

## **Noise Management Plan for Burbage Nature Nursery**

### **1. Introduction**

Burbage Nature Nursery will operate Monday to Friday, 07:30–17:30 (with occasional extension to 18:00 by arrangement). There will be no evening or weekend use.

Outdoor play is essential under the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), and will be managed carefully to ensure children benefit from high-quality provision while respecting the amenity of neighbours.

### **2. Use of Outdoor Space**

- Outdoor space will be available between 09:00–17:00 only.
- Children will access the garden in small, supervised groups, not all at once.
- Group sizes and times outdoors will vary by age group:
  - Babies (12 in total) – taken out in very small groups for short periods, often for walks in prams or short sessions on blankets.
  - Toddlers (24 in total) – typically two outdoor sessions per day, up to 45 minutes each, in groups of 4–5. Maximum two groups outside at once.
  - Lower preschool (24 in total, ages 2–3) – free flow access in keyworker groups (up to 5 children), limited to two groups outside at a time, for up to 1 hour morning and 1 hour afternoon.
  - Upper preschool (26 in total, ages 3–4) – free flow access, with activities located at the far side of the garden, away from neighbours.

### **3. Potential Noise Sources**

The following have been identified as possible sources of noise:

- Children's voices, including persistent shouting.
- Group activities such as singing.
- Arrival and departure of parents/carers.

Music and musical instruments will not be used outside.

### **4. Noise Management Measures**

- Supervision: Outdoor play will always be supervised by staff. Persistent shouting will be discouraged, and staff will intervene promptly.
- Group Size: Only limited groups will be outside at the same time to avoid cumulative noise.
- Activity Planning: Musical activities and use of instruments will take place indoors only.
- Unsettled Children: Any unsettled children will be taken indoors within a reasonable time.
- Drop-off/Collection: Parents will be asked to arrive/depart promptly and not linger outside. Staff will manage handovers quickly under the covered walkway near the car park, away from the neighbouring property.
- Indoor Containment: Doors and windows will remain closed during louder indoor

activities (e.g. music, singing).

- Staff Awareness: All staff will be trained on the Noise Management Plan and will be provided with a copy. A copy will also be displayed on the nursery notice board to ensure compliance.

## **5. Monitoring and Managing Complaints**

- The nursery management team will be responsible for dealing with any complaints and will be contactable via the nursery telephone number.
- Any staff member who receives a complaint will escalate it immediately to management.
- The management team will investigate promptly, take action to remove or minimise the noise at source, and provide feedback to the complainant on the findings and corrective actions.
- All complaints and actions will be logged in the complaints folder.

## **6. Complaints Procedure**

- Complaints may be received via telephone, email or in person.
- All complaints will be immediately escalated to the nursery management team.
- The management team will contact the complainant to establish details and provide feedback on findings and corrective action.
- If noise remains a persistent issue, the matter will be escalated to higher management, who will work with the nursery team to devise further solutions.
- Communication with the complainant will be consistent, ensuring transparency of actions taken.
- Neighbours will be provided with the nursery telephone number 01455 701777.
- All complaints will be formally recorded and reviewed regularly.

## **7. Review**

The NMP will be reviewed annually and updated if necessary. Any proposed changes to the NMP shall be submitted to and agreed with the Local Planning Authority (LPA).

## **8. Conclusion**

With a maximum of 86 children, outdoor play is carefully structured and managed to ensure noise is reasonable and respectful to neighbours. The above measures, including the exclusion of outdoor music, active supervision, staff training, and a clear complaints process, will ensure no significant adverse impact arises.