**Outings Policy (EYFS September 2025)**

**Policy Statement:**

At Little Acorns preschool, we recognise the value of **outings** in enriching children's learning experiences and **connecting them with their community and natural environment**. This policy ensures that all outings are **safe, well-planned, and developmentally appropriate**, aligning with **EYFS 2025 guidance**.

**Purpose of Outings:**

* Outings provide children with opportunities for **new experiences, hands-on learning, and social development**.
* Activities will support children's **physical, emotional, and cognitive development** in line with the EYFS curriculum.
* We encourage **exploration, independence, and curiosity** by introducing children to different environments, people, and cultural settings.

**Planning and Preparation:**

* Outings are **planned in advance**, considering children's **ages, needs, and interests**.
* A **risk assessment** will be conducted before each outing to **identify potential hazards and implement safety measures**.
* Outings will be designed to be **inclusive and accessible** for all children, including those with **special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)**.

**Parental Consent:**

* Parents or legal guardians will receive **information** about outings out of Tatsfield in advance, including:
  + The **destination**
  + The **mode of transportation**
  + Expected **timings**
  + Any **special requirements** (clothing, packed lunch, etc.)

Permission for Local Trips out – to the park, pond, shop etc is indicated on the Information and Consent Form at initial registration. This permission can be changed by parents by speaking to the manager.

**Ratios and Supervision:**

* We will **strictly follow the EYFS** staff-to-child **ratios** during outings to ensure **safety and appropriate supervision**.
* Extra precautions will be taken in **busy locations**.

**Safety Measures:**

* Children will be given **clear safety instructions** before and during the outing.
* Staff will ensure that children:
  + **Stay together as a group**
  + Are **aware of boundaries**
  + Understand **road safety and stranger awareness**

**Emergency Preparedness:**

* A **fully stocked first aid kit** will be carried on all outings.
* **Emergency contact details** for all children, along with necessary **medications** (e.g., EpiPens, inhalers), will be readily accessible.
* In the event of an emergency:
  + Staff will follow the **designated emergency procedures**.
  + Parents will be contacted **immediately if needed**.

**Communication:**

* Children will be **engaged in discussions** before outings about the destination, expectations, and safety rules.
* Parents will be kept informed about **outings in advance**, and any specific requirements will be communicated.

**Cultural and Religious Considerations:**

* Outings will be **inclusive**, ensuring all children feel comfortable and valued.
* Any **dietary or religious considerations** will be respected when choosing destinations and planning meals/snacks.

**Additional Staff:**

* For **larger groups** or outings with **heightened risk factors**, additional staff or **parent volunteers** may be included to enhance supervision.
* All supervising adults will be **briefed on safety procedures** before the outing.

**Record Keeping:**

* Records of each outing will be maintained, including:
  + **Parental consent forms**
  + **Risk assessments**
  + **Incident reports**, if applicable
  + **Emergency contact lists**

**Alternate Plans:**

* **Weather conditions** and **unexpected disruptions** will be accounted for with **backup plans or alternative destinations**.
* If an outing is cancelled, children will engage in an **indoor or alternative outdoor activity**.

**Alignment with EYFS 2025 Changes:**

* The **EYFS 2025 framework** emphasises the **importance of outdoor and real-world learning experiences**.
* Outings are designed to **support holistic development**, integrating **physical activity, problem-solving, and sensory exploration**.
* Our outings policy aligns with EYFS **learning and development goals**, focusing on:
  + **Personal, Social, and Emotional Development (PSED)** through interaction in new settings.
  + **Communication and Language** by encouraging discussions about outings.
  + **Understanding the World** by introducing children to **nature, history, and culture**.
* The inclusion of **risk-taking opportunities in controlled environments** supports **self-confidence and resilience**, as highlighted in **EYFS 2025**.

**Signed:** Chairperson  
**Date:** September 2025