**Use of Outdoors**

* All gates and fences are childproof, safe, and secure.
* Areas are checked daily to make sure animal droppings, litter, glass etc. is removed. Staff wear rubber gloves to do this.
* Bushes or overhanging trees are checked to ensure they do not bear poisonous berries.
* Stinging nettles and brambles are removed.
* Safety mats are provided under climbing equipment, even when on grass
* Wooden equipment is maintained safely, put away daily and not used if broken.
* Wooden equipment is sanded and varnished as required.
* Broken climbing equipment or outdoor toys are removed and reported to the setting manager.
* Children are always supervised within ratios outside.
* Children are suitably attired for the weather conditions and type of outdoor activities.
* Sun cream (if parents have given permission) is applied and hats are worn during the summer months. Outdoor play is avoided in extreme heat between noon and 3pm.
* Children who have no adequate means of sun protection, such as a hat, long sleeves and trousers or sun cream, will not be able to play outdoors in un-shaded areas.
* Children are supervised on climbing equipment, especially younger children.
* Water play is not left out but is cleared, cleaned and stored after each use.
* Receptacles are left upturned to prevent collection of rainwater, this is important in areas where there are vermin to prevent urine/faeces contaminating the water.
* Sightings of vermin are recorded and reported to the manager who reports to the Environmental Health’s Pest Control Department.
* Outdoor areas that have flooded are not used until cleaned down and restored. Grassed areas are not played on for at least one week after the floodwater has gone.
* If paddling pools are used, a risk assessment is conducted, and consideration given to the needs of disabled children or those less ambulant.

**Drones**

If there are concerns about a ‘drone’ being flown over the outdoor area, that may compromise children’s safety or privacy, the setting manager will contact the police on 101.

* Children will be bought inside immediately.
* Parents will be informed that a Drone has been spotted flying over the outdoor area and will be advised fully of the actions taken by the setting.
* The police will have their own procedures to follow and will act accordingly.
* If at any point following the incident, photographs taken by a drone emerge on social media that could identify the nursery or individual children, these are reported to the police.
* A record is completed in the Notifiable Incident Record unless there is reason to believe that the incident might have safeguarding implications, for example:
* the drone has hovered specifically over the outdoor area for any length of time
* there is a likelihood that images of the children have been recorded
* is spotted on more than one occasion
* if the Police believe there is cause for concern

Where this is the case, The Safeguarding Children, young people and vulnerable adults procedures are followed.

**Further guidance**

[Reportable Incident Record](https://portal.eyalliance.org.uk/Shop#!prod/848ed1d4-7564-ea11-a811-000d3a0bad7c/curr/GBP) (Alliance 2015)