



## **Athelstan School Outdoor Play Policy**

Athelstan Early Years are committed to the importance of daily outdoor play and physical development in all children regardless of their age and stage of development. All activities will be made accessible to children with learning difficulties and disabilities to ensure all children are able to freely and independently use the outdoor area and physical play opportunities to best effect.

Children need regular access to outdoor play in order to develop their large and small muscles, experience an environment that is different to the inside of the setting and more importantly access sunlight in order to absorb vitamin D more effectively.

The outdoor area helps children to develop in a variety of ways, including independence, exploration and investigative skills, risk taking and self-esteem all of which support children to develop skills for now and the future.

The setting will ensure the area is safe and secure through close supervision and the use of robust risk assessments and safety checks. Staff are informed of the importance of these procedures and are trained appropriately to ensure these procedures are followed effectively.

All outdoor play opportunities will complement the indoor activities and provide children with both adult-led and child-initiated opportunities to enable children to learn and practice new skills, knowledge and behaviours.

The setting will use this policy alongside the following policies to ensure the safety and welfare of children throughout their time outside.

- Health and safety
- Sun care
- Lost child policy