**Outdoor Learning Policy**

**Purpose of Policy**

Rainbow Nursery aims 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.

We value outdoor play as an intrinsic part of the curriculum. By ensuring outdoor play is an integral part of the nursery routine we consciously seek to transmit a positive attitude to the outdoors and enrich the child’s understanding of the world around him/her. Active learning experiences outdoors are essential for young children. They give children 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. We follow guidance from ‘My World Outdoors’ (2016), ‘Space to Grow’ (2019) and ‘Out to Play: Practical guidance for creating outdoor play experiences in early learning and childcare’ (2018).

**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 free play, and focus activities may be planned for outdoors at a fixed time of the day. 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

• Footwear appropriate for playing out in

• Warm coat with hat, scarf & gloves

• Sun protection cream and a hat

We believe that access to the outdoor area is beneficial to the health and wellbeing of young children. As a consequence we do not want to restrict a child’s choice to play and learn outdoors. 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. Staff will make observations to inform future planning when working with children in the outdoor area.

**Date Completed: October 2023**

**Review Date: October 2024**

*This policy will be monitored in line with relevant legislation and good practice guidelines.*