

## Outdoor Policy

Children require a range of outdoor, as well as indoor, experiences to promote their learning and development.

The nursery aims to use outdoor provision as much as possible in order to give children access to a rich, combined indoor and outdoor learning experience.

Our garden is split into four areas, one area for the Sunshine Room children, one area for the Caterpillar Room children, the third area for the Butterfly Room children and the fourth outdoor area we have available to children is our Secret Forest Area.

Goldsmiths SU Nursery offers a distinctive opportunity for children to participate in a Forest School experience led by a qualified Forest School leader. These sessions are held in both the University's local natural space and the nursery's own Secret Forest.

The Forest School provides a special chance for children to engage with the outdoors, fostering their holistic development and nurturing them as confident, capable learners. Moreover it instils in them a sense of responsibility towards the environment, rooted in the principles of connection, independence, and imagination. This experience also contributes to the enchantment of children's self-esteem and well-being.

Aligned with the ethos of Goldsmiths SU Nursery, children are encouraged to explore the outdoor areas regularly and with confidence, which includes participating in forest school once children have reached the age and developmental stage to be able to do so.

They will experience a huge variety of outdoor activities and will learn to use a variety of tools within the forest school sessions, all conducted safely to facilitate risk-taking.

Additionally, they are empowered to take charge of their learning journey, resonating with our commitment to ensuring their voices are heard and their confidence as learners is nurtured.

Resources available in all areas are age and developmentally appropriate and access to larger equipment is made available with adult support.

We promote the use of 'loose parts play', whereby children are able to select a wide range of natural resources, such as, wooden planks, logs, sticks, rope, fabrics, crates, bark chippings, sand etc. for child-led play purposes.

Outdoor play is experienced daily, for long and often frequent periods of the day. Children may be exposed to conditions that we regard as 'less favourable' outside, for example, rain, wind or snow, to enable them to experience variations in weather and differences in their outdoor environment.

Children will access the garden throughout the year, during all seasons. We will only not access the garden if there is extremely heavy rain or other stormy conditions.

We hope to continuously build upon our outdoor equipment to promote further learning opportunities in accordance with the Early Years Foundation Stage. The nursery endeavours to meet the individual needs, interests, abilities and aspirations of all the children in our care through good quality indoor and outdoor equipment.

Please refer to our Health and Safety Policy for information around safety issues in the outdoor area. Please also refer to our outings policy for more details on other outdoor experiences that children will experience.