

## Outdoor Curriculum – Intent, Implementation, and Impact

### Intent:

At Oulton, we aim to develop a love of the outdoors, recognising the lifelong benefits of working within nature. We are passionate about fostering a love of the outdoors with children with their well-being and inclusion at the heart of the curriculum. We recognise that learning in the outdoors motivates, challenges, and excites children about their learning. We want to use the outdoor space we have to foster collaboration, shared thinking, and communication through cross-curricular learning. We recognise that playing and learning in natural environments develops a healthy respect for nature and teaches children to empathise with their surroundings, motivating them to develop a care for nature. We want all children to be active and understand about leading a healthy lifestyle, including better mental health. Recent studies have highlighted some benefits of outdoor learning for young children:

- Improved working memory
- higher levels of conversational language.
- greater independence.
- improved health and sleeping patterns.
- greater physical competence and agility.
- improved time focus on activities and more concentration.
- a greater understanding of nature and the environment.
- improved social skills, involvement, and initiative.

We want to children to engage in the outdoor curriculum to create a memorable learning experience for them as well as building on their independence and resilience.