



# Outdoor Provision and Risk Assessment EYFS Policy

Date policy next reviewed: January 2027

Signed by:

## Charlotte Hopkins

## Headteacher

Date: January 2026

## Chair of governors

Date:

# Outdoor Provision Risk Assessment EYFS Policy

## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the outdoor environment is used safely and effectively to support the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2025 curriculum, enabling children to:

- Develop physical skills, balance, and coordination
- Enhance communication, language, and early literacy
- Foster personal, social, and emotional development (PSED)
- Explore and interact safely with natural and sensory environments
- Build independence, resilience, and confidence
- Engage in risk-aware play within a safe and supervised environment

## Scope

This policy applies to:

- All Reception and Nursery (ages 3-4) children
- Staff supervising and leading outdoor activities
- Visitors and volunteers accessing the outdoor area
- Curriculum and continuous provision planning in outdoor spaces

## Principles

- **Safety First:** The outdoor environment is risk-assessed daily, and supervision ratios are maintained at all times.
- **Inclusive Practice:** All children, including those with SEND, have equitable access to outdoor learning. Adaptations are made to ensure inclusion.
- **Learning & Play:** Outdoor provision is integral to the EYFS curriculum, supporting children's prime and specific areas of learning.
- **Supervision & Staffing:** Staff are briefed, positioned, and visible according to a supervision plan, and trained in safeguarding and first aid.
- **Risk-Aware Independence:** Children are encouraged to take appropriate risks in their play to develop confidence and resilience, guided by staff.

## **Responsibilities**

### **Early Years Leader**

- Ensures the outdoor provision is safe, engaging, and aligned with EYFS 2025.
- Maintains and updates risk assessments and supervision plans.
- Monitors staff deployment and ratios.
- Reviews incidents and implements improvements.

### **Staff**

- Follow supervision plans and zoning arrangements.
- Maintain full visual supervision of children at all times.
- Implement risk mitigation measures and emergency procedures.
- Record accidents, incidents, and near-misses.
- Adapt activities for individual children where needed.

### **Parents/Carers**

- Provide appropriate clothing and footwear.
- Support rules and routines for safe outdoor play.

## **Procedures**

### **Risk Assessment**

- Conducted daily before outdoor play.
- Covers equipment, surfaces, weather, water play, loose parts, and access points.
- Individual risk assessments for children with SEND, medical needs, or behavioural needs.

### **Supervision Plan**

- Outdoor areas divided into zones: active play, exploratory play, quiet/retreat, and perimeter/gate.
- Staff assigned to zones, adjusted according to children's needs.
- Ratios maintained at 1:8 with qualified practitioner (or 1:13 where L3/L6 qualifications apply).

### **5.3 Emergency Procedures**

- First aid kit accessible outdoors; trained staff present.
- Missing child procedure followed per school safeguarding policy.
- Evacuation drills include outdoor areas; registers taken at assembly point.

### **Weather & Clothing**

- Hot weather: shade, water, hats; monitor children.
- Cold/wet weather: waterproofs, wellies; play continues unless unsafe.
- Extreme conditions (ice, strong winds): some equipment may be closed.

### **Curriculum Integration**

- Outdoor provision supports prime areas (C&L, PSED, PD) and specific areas (Literacy, Maths, UW, EAD).
- Learning objectives are embedded into play experiences.
- Staff facilitate, scaffold, and observe learning for assessment purposes.

### **Monitoring & Review**

- Outdoor risk assessment and supervision plan reviewed **termly** or after incidents.
- Staff complete weekly audits of resources, environment, and safety.
- Policy reviewed **annually** by the Early Years Leader and SLT, incorporating staff, parent, and child feedback.

### **Related Policies**

- EYFS Curriculum Policy
- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Behaviour & Emotional Regulation Policy
- SEND Policy

## Early Years Outdoor Area Weekly Audit Checklist

Staff Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. Environment Check

Item	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Notes / Action Required
Outdoor area free from hazards (glass, litter, sharp objects)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Pathways clear and safe	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Fencing/gates secure and in good condition	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Ground surfaces safe (no uneven or slippery areas)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Weather-appropriate shelter available	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Sun safety measures in place (shade, hats, sunscreen)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Drainage working; no standing water	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	

### 2. Resources and Equipment Check

Item	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Notes / Action Required
Outdoor toys/equipment clean and in good repair	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Sand/water play areas clean and safe	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	

Item	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Notes / Action Required
Gardening tools and materials safe and appropriate	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Loose parts and natural materials safe	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Ride-on toys (trikes, scooters) in good condition	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Storage areas tidy and organized	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	

### 3. Safety and Supervision

Item	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Notes / Action Required
Outdoor area adequately supervised	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
First aid kit accessible and stocked	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Emergency procedures clearly displayed	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Risk assessments up to date	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Cleaning and sanitization schedule followed	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Hazards promptly reported and addressed	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	

**Additional Notes / Observations:**

**Signature of Staff Completing Audit:**

