

Premises and Playtime Risk Assessment

Whilst writing St John's Ce Primary School's Outdoor Risk Assessment, the following statements from the Health and Safety Executive document have been taken into account:

"HSE fully supports the provision of play for all children in a variety of environments. HSE fully understands and accepts that this means children will often be exposed to play environments which, whilst well-managed, carry a degree of risk and potential danger."

"HSE fully recognises that play brings the world to life for children. It provides for an exploration and understanding of their abilities; helps them to learn and develop; and exposes them to the realities of the world in which they will live, which is a world not free from risk but one where risk is ever present. The opportunity for play develops a child's risk awareness and prepares them for their future lives."

Striking the balance does mean:

- *Weighing up risks and benefits when designing and providing play opportunities and activities*
- *Focusing on and controlling the most serious risks, and those that are not beneficial to play or to the foreseeable activity by the user.*
- *Recognising that the introduction of risk might form part of play opportunities and activities.*
- *Understanding that the purpose of risk control is not the elimination of all risk, and so accepting the possibility of even serious or life-threatening injuries cannot be eliminated, though it should be managed.*
- *Ensuring that the benefits of play are experienced to the full.*

Striking the balance does not mean:

- *All risks must be eliminated or continually reduced.*
- *Every aspect of play provision must be set out in copious paperwork as part of a misguided blanket.*
- *Mistakes and accidents will not happen.*

Dynamic Risk Assessment

This means that staff should be aware of the changing nature of the play taking place. They should support children to assess and manage risk as much as possible for themselves, but they should also be vigilant and act if they think that risk of serious harm is becoming unacceptably likely. Actions taken by staff when required should balance the reduction of likelihood or severity of harm while preserving as much of the benefit of the play as possible, and empowering the children to manage future risk as much as possible.

Name of person completing risk assessment: N. Hedges (Head teacher)		Date written: September 2023 Reviewed Set '24, Sept '25		
What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	Risk rating	What control measures are in place?	Rating after
Playground surface has potholes or loose gravel and people could trip	Children	Medium	Premises Manager checks the site every morning and clears it of any trips hazards or hazardous materials.	Low
Injury from activities in the playground.	Children	High	Ball games are not permitted in designated areas to create quiet areas. Pupils only allowed to play games that are considered within pupil's individual capabilities as decided by staff. Games can be stopped at any time by staff if considered Unsafe or inappropriate. Discussion regarding safety will take place. Activities to be age appropriate and reflect the mix of ages of ages within the school as well as the special needs of pupils. The school's behaviour policy applies on the playground. All staff are trained in behaviour management.	Low
Playground surface is slippery due to leaves or weather or weather.	Children Staff	Medium	Head teacher or AHTs will decide if weather conditions are suitable or not for outdoor activities. Premises Manager to put down salt/ ice in icy conditions and to clear leaves if they are assessed as hazardous. Staff to ensure all children have appropriate clothing.	Low
Hazardous tems in the playareas e.g.	Children Staff	Medium	Site Manager checks the site every morning and clears it of any trip hazards or hazardous material.	Low

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glass and broken bottles left discarded • Drugs paraphernalia discarded • Condoms and other items from public use discarded • Animal deposits 				
Members of the public climbing over the fences to the play areas.	Children Staff	High	All staff are aware of this danger and keep a watchful eye on members of the public. SLT approach 'visitors' and ask them to leave. If there is refusal, lockdown will be put into action and the police will be called. Staff and children trained in lockdown procedures.	Medium
Members of the public talking to the children through the fences.	Children Staff	High	All staff are aware of this danger and keep a watchful eye on members of the public. Children are taught not to talk to anyone who approaches the fence and to go and speak to an adult on duty if they are spoken to. Staff members will approach the public and ask them politely not to talk to children as it is a safeguarding issue. If the member of the public abusive or is threatening, children to be taken inside. If the adult is not perceived as a threat, children to be encouraged to play in another area.	Medium
Collisions	Children	High	Youngest pupils are kept apart from the rest of the school during lunchtime play to avoid colliding with bigger pupils. The exception to this is if play leaders are playing with younger children. The middle section of the playarea is available for quieter activities. Fast running activities to have a designated space.	Medium

			<p>On specific days, a sports coach will run organised games e.g. football, cricket. These will always be supervised by the coach.</p> <p>Children are spoken to about the dangers of colliding. Playtime is adequately supervised, and staff will intervene if activities look like there is a greater change of collision occurring.</p>	
Overgrown plants	Children Staff	Medium	<p>Site manager maintains site/grounds maintenance contractors in place</p> <p>Site manager to contact parks at BCC to alert them to dangerous overgrown plants that encroach into the school.</p>	Low
Fall from height onto hard surface	Children	Medium	<p>Children are not allowed to climb on the fences.</p> <p>Letters to parents to remind them to not let their children climb the fences out of school hours.</p>	Low
Trips and falls	Children	High	<p>Children must wear appropriate footwear outside.</p> <p>No more than 2 year groups in one playground at playtime to give adequate space.</p> <p>Children are adequately supervised.</p> <p>EYFS have a separate small area away from the main playground to play with their own equipment.</p> <p>Children keep equipment in designated areas of the playground and equipment is regularly checked so it is safe to use.</p> <p>Areas of the playground which are for ball games are kept separate to areas in which children play with smaller equipment e.g. dolls</p>	Medium
Gates are damaged	Children Staff	High	<p>Site manager inspects for wear and tear – contractors in as appropriate. Emergency call out used if there is a safety issue.</p> <p>Automatic gates are regularly serviced.</p>	Low
Gates are left open	Children	High	<p>All gates locked and secured at the start of the day. Main entrance is padlocked and visitors directed to the back</p>	Low

			entrance which has access via gates and door (both with intercom on). All gates in the playground have 100key padlock. These are not opened if children are in the playground. If equipment needs retrieving this is done after play/PE.	
There is no playground supervision	Children	Medium	Children are not allowed out unsupervised. When staff take class out, they wait until there are enough adults on duty before going in.	Low
No first aid cover	Children	Medium	The school has adequate first aid provision, including the provision of first aid at breaktimes and lunchtimes. TAs and LTS are paediatric first aid trained and two members of staff hold First Aid at work qualifications (for staff). These qualifications are kept up to date on a rolling programme. Ratios allow supervision to be maintained when first aiders are dealing with injured pupils.	Low
Sunny weather and lack of shade resulting in sun safety risk.	Children Staff	High	Letter to go home to parents about sun safety and children encouraged to wear: Hats Sunglasses Sunscreen Water freely available Children brought in for inside play after short periods outside in very hot weather.	Low
Playtime equipment is damaged or faulty	Children	Medium	Staff supervising use of play equipment understand how the equipment is to be used. Daily pre-check are carried out by lunchtime supervisors and faulty items thrown away. All equipment is kept in good condition i.e. free from splinters, loose joints, protruding bolts or screws etc.	
Wet breaks/lunch	Children	Medium	Supervision for wet break/ lunchtime considers the school layout and activities allowed in different areas.	

			<p>Lunchtime supervisors have been tined in their role for wet break/lunchtime.</p> <p>Allowance has been given for SEN and pupils who require closer supervision</p> <p>All staff to report any behaviour issues to SLT.</p>	
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Members of the public talking to children through the fences.	Children	High	All staff are aware of this danger and keep a watchful eye on	Medium
Collisions	Children	High	Youngest pupils are kept apart from the rest of the school during lunchtime play to avoid colliding with bigger children. The middle section of the play area is used for quiet activities and fast	Medium

			<p>running games have a designated space. Use of a sports coach to run games on specific days. Children are spoken to about the danger of colliding with each other. Staff are vigilant and monitor play – intervene if there is an increased likelihood of collision in the activity they are doing.</p>	
Overgrown plants	<p>Children</p> <p>Staff</p>	Low	<p>Grounds Maintenance contractors in place for in school. Premises Manager to contact Parks at BCC to alert them to dangerous overgrown plants that encroach into the school.</p>	Low

Fall from height onto hard surface	Children	Medium	Children are not allowed to climb on the fences. Letters to parents remind them to tell their children not to climb outside of school hours.	Low
Trips and falls	Children	High	Children must wear appropriate footwear outside.	Medium

	Staff		<p>The youngest children have a separate small area away from the main playground to play with their own equipment.</p> <p>Children keep equipment in designated areas in the main playground.</p> <p>Areas of the playground which are for ball games are kept separate to areas in which children play with smaller equipment e.g. dolls.</p> <p>Children are adequately supervised at all times.</p>	
Gates are damaged	Children Staff		<p>Visually inspected signs of wear and tear present and Premises Manager to get contractors in as appropriate</p> <p>Automatic gates serviced regularly.</p>	
Gates are left open	Children		<p>Gate locked and secure at all times.</p> <p>Double gates at the front to ensure that nursery parents can enter/exit through the auto gate without endangering children who are still safe behind the manual gate.</p>	
There is no playground supervision	Children	Medium	Children are not allowed outside unsupervised.	Low
No first aid cover	Children	Medium	<p>The school has adequate first aid provision and this includes the provision of first aid at lunchtime and breaks.</p> <p>Supervision can be maintained when first aiders are dealing with injured pupils.</p>	Low

<p>Sunny weather and a lack of shade resulting in sun-safety risk</p>	<p>Children Staff</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Letters to go home to parents about sun safety and children encouraged to wear:</p> <p>Hats</p> <p>Sun glasses</p> <p>Sun screen</p> <p>Water bottles to be freely available to children</p> <p>Children brought in for inside play after short periods outside in very hot weather.</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>Playtime equipment is damaged or faulty</p>	<p>Children</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Staff supervising use of play equipment understand how the equipment is to be used.</p> <p>Daily pre-use checks are carried out by lunchtime supervisors and faulty items thrown away.</p> <p>All equipment is kept in good condition. i.e. free from splinters, loose joints, protruding bolts or screws etc.</p>	<p>Low</p>
<p>Wet breaks / lunchtimes</p>	<p>Children</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Supervision for wet break / lunchtimes takes into account the school layout and activities allowed in different areas.</p> <p>Lunchtime supervisors have been trained in their role for wet break / lunchtimes.</p> <p>Allowance has been given for SEN and pupils that require closer supervision.</p> <p>All staff to report any behaviour issues to SLT</p>	<p>Low</p>

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