Outdoor Play Policy

Purpose

This policy outlines the procedures that are in place in order to ensure that all children have access to an outdoor environment which is physically challenging, stimulating, safe and developmentally appropriate.

Aims

- To ensure that outdoor learning has equal value to indoor learning.
- To demonstrate an approach to outdoor learning that considers experiences rather than equipment by placing children at the centre of the provision being made.
- To create an outdoor space and opportunities which harness the special nature of the outdoors by offering children what the indoors cannot through complementing and extending our provision.
- To provide a rich outdoor environment full of irresistible stimuli and context for play.
- To provide the opportunity to work with nature, harnessing natural resources for play through nature play, mud kitchen, gardening, and construction activities.
- To provide an environment which encourages exploration, real experiences and creativity.
- To allow challenge and risk within a framework of security and safety, helping children learn how to be safe and to be aware of others.

Approach

Pupils at Alamiyah Montessori are offered daily opportunities for outdoor play as it enhances all areas of their development and contributes to the child's overall fitness and well-being. Being active in the fresh air improves breathing, circulation, and appetite. Therefore all staff will seek to maximise the opportunities offered to children for outdoor play. We have covered areas so that pupils can play outdoors in all weather.

Activities Offered

Each week the garden activities for early years pupils are carefully planned to ensure that all areas of the EYFS are continued in the outdoor area. On a weekly basis children will have access to a variety of new planned activities [See garden planning file], as well as standard activities available all year round. Staff continue observing the children outdoors, and then plan activities which will engage and interest them. The following activities are available on most days;

- Role play
- Water play
- Sand play
- Construction
- Messy play/Mark-making
- Painting
- Bug hunting
- Trikes, bikes and scooters
- Planting
- Walking beams/Tyres
- Games
- Mud Kitchen

Safety In the Garden

Each morning the garden area is thoroughly checked and prepared for the children. A risk assessment has been carried out for the area and daily checks for hazards and health and safety risks are carried out by a member of staff each play session. The outdoor gates are kept locked whilst the children are outside or they are supervised. Only authorized adults have access to the garden during play sessions.

Children's personal water bottles are always taken out to allow them to access drinking water during play. Wellies, coats, application of sun cream / sun hat are required to be provided by parents to allow their child to go out in all weather.

Outdoors, staff have access to a first aid kit and accident forms in order to treat and record any accidents which occur. Garden accidents are monitored on a regular basis and changes are made when necessary to avoid accidents.

Staff Ratios

Children will always be supervised outdoors with the same legal ratios as used indoors. Since the outdoor classroom is an active learning environment we seek to have at least two members of staff available at all times. One member of staff will take the role of the overseer, monitoring all activities in the garden and keeping an eye on areas which need close supervision. Staff outdoors will have access to a phone in order to alert other staff if extra support is needed.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years or sooner or if there is any change in statutory guidance or legislation. See ‘Policy Review Schedule’.

Last Reviewed: 01/09/2026

Adopted in a meeting at Alamiyah Montessori on 08/09/2025

Signed by Nasim Bobat (Manager) and S Motara (Nominated Person)

on behalf of Alamiyah Montessori