



# 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.**



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	Rev
Pupils playing with heavy loose play equipment whilst den building: Potential for	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	OPAL Team	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 On-going	12th November 2019





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splinters, crush injury from cable drums, ply sheets and pallets. Potential injury when lifting heavy objects.		guide children in movement and use of heavier play parts.			
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 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 On-going	12th November 2019
Pupils playing in a 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.	Jayne Meissner Sarah Ryder Fiona Beale Rosie O'Rourke	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 On-going	12th November 2019

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 Leadbeater OPAL Team Play Team	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 On-going	12th November 2019
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. <b>reminder to children when the water freezes not to lick or eat.</b>	OPAL Team Ian Gunning Play Team	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2018	<b>12th November 2019</b>
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. <b>Year 5 &amp; 6 are allowed to wear old trainers if in woods.</b>	OPAL Team Play Team	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2018	<b>12th November 2019</b>





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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 Play Team	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 On-going	12th November 2019
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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 teamwork and cooperation.	Children shown how to use the equipment appropriately. Slack lines are tied to trees no higher than two feet off the ground.	OPAL Team Play Team	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 On-going	12th November 2019
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 Play Team	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 On-going	12th November 2019
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. Children drag longer sticks when moving around the playground.	OPAL Team Play Team	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 On-going	12th November 2019







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Bikes/Trikes/Wiggle Boards/scooters	Increased balance and improvement of gross motor skills. Fitness and core strength improved with use.	Children to be shown possible pitfalls of falling off bikes, crashing into others with bikes and injury while pushing others on bikes. <b>Awareness of finger trap risks.</b>	Play Team All Staff	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 On-going	<b>12th November 2019</b>
Heater in Snug:	Enables the use of the snug all year round	Children to be shown how to avoid the risk. Heater temp to be monitored. <b>Children shouldn't be adjusting the heater.</b>	Play Team Teachers using room	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 On-going	<b>12th November 2019</b>
Shipping container:	Necessary for storage of loose parts	Risk of children trapping fingers in the door. Children could become trapped by loose or falling loose parts. Risk of being locked inside while hiding inside. <b>Responsible children choosing packing away to stay in container as packing away.</b>	Play Team ALL STAFF	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 On-going	<b>12th November 2019</b>
Water play – hose pipe and water butts around garden	Children to explore water. Use of water supports sensory and creative play. Kids to be shown how to use hose sensibly and instructed to NOT drink from pipe. Water butts to be tethered and secured. Butts be allowed to run dry and re-filled to ensure no stagnant water.	Risk of drowning very minor. Risk of falling heavy water butt.	Play Team	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 On-going	
Slope surfing	Benefit of balance, innovation, team work, turn taking and creativity. Encourages cooperative, locomotive and creative play.	Children to be shown and continually reminded about possible risks - slips, trips, crashes, ticks or falling objects. Implement a circular system 'Do not climb up the way you come down, walk round and ascend on opposite side of tree'	RO Play Team	April 2019 On-going	
Netting/ropes/ladders to assist hill climbing	Improved strength and agility by using materials to assist ascent of woodland slopes	Risk of slipping, falling or rope burns from materials.	RO/Play Team	April 2019 On-going	





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		Children to be shown responsible use of these items, not too many children to use at once. RO to ensure installation done in as safe a manor as possible			
Head high slacklines	Increased freedom to play will foster more creative play and ensure pupils learn to manage risks more effectively themselves. Increase upper body strength and balance.	Correct installation (as per manufacturer's guidelines). <b>Height monitored. Lines always well above head height to avoid garrotting.</b>	RO/Play Team	April 2019 On-going	<b>12th November 2019</b>
Rope ladders	Versatile use. creative play and freedom to climb - must be installed correctly by a responsible member of the play team	Correct installation (as per manufacturer's guidelines). Height monitored. Only installed at height when supervised by a member of the play team	RO/Play Team	April 2019 On-going	<b>12th November 2019</b>
Digging areas	Encourages independent and/or cooperative play and mastery play - fine motor skills improved. Knowledge of gardening improved through digging and planting in Garden area	Designated areas to be created for digging, muddy sides and plant borders. Also garden	RO/Play Team	April 2019 On-going	<b>12th November 2019</b>
Garden area	Sensory and exploratory play - Children to be introduced to the space as a quiet/sensory space with yoga mats and wind chimes installed. Team of children to help with gardening and planting - encouraging responsibility taking	Quiet space of contemplation. Children to be shown responsible management of plans within the space. Play team to monitor growth of any hazardous plants. Children shown how to use tools correctly and safely.	RO/Play Team OPAL Team	April 2019 On-going	<b>12th November 2019</b>





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Temporary stage	Dramatic and fantasy play - incorporates music, dance, movement and creativity	Play Team to erect temporary stage with curtains to enable. possible to trip or fall from pallets, trip over curtains, become snarled up in curtains - Play Team to use bright coloured materials for visual markers and ensure anything installed at height is done correctly and load tested should a child hang off it.	RO/Play Team	April 2019 On-going	12th November 2019
Chalk/water paints	Beneficial in all ways, develop creativity and fine motor skills	chalks and paint brushes to be maintained by children and play team - Board to be cleaned on Fridays.	RO/Play Team	April 2019 On-going	12th November 2019
Ball games - Various	develop social play, fine and gross motor, hand/eye coordination	Show children and role model sensible play with balls - alert children to risk of injury and make sure they are aware of how to keep games contained so they don't impact on whole school play	Teachers through PE Play Team	April 2019 On-going	12th November 2019
Targets	improved ball skills - turn taking and communicative play	risk of balls hitting others	Teachers through PE Play Team	April 2019 On-going	12th November 2019
Shade Sails					
Gloop (Cornflour mix) in tough spot	Sensory experience Accessible to all - mastery, exploratory play	Pay attention to potential allergy risk Hand wash station to be set up nearby.	Rosie O'Rourke Volunteer team	9 <sup>th</sup> April	12th November 2019





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Safari vehicle	Opportunities for creative, imaginative and role play. Social space for small group quiet or imaginative play or place for larger group activities and adventures.	Vehicle has been 'made safe' by our local trusted mechanic – The engine has been disconnected, all doors and possible openings have been locked so no risk of 'door slamming-trapped fingers' all sharp or rusted sections have been softened or welded. Windows locked in open and winders removed. The windows will serve as the entry/exit for the cab. In position the car has been 'dug in' to avoid any slipping and the brakes are locked on. Carpeted steps (carpeted pallets) have been placed beneath the window and at the back of the flat-bed to assist smaller children to ingress and egress safely. Rules of use – <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Not too many people in the cab at once (children can use discretion while staff monitor)</li><li>2. No climbing on windscreen</li><li>3. No climbing on the roof or bonnet while wet.</li><li>4. NO jumping off of roof</li><li>5. No throwing things at it.</li><li>6. Please be careful and respectful</li></ol>	ALL STAFF	September 3 <sup>rd</sup> and On-Going	12th November 2019
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Sandpit digger	Creative play - fine and gross motor skills will be enhanced through the use of this apparatus. Turn taking and team working skills will also be challenged.	One child at a time. Children to stand back (safe space) from grabber arm to avoid collision. Digger to only be used during supervised play times. Children not to access during afternoon play unless specifically instructed by an adult on duty.	ALL STAFF Rosie O'Rourke	October 2019	12th November 2019
Pond					
Litter pickers	Creative play fine motor skills shared responsibility of grounds	4 available mut be shared ONLY for the collection of litter, NOT toys to be returned to holding point after breaktime	All staff Rosie O'Rourke	December 2019	
Large games Connect 4 Jenga Dominoes					







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Pushchairs	Locomotive play Imaginative play	Fully checked over to ensure sturdiness and the collapse mechanism broken in place to stop the risk of getting fingers caught. Rules in place of where pushchairs can be used (not to be pushed down verges)			
Pond	wonderful resource - educational, creative and fit with the ethos of outdoor learning our school is eager to promote.  Play Policy Pond RAMS Pond rules	The pond area is zoned by a 5" fence and gate with combination lock. Can only be accessed with adult supervision. Pond rules have been delivered during whole school assemblies and enforced in the classroom with teachers. 'In case of emergency' procedure is listed within <a href="#">the RA</a> and pond rules. Visual safety checks to be carried out regularly by every adult taking groups into the area. The pond is a quiet space, the rules reflect this.	All staff Rosie O'Rourke	Monthly	

Risk Assessment Date: September 2018

Assessed by: Ian Gunning

