

Garden Policy

June 2025

Policy statement

At Domino Pre-School we believe in the importance of free flow play between the indoor and the outdoor space. We recognise how outside play is as important as inside play and facilitate this at all times by ensuring our door to the garden is kept open whenever possible. We do however close the door when we are tidying up at the end of a session, prior to carpet time or when an incident in the setting might require all children and staff to be together in one place.

Procedures

- With all new starters we recognise we must teach the children the rules regarding when the door must remain shut, and we support them to understand how to safely access the outdoor space.
- The garden must be risk assessed prior to any children entering the garden. Further details can be found in the Risk Assessment policy.
- At all times there must be at least one practitioner in the garden. Where possible, given staffing levels, we aim to have 2 practitioners in the garden, one of whom with a minimum of a Level 3 qualification.
- Staff must be mindful of the need for adequate deployment of staff to ensure there is a good line of sight across the garden area.
- If children are playing in the woodland/mud kitchen area, a member of staff must be in the area also to minimise any potential risks. Any member of staff who needs to leave the garden must ensure they call another member of staff to replace them.
- All staff will ensure that before playing in the garden, children have suitable footwear, either shoes or wellies (spares of which can be found in the Dury Room) and suitable clothing and outer wear depending on the weather. Children who run

into the garden without suitable clothing or footwear will be redirected back to collect the appropriate clothing.

In very cold weather, staff will not allow children to play with the water and the hose will be disconnected.

In very warm weather, access to the garden will be limited to avoid the very hot midday period and children will be encouraged to remain under the shaded areas to minimise their exposure to the sun.

After playing in the garden, children will be encouraged to wash their hands.

Version	Changes made	Author	Date	Review Date
1.0	Baseline version	H Clarke	20 th September 2020	September 2021
1.1	Review – no changes	H Clarke	20 th September 2021	September 2021
1.2	New Logo	H Clarke	9 th November 2022	September 2023
1.3	Removed reference to a 'covered' area.	H Clarke	November 2023	September 2024
1.4	No changes	H Clarke	June 2025	September 2025