“A nurturing environment where we all learn and aspire together”

“To be the best we can”
The United Nations Convention of Rights of the Child (CRC) is at the heart of our schools planning, policies, practice and ethos. As we work towards becoming a Rights Respecting school as we not only teach about children’s rights, but also model rights and respect in all relationships. Linked to articles 3, 19, 32, 33 (CRC).

The Outdoor area (garden) is a vital part of the Early Years curriculum and provides a scale and freedom which is impossible to replicate within the indoor environment. It is a prerequisite for the physical, intellectual, social and emotional development of every child, and a natural resource for learning. The outdoor environment is set up daily with a wide variety of resources to develop the whole child across all areas of the foundation stage curriculum, alongside a mini-topic (per half-term) to encourage collaborative play across the Foundation Stage between Nursery and Reception children. The outdoor area is a statutory part of EYFS learning and is used in ALL weathers. Children MUST have suitable clothing in school every day to match the weather.

**Early Years experiences will:**

a) Be based on first-hand experiences, ensuring children have the opportunity to investigate and explore, problem-solve and use their imagination and creative skills.

b) Make provision for cross-curricular opportunities for each child, on a daily basis.

c) Encourage independence and responsibility.

d) Provide opportunities in the garden for handling and investigating all materials.

e) Provide children with opportunities to develop their gross motor skills.

f) Promote the enjoyment of energetic activity outdoors.

g) Include opportunities for independent and group work.

h) Ensure that every individual has equal access to the outdoor curriculum.

i) Encourage the children to care for the outside environment through planting and caring for living things.

j) Encourage children to develop an appreciation of natural beauty and a sense of wonder about the world.

k) Give children the opportunity to use the space and freedom the garden allows and to relax, enjoy and have fun outdoors.
l) Encourage children to be aware of their own needs and safety and that of others with whom they may be working.

m) Ensure links are made between indoor and outdoor learning.

**Provision will include:**

- A wide variety of living things, plants and mini beasts (naturally occurring)
- A range of large equipment to promote gross motor skills.
- Curriculum trolleys/boxes
- Taking care of the environment.
- Bean bags, balls and hoops etc.
- Using all their senses to discover what things are made of and what they can do through observing and handling a wide range of natural materials.
- Changing materials (linked to the weather) i.e. ice.
- Changes in the weather and the seasons (hot and cold)
- A music area, to explore sound plus large chimes.
- Sand and water trays and a variety of equipment.
- Outdoor tables for more focused activities.
- Bikes and scooters (not always available)
- A literacy/maths area
- A reading area
- A DT area
- A painting area
- A large construction area (Large blocks for building).
- A Play house with kitchen and dressing up clothes
- Climbing frame
- Our Learning Garden.
- Opportunities for large scale art and painting activities.
- Windy day box i.e. kites, wind chimes etc.
- Rainy day box i.e. wellies, umbrellas etc.