

NOISE MANAGEMENT PLAN

For Planning Application

Little Cedars Montessori Ltd – Expansion

42 Cedar Road, Whiston, L35 2XA

Planning Reference – 25/00241/FUL

1.0 Introduction

This Noise Management Plan (NMP) is submitted in support of the planning application for the expansion of Little Cedars Montessori Ltd through a proposed extension. The nursery is located in a residential area and uses a large rear garden and a smaller front garden for children's outdoor activities.

This plan sets out measures to minimise noise from outdoor play, vehicle activity, parent/carer interaction, and internal childcare operations.

2.0 Objectives of the Noise Management Plan

- Minimise noise disturbance to neighbouring residents.
- Manage outdoor play activities, timing, and group sizes.
- Control noise relating to parent/carer drop-off and pick-up.
- Train all staff in noise awareness and proactive management.
- Provide clear strategies for responding to noise peaks, including distressed children.
- Maintain continuous monitoring and annual review of the NMP.

3.0 Site Context

3.1 Location

The nursery is situated in a residential neighbourhood with dwellings bordering the site.

3.2 Outdoor Spaces

- Rear Garden: Primary outdoor play area, to be used after 9.30am
- Front Garden: Used for small-group, low-noise activities after 09:30am.

3.3 Access and Traffic

Main entrance located to the front, where drop-off/pick-up occurs.

4.0 Noise Sources Identified

- Outdoor play, including naturally occurring children's vocalisations.
- Crying or distressed children.
- Parent and carer conversations.
- Vehicle engine noise and car door slamming.
- Staff conversations and equipment handling.

5.0 Noise Control Measures – Outdoor Play Areas

5.1 Use of Gardens

The rear garden is prioritised for general play. The front garden is used for quieter, small-group activities to reduce noise impact on nearby properties.

5.2 Controlled Group Sizes

A maximum of 8–12 children will use outdoor areas at any one time, ensuring noise remains low and manageable.

5.3 Scheduled Outdoor Play Times

Outdoor play will occur in structured sessions. No outdoor play will take place before 09:30, and sessions will be rotated across groups.

5.4 Staff Supervision and Behaviour Management

Staff actively manage behaviour to prevent shouting, running near boundaries, and overly boisterous activity.

5.5 Management of Crying, Distressed, or Over-Excited Children

To minimise noise affecting residents:

- Any child crying loudly or distressed outdoors will be brought indoors promptly for calming.
- Indoor calming spaces are used for one-to-one support and emotional regulation.

- Staff will redirect children showing early signs of frustration or overstimulation to quieter activities.

5.6 Window and Door Management

- Windows facing residential boundaries will be closed during periods of crying, upset, or higher-noise activity indoors.
- External doors will not be propped open during transitional periods or when indoor noise levels increase.

5.7 Proactive Behaviour Supervision

Staff will intervene early to reduce elevated noise levels by:

- Offering alternative calming activities.
- Separating children involved in conflicts or noisy play.
- Use positive reinforcement to encourage calm behavior.

5.8 Transition Management

Transitions are staggered to avoid group noise peaks. Staff use calm communication cues.

6.0 Drop-Off / Pick-Up Noise Management

- Staggered drop-off and pick-up times reduce congestion and noise.
- Parents are asked to avoid congregating and to use quiet voices near residential boundaries.
- Signage reminds parents to turn off engines, avoid loud conversations, and close vehicle doors quietly.
- Staff will monitor the front area during peak periods.

7.0 Staff Noise Awareness and Training

All staff receive training covering:

- Noise awareness and responsibilities.
 - Procedures for calming distressed children.
 - When and how to bring children indoors.
 - Window/door management.
 - Quiet transition techniques.
 - Communication with parents regarding noise expectations.
- Annual refresher training is provided.

8.0 Monitoring and Review Procedures

- Daily monitoring by the manager or designated senior staff.
- Quarterly internal reviews.
- Annual full review of the Noise Management Plan.
- Immediate review following any noise-related complaint or incident.

10.0 Community Liaison

A named contact will respond promptly to neighbour concerns. All concerns will be logged and reviewed.

11.0 Summary of Key Commitments

- Controlled outdoor play times and group sizes.
- Prompt response to crying children and closing windows during noise peaks.
- Staggered drop-off/pick-up and quiet zone signage.
- Staff training and proactive behaviour management.
- Continuous monitoring and annual review.

12.0 Conclusion

The nursery is committed to minimising noise impacts associated with its expansion. This plan demonstrates significant operational, physical, and behavioural controls that will ensure ongoing protection of neighbouring residential amenity.