



EYFS All Weather Play Policy

We are committed to safeguarding and ensuring the health, safety and well-being of all pupils in accordance with safeguarding procedures and guidance for staff outlined in the schools' Health and Safety, Child Protection, Security and Safeguarding policies.

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Document Information

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Contents

1. AIMS	3
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2. LEGISLATION AND STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES	3
3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	3
3.1 Educators, Nominated Supervisors and Responsible Persons	3
3.2 Parents/Carers	4
4. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES	4
5. STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES	4
6. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND STAFF ACTIONS	4
7. REVIEW	4
8. USEFUL SOURCES/RESOURCES/LINKS	4

1. AIMS

At The Oak Trust Partnership, we aim to promote children's engagement with the natural environment by enabling outdoor play across all seasons and weather conditions, wherever it is safe to do so. This policy ensures that:

- Children have the opportunity to connect with nature throughout the year.
- Outdoor learning supports children's curiosity, creativity, and understanding of seasonal and environmental change.
- Children's health and wellbeing are supported through safe exposure to fresh air and natural settings.

2. LEGISLATION AND STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

This policy is informed by the following statutory and best practice guidance:

- The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations -
- The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework -
- Health and safety legislation and guidance including:
 - Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance on managing risks in schools
 - Guidance from GOV.UK: Health and Safety for School Children
- Cold weather and classroom temperature guidance – National Education Union (NEU)

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Educators, Nominated Supervisors and Responsible Persons

- Monitor local weather using trusted sources such as the Met Office (<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk>).
- Assess risks associated with current and forecast weather conditions.
- Make informed decisions regarding outdoor play based on the welfare and safety of children.
- Encourage appropriate clothing for weather conditions and ensure sunscreen is applied when necessary.
- Use discretion to cancel outdoor excursions in cases of extreme weather.

3.2 Parents/Carers

- Ensure their child is appropriately dressed for seasonal and weather conditions.
- Provide sun hats and protective clothing in summer; warm layers, waterproofs, and wellies in winter and rainy weather.
- Supply a full change of clothes, including spare shoes and socks, daily.

4. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

All children will have equal access to outdoor play opportunities regardless of gender, ability, cultural background, or socio-economic status. Reasonable adjustments will be made to accommodate the individual needs of children with medical conditions or physical disabilities, ensuring their safe participation in all-weather outdoor activities.

5. STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES

- Outdoor play is encouraged year-round, provided it does not compromise children's safety or wellbeing.
- Children are supervised at all times and educators ensure appropriate clothing is worn. - Activities are relocated indoors or rescheduled in the event of extreme weather (e.g., thunderstorms, hail, high winds).
- UV protection measures, such as hats, sunscreen, and shade, are applied when the UV Index is 3 or higher
- Educators remain vigilant of environmental hazards and will move children indoors if necessary.

6. WEATHER CONDITIONS AND STAFF ACTIONS

Weather Type | Educator/Staff Actions

HEAT (sunburn, heat stress, dehydration) | - Monitor for heat exhaustion/stroke - Offer water regularly

- Promote shade and indoor play
- Reapply sunscreen every 2 hours
- Ensure protective clothing including hats

SEVERE RAIN/HAIL/COLD (hypothermia, hail injuries) | - Monitor for wet clothing

- Ensure waterproof clothing is worn
- Encourage warm accessories (gloves, scarves)
- Seek shelter as needed

ELECTRICAL STORMS (lightning risk, falling debris) | - Keep children away from trees

- Move indoors or to covered shelter

HIGH WINDS (blowing debris, tree limb hazards) | - Secure all structures

- Keep children away from trees
- Move indoors if necessary

7. REVIEW

- Management and staff will regularly review this policy to ensure it continues to support safe, inclusive, and effective all-weather play practices.

8. USEFUL SOURCES/RESOURCES/LINKS

- <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk>

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- Health and Safety for School Children – GOV.UK
- Cold Weather and Classroom Temperature – NEU
- Outdoor Kids Sun Safety Code: <https://basem.co.uk/the-outdoor-kids-sun-safety-code-firstonline-learning-module-for-sun-protection/>
- NHS Sun Safety: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/sunscreen-and-sun-safety/>
- Cold Weather Tips – Save the Children:
<https://www.savethechildren.org/us/charitystories/cold-weather-tips>