



Midsomer Norton
Schools Partnership



HIGH LITTLETON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

POND RISK ASSESSMENT

Date of Risk Assessment: 14.07.2020

To be reviewed by: 07.2021

Signed (Headteacher):

Signed (Chair of Governors):

Pond dipping is a popular activity for children to participate in both in their own leisure time and as an educational activity, it is a low risk activity with high benefits. We have a duty of care towards our staff, pupils and others who may be on our premises. A school is required to carry out a risk assessment and implement reasonably practicable measures to ensure an acceptable level of safety. When considering safety issues, and in particular the risk of drowning in a school pond, there are a number of factors to assess.

Who might be harmed:

- Young children, particularly under fives
- Teenagers (peer pressure often leads to risk taking)
- Staff and lone workers
- Children with special needs

Risk topics	Control Measures	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Done
<p>Risk: Unsupervised access to the pond, particularly by younger children.</p>	<p>The gate will be padlocked when the pond is not in use. Only adults will know the number and this must not be shared with children.</p> <p>The integrity of the pond fence and gate must be checked on a termly basis.</p> <p>When the pond is in use, an adult must be in the pond area at all times.</p> <p>The ratios are as follows when pond dipping: Reception 1 adults to 5 children (Max 10 at one time) KS1 1 adult to 8 children (Max 16 at one time) Y3/4 1 adult to 10 children (Max 32 at one time) Y5/6 1 adult to 15 children (Max 32 at one time)</p> <p>The ratios are as follows when using the space for other low-movement curricular activities (reading, performance) : Reception 1 adults to 15 children (Max 30 at one time) KS1 1 adult to 15 children (Max 30 at one time) Y3/4 1 adult to 32 children (Max 32 at one time) Y5/6 1 adult to 32 children (Max 32 at one time)</p> <p>Breaktime/Lunchtime (mixed age groups): 1 adult to 15 children (Max 15 at one time) Year 6 aloud alone after Term 1 and when the OPAL team agrees that they are being responsible.</p>	<p>IG</p> <p>JC/MAT</p> <p>Class Teachers</p> <p>ROR/SMSA</p>	<p>June 2020</p> <p>Termly</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	

Risk: The water as a drowning hazard.	Clear signage should be used at the access points to the pond. Regular sharing of the Rules of use should be shared with the children during OPAL assemblies. Positives and areas to improve should also be discussed as these arise. Rules should be displayed on the gate to the pond.	OPAL Team	Ongoing	
Water quality and associated health hazards such as leptospirosis and the effects of blue-green algae.	During the activity try to ensure that those children with cuts on their hands cover them with waterproof plasters or wear suitable gloves, avoid ingestion of water and ensure that all children wash their hands after the activity especially before eating.	All staff	Ongoing	
Interaction of the water with features such as steep banks, silt, and overhanging branches.	Annual dredging of the pond will take place to avoid build-up of silt and other debris which could prevent someone who has fallen in from climbing out. Annual tree inspection will remove low branches. Regular checks and removal of pond reeds which might obscure adult sightlines.	MNSP OPAL Team	Annual Weekly	
The prevention of slips, trips and falls should be considered.	Children and adults should wear appropriate footwear. Edges that are open for access for pond dipping are gently sloping. Decking around the pond is flat and well defined. Decking should be checked daily to observe its slippiness. A brush will be in the area to remove the leaves, twigs and animal faeces. Children will be reminded that chase games and running will not be permitted in the pond area. Pond dipping nets should be hung against the fence when not in use. Pond dipping bowls should be kept away from the edge of the pond.	All staff OPAL team	Ongoing	
Hygiene issues such as the small risk of Weil's disease and other water borne causes of ill health.	Hand sanitiser station in the pond area which is refilled weekly. Children must be reminded to wash their hands after use. Cover any open wounds such as cuts and scratches with waterproof plasters.	JC All staff	Ongoing	

	Wear protective clothing such as gloves. Wash thoroughly and as soon as possible if you have entered the water. Carefully clean any open wounds obtained during time at freshwater.			
--	---	--	--	--

POND RULES

These rules **must** be adhered to at all times when enjoying the pond space.

Pond area

- Adult supervision is necessary at ALL times (see ratios as above)
- Year 6 may be allowed to enter the fenced area without close adult supervision (only when allowed by an adult). Should this happen **there must be a minimum of 2 children within the space at all time**
- DO NOT attempt to get in the water AT ANY TIME
- DO NOT drink the pond water, it is not clean enough for humans
- DO NOT throw any foreign bodies into the water, this could harm the wildlife
- DO NOT throw anything over the pond. If it doesn't make it over, it could hurt the pond life
- NO running or fast play within the area, the pond is a calm space
- Pond to be locked (by an adult) when not in use. Combination lock is provided with bolt on access gate

Pond dipping rules

- Adult supervision is necessary at ALL times (see ratios as above)
- Ratios of children to adults must be monitored and maintained for safety
- Cuts or abrasions on hands should be covered with either a plaster or gloves before coming in contact with the water
- Children MUST lie or kneel on deck while dipping
- Dipping is only allowed from the installed deck area unless an adult deems another space safe to dip from
- Care must be taken with all pond dipping equipment, all nets, buckets and magnified glasses to be returned to their storage place.
- Appropriate footwear must be worn

- Everyone must wash their hands after pond dipping
- Wildlife must be respected: it must be treated with great care and quiet voices should be used

In the event of an emergency

Should an emergency occur inside the pond area...

1. The adult should raise the alarm by sounding a whistle (three short sharp blasts).
2. The adult should encourage the child to climb out of the water.
3. If they require assistance, in the first instance the adult should reach towards the child to help them out.
4. If they are still struggling, the adult should step into the shallows of the pond and continue to assist.
5. A first aider should see the child as soon as possible.
6. The child should be brought inside where they can be assessed. A decision as to whether they should be sent home will be made and the parents must be contacted in all cases.
7. Headteacher to complete an online accident form.