

0.1 Health and safety procedures

01.07 Outdoor Procedures

Keeping the Outdoor Area Safe

To make sure outdoor play is safe and enjoyable:

- Gates and fences are always secure and childproof.
- Staff check the outdoor area every day for things like animal droppings, broken glass, rubbish or anything unsafe. This is removed immediately and staff wash hands after.
- Plants, bushes and trees are checked to make sure there are no poisonous berries.
- Stinging nettles and brambles are removed.
- All outdoor toys and climbing equipment are checked and taken away if they're damaged.
- Children are always supervised by staff and we follow strict ratios.

Weather and Clothing

- Children must be dressed appropriately for the weather (coats, hats, gloves, wellies, sun hats etc).
- Sun cream is applied if parents have given permission.
- Hats must be worn in sunny weather.
- Outdoor play is avoided during very hot weather (between 12pm–3pm).
- If a child does not have the right sun protection (sun cream, hat, clothing), they can only play in shaded areas or may stay indoors.

Outdoor Play Equipment & Activities

- Children are closely supervised on all climbing equipment.
- Water play is cleaned and emptied after each use and staff monitor/supervise accordingly.
- Any containers that could collect rainwater are stored upside down to avoid contamination.
- If we see any signs of vermin, it is reported and dealt with immediately.

- If the outdoor area becomes flooded, it will not be used until it is safe and clean.

Paddling Pools

- A full risk assessment is completed before a paddling pool is used.
- Staff consider the needs of all children, including those with SEND or mobility difficulties.

Drone Safety

If a drone is seen flying over our outdoor area:

1. Children are brought inside immediately.
2. The manager contacts the police (101).
3. Parents are informed.
4. If any images of the nursery or children appear online, this is reported to the police.
5. A safety record is completed, and if we believe the incident may be a safeguarding concern, our safeguarding procedures are followed.

Signs it may be a safeguarding issue include:

- The drone hovers over the area.
- It appears more than once.
- It looks like photos or videos are being taken.

Further Information for Parents

If you would like more information about our outdoor procedures, risk assessments, or how we manage specific activities such as water play, climbing, or paddling pools, please speak to a member of the management team.