**Outdoor Learning Policy**

We value outdoor play as an intrinsic part of the curriculum. By ensuring outdoor play is an integral part of the Pre-School routine we consciously seek to transmit a positive attitude to the outdoors and enrich the children’s understanding of the world around them.

Active learning experiences outdoors are essential for young children. They give children the opportunities to practice their developing skills, make them feel good and to explore their world. It is also important for children’s physical, mental and emotional development. We believe that children should begin to take risks and face challenges outdoors. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) fully supports playing outdoors.

**Aim**

To enable children to use the outdoor area as a context for learning throughout the year. We aim to provide a safe, stimulating outdoor environment where space is used effectively to enable children to explore a broad and balanced curriculum using a range of interesting resources suitable to their individual needs.

**Method**

The outdoor area will be resourced and available for the children to access on a daily basis. Children will be able to choose to use the outdoor area freely during Freeplay, and focus activities may be planned for outdoors at a fixed time of the day, eg Forest School sessions.

Children will need to have appropriate outdoor clothing for the weather in order to enable them to fully access the activities outside. This will include, but are not restricted to:

* Waterproof coat/trousers or all in one
* Wellies
* Warm coat with hat, scarf and gloves
* Sun protection cream and hat
* Change of clothes

We believe that access to the outdoor area is beneficial to the health and well being of young children. As a consequence we do not want to restrict a child’s choice to play and learn outdoors. If your child is not well enough to go out, we would ask that they are kept home from the setting.

Whenever children are using the outdoor area we will ensure it is appropriately staffed using the same ratios of adults to children as applies indoors. Staff will make observations to inform future planning when working with children in the outdoor area.

We use our Forest School area on a frequent basis – children must wear long sleeved tops and trousers.

We go outdoors in all weathers but if strong winds/lightning we will not use Class 2’s garden or the Forest School area.

We occasionally use the School field to provide opportunities for the children to explore a larger outside area.

Our Outdoor Play Leader is Claire Baker

**This policy was adopted on 10th June 2021 & reviewed on 11th May 2023**

Signed on behalf of the Windmill Pre-School

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Bryony Smith - Chair of Windmill Pre-school

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Claire Baker – Manager Windmill Pre-School