



## **Merry Poppets Nursery**

### **Outdoor Learning Policy**

At Merry Poppets Nursery we value outdoor play as an intrinsic part of the curriculum. By ensuring outdoor play is an integral part of the routine we consciously seek to transmit a positive attitude to the outdoors and enrich the child's understanding of the world around him/her. The Outdoor areas are an integral part of the provision and seen as an equal importance as the indoor area. The Outdoor environment provides children with opportunities for demonstrating the Characteristics of Effective Learning for example exploration, experimentation and risk-taking.

Active learning experiences outdoors are essential for young children. They give children opportunities to practice their developing skills and activate their senses. Spending time Outdoors can have a positive impact on both mental and physical health at any age, so it's important that we encourage it from a young age.

At Merry Poppets Nursery we believe that children should begin to take risks and face challenges outdoors. Now more than ever, we must recognise the importance of outdoor play when it comes to the impact it has on early years development.

Research has suggested that outdoor learning boosts confidence, social skills, communication, motivation, physical skills, knowledge and understanding. It has also been found to boost children's self-esteem, self-confidence, ability to work cooperatively and have a positive attitude to learning.

We aim to enable children of all ages to use the outdoor area as a context for learning throughout the year and on a daily basis.

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.

The outdoor area will be resourced and available for all the children to access on a daily basis. Children will be able to choose to use the outdoor area freely during both active learning and free play,

Children will need to have appropriate outdoor clothing for the weather in order to enable them to fully access the activities outside.

This should include:

- Waterproof coat
- Appropriate footwear
- Sun protection cream and a hat

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 the weather is considered too cold and not suitable for the children to experience, then we would monitor this for the interest of all the children.

Whenever children are using the outdoor area, we will ensure it is appropriately staffed using the same ratios of adults to children as apply indoors.

Outdoor areas are Risk assessed/ checked daily prior to the children accessing the outdoor areas.

