

Noise Management Plan

Banana Moon Day Nursery, 371 Gosbrook Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 8ED

1. Background and Purpose

This Noise Management Plan has been prepared in support of a planning application relating to Banana Moon Day Nursery, 371 Gosbrook Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 8ED. The application seeks permission to increase the maximum number of children attending the nursery from 30 to 60 and to vary the existing restriction on outdoor occupancy from a maximum of 10 children at any one time to a maximum of 25 children at any one time.

The nursery operates Monday to Friday between 7.30 am and 6.30 pm for 51 weeks of the year. Children are accommodated across three age groups: 0–2 years, 2–3 years and 3–5 years. These groups are managed within separate internal rooms and have access to defined external garden areas appropriate to their age and stage of development.

The principal potential source of noise associated with the proposed development is children's use of the external play area to the rear of the building. This Plan sets out the operational and management measures that will be implemented to minimise noise effects on neighbouring residential occupiers and to ensure that the nursery operates in a manner that safeguards residential amenity.

2. Operational Controls

- **Outdoor play management:** Use of the external play areas will be carefully managed through a staggered timetable so that children are distributed in small, supervised groups rather than all using the garden simultaneously. Group sizes will be controlled by staff and allocated to defined garden zones in order to reduce cumulative noise breakout and maintain effective supervision.
- **Hours of outdoor use:** No outdoor play will take place before 8.00 am. Outdoor activity will generally be confined to managed daytime periods, typically between 10.00 am and 11.45 am and between 2.30 pm and 4.00 pm, unless otherwise demonstrated by staff to be appropriate and not materially harmful to neighbouring amenity. Afternoon use is naturally moderated by indoor rest and sleep periods.
- **Quiet activity periods:** Staff will incorporate quieter outdoor activities, such as reading, storytelling and supervised calm play, within the daily routine in order to moderate external noise levels during periods of garden use.
- **Management of distressed children:** If a child becomes highly distressed or cries for a sustained period whilst outdoors, staff will promptly relocate the child indoors so as to avoid prolonged disturbance to neighbouring occupiers.
- **Staff supervision:** Appropriate staff-to-child ratios will be maintained at all times. This enables early intervention in behaviour management and helps ensure that staff supervision is undertaken using normal speaking voices rather than raised voices.

- **Amplified sound:** No outdoor amplified music, loudspeakers or similar equipment will be used within the external play areas. Any music used internally will be kept at a low background level only.

3. Physical Mitigation Measures

- **Doors and windows:** External doors and windows will be managed to reduce noise breakout from internal activities, particularly during louder group sessions. The premises benefit from air conditioning, reducing reliance on open windows for ventilation. Door closers are fitted to help prevent doors from being left open unnecessarily and to minimise door slamming.

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4. Drop-off, Pick-up, Deliveries and Servicing

- **Drop-off and pick-up arrangements:** Parents and carers will be reminded through nursery communications to arrive and depart in a considerate manner, avoid unnecessary waiting, switch off engines while stationary, and avoid slamming vehicle doors. Feedback to parents is generally provided through the nursery's digital application, which assists in reducing extended conversations on site.
- **Deliveries and waste collection:** Essential deliveries and waste or bin collections will be scheduled, where reasonably practicable, during daytime working hours, typically Monday to Friday between 10.00 am and 5.00 pm, in order to reduce the potential for disturbance during more sensitive times of day.

5. Monitoring, Review and Complaints Procedure

- **Ongoing monitoring:** The nursery manager will undertake routine oversight of external play arrangements and staff adherence to the measures set out in this Plan. The operation of the external areas will be kept under review to ensure the mitigation remains effective and proportionate.
- **Complaints procedure:** Any complaint received from a neighbouring occupier in relation to noise will be recorded by the nursery manager, investigated promptly and, where necessary, responded to through adjustments to staff practice, play scheduling or other reasonable mitigation measures. A written record of complaints and actions taken will be maintained.
- **Review of the Plan:** This Noise Management Plan will be reviewed at least annually, and sooner if required following any substantiated complaint or material change in operations, to ensure that it remains effective and consistent with relevant national planning guidance.