



Risk Benefit Assessment



Risk Benefit Assessment Record Sheet and Advice

The purpose of **Risk Benefit Assessments** are to enable us to provide challenge, progression, excitement, creativity and fun in our play environment.

They cannot and will not provide complete 'safety' and this is not their purpose.

They can help us to think about, predict, and manage the most serious and most likely potential causes of harm.

We have two approaches to managing risk: Standing Benefit-Risk Assessments and Dynamic Risk Management

Standing Risk Benefit Assessments means we look at our usual environment and practices at least annually, and also when significant changes take place and keep a written record of the areas in the table below.

Dynamic Risk Benefit Management means that staff should be aware of 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 take action, 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 or harm with preserving as much of the benefit of the play as possible, and empowering the children to manage future risk as much as possible.

Common areas that need standing assessment include:

Boundaries to dangerous areas, trees management and tree climbing, fixed equipment and inspection, broken loose parts, rope tying especially at height, water use and water features.

Staff will carry out daily, on-going risk assessment and pass on any potential hazards to a member of SLT.





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Description of Activity, Principle or Object, who might be at risk and what kind of harm.	Benefit or Utility Or Related Policy	Description of risk management and maintenance agreed	Nominated person	Action Date
Pupils playing with heavy loose play equipment whilst den building: Potential for splinters, crush injury from cable drums, ply sheets and pallets. Potential injury when lifting heavy objects.	Pupils able to lift and move heavy play parts and use in a safe, creative way.	Pupils briefed in assemblies about safe holding, moving and stacking. Staff apply principles of dynamic risk assessment and guide children in movement and use of heavier play parts.	OPAL Team	25 th September 2018 On-going
Trees unsafe to climb: potential injury falling from trees with thin or weak branches.	Although we would like to allow the children to climb, we currently have no suitable trees in the designated area.	All children briefed not to climb trees. Supervision by staff to enforce this. We will build raised platforms in the woodland and field to enable safe climbing as part of the project at a later date.	OPAL team	25 th September 2018 On-going
Pupils playing in different environment with new potential dangers: There is an increased risk of minor injury to pupils who may require immediate first aid.	Increased freedom to play will foster more creative play and ensure pupils learn to manage risks more effectively themselves.	Pupils with minor injuries (scratches and minor abrasions) will be treated by nominated First Aiders. More serious injuries will be referred to a member of SLT if the injury requires parental contact or hospital treatment.	Jo Good Sarah Ryder Fiona Beale	25 th September 2018 On-going



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Pupils playing in sand pit: Sand pit possible attraction for cats, dogs and fox faeces. Sand in eyes.	Large, 25m squared area enables creative, sensory play for a large number of children.	Pit checked daily by caretaker and monitored throughout the day by staff. Sandpit covered at the end of every day.	Stephen Leadbeatter OPAL Team	25 th September 2018 On-going
The use of tyres: the risk of tyres being rolled down the hill resulting in injury.	Increased freedom to play will foster more creative play and ensure pupils learn to manage risks more effectively themselves.	Children reminded of the potential risk during Play Assemblies. The school's supervision styles (Remote and Ranging) allow the OPAL Team to manage potential risk.	OPAL Team Ian Gunning	25 th September 2018
Children slipping and injuring themselves in wet weather either on the bank or in the wooded area.	Active outdoor play at all times of the year is an important part of obesity prevention and helps to establish life-long patterns of healthy physical exercise.	Children to wear appropriate clothing (coats and wellies). Appointed First Aiders available if injury occurs.	OPAL Team	25 th September 2018
Children accessing the pond by climbing over the fence: risk of falling into the pond.	Once renovation of pond is complete, it will allow children to play in a safe environment where risk is low.	Children reminded not to enter the pond area. The area is fenced off and a gate is padlocked at all times until the completion of the project to renovate the pond area and mitigate risk. Children are reminded during Play Assemblies.	OPAL Team	25 th September 2018 On-going



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Children using slack lines: risk of slipping off and falling onto the ground.	Children developing skills of balance, agility and core strength as well as team work and co-operation.	Children shown how to use the equipment appropriately. Slack lines are tied to trees no higher than two feet off the ground.	OPAL Team	25 th September 2018 On-going
Children using hammocks: risk of playing inappropriately and falling out of hammocks and causing injury.	Children are able to develop balance, coordination and gross motor skills. Other benefits include improving children's mental health and wellbeing.	Children shown how to use the equipment appropriately. Hammocks are tied to trees no higher than two feet off the ground.	OPAL Team	25 th September 2018 On-going
Children using sticks to play: risk of injury by using sticks inappropriately.	Playing with sticks not only ignites children's imaginations, but also has other therapeutic benefits. Branches and other large sticks can build strength and muscles as children lift, drag, or carry them to and from places outdoors. Teamwork happens when a stick is too large for just one child to move.	Children shown how to play appropriately with sticks. Regular reminders during Play Assemblies.	OPAL Team	25 th September 2018 On-going

Risk Assessment Date: September 2018

Assessed by: Ian Gunning

