

**Outdoor Play Policy**

**Schools’ Out! emphasis on outdoor play, ensuring that all Children are actively involved in physical learning opportunities. All children have the right to play, outdoor and loose parts play are part of the overall ethos. All children and young people need to play the impulse is innate.**

The service will promote and support outdoor play, taking the children out daily in all weather.

Staff will encourage and support children’s play and learning opportunities (indoors and outdoors).

Staff will ensure safety checks are done before the children go outdoors, assessing risks and identifying hazards throughout the day.

Schools’ Out! will make provision for Children and young people to be active and interactive, improving their skills of coordination, control, manipulation and movement.

Children will be supported in developing an understanding of the importance of physical activities and making healthy choices about their bodies, growing in confidence and managing their own risks in their play.

Outdoor play is essential for children and young people, giving opportunities to practise their developing skills to explore their world and make them feel good.

It is also important for Children’s physical, mental and emotional development.

A quote from Rifkin 1997 ‘The younger the child the more child learns through sensory and physical activities; thus the more varied and rich the natural outdoor setting, the greater it’s contribution to physical, cognitive and emotional development.’

As children spend leisure time indoors, it is important that the service is providing outdoor play as it gives the child the chance to explore the natural environment, test their physical limits overcoming any barriers that may arise, express themselves and building their own self confidence.

At Schools’ Out! we believe Children should begin to take risks and face outdoor challenges.

‘Outdoor play can also mean more mess – and more mess often means more fun.’

Signed: Natalie Scanlan **Date: 12/01/2024 Review Date12/01/2025**