but we agree that the children will set and discover their own limitations in their own time.

### Required Elements:

- Cosy / quiet corner / area.
- Water and sand play.
- Imaginary play.
- Construction play.
- Small world play.
- Problem solving and mathematical play.
- Creative opportunities.
- Physical development opportunities.
- Opportunities for child initiated activities.
- Child independence.