



Risk assessment

Risk assessments are carried out to ensure the safety of children, staff, parents and visitors.

Legislation requires all individuals in the workplace to be responsible for the health and safety of premises, equipment and working practices. We have a 'corporate responsibility' towards a 'duty of care' for those who work in and receive a service from our provision. Individuals also have responsibility for ensuring their own and others safety.

- Generic risk assessment form is completed for each area of work, and the areas of the building that are identified in these procedures
- Access audit is completed to ensure inclusion and the health and safety of all visitors, staff, and children. The relevant procedure is modified if required to match the assessment.

Risk assessment means: *Taking note of aspects of your workplace and activities that that could cause harm, either to yourself or to others, and deciding what needs to be done to prevent that harm, making sure this is adhered to and is updated when necessary.*

The law does not require that all risk be eliminated, but that 'reasonable precaution' is taken. This is particularly important when balancing the need for children to be able to take appropriate risks through physically challenging play. Children need the opportunity to work out what is not safe and what they should do when faced with a risk.

Daily safety sweeps and checks indoors and outdoors

- Safety sweeps are conducted when setting up for the day prior to children arriving or closing in the evening. Sometimes a safety sweep will identify a risk that requires a formal risk assessment on form. For example, if a window latch is becoming stiff and an educator has to stand on a chair in order to reach it to ensure it has closed properly.

Health and safety risk assessments

Health and safety risk assessments inform procedures. Staff and parents and carers should be involved in reviewing risk assessments and procedures, as they are the ones with first-hand knowledge as to whether the control measures are effective and they can give an informed view to help update procedures accordingly.

The setting manager undertakes training and ensures staff have adequate training in health and safety matters. The setting manager ensures that staff members carry out risk assessments that include relevant aspects of fire safety, food safety, in each of the following areas of the premises:

- Entrance and exits.
- Outdoor areas.

Northchapel Community Primary School for **Little Oaks**

- Off site venues used regularly
- Main kitchen.

The setting manager ensures staff members carry out risk assessment for off-site activities, such as children's outings (including use of public transport), including:

- forest school
- other duties off-site such as attending meetings

The setting manager ensures staff members carry out risk assessment for work practice including:

- intimate care of young children and older children
- arrivals and departures
- preparation of food/drink for children
- children with allergies and special dietary needs or preferences
- cooking activities with children
- supervising outdoor play and indoor/outdoor climbing equipment
- assessment, use and storage of equipment for disabled children
- visitors to the setting who are bringing equipment or animals as part of children's learning experiences, for example 'fire engines'
- following any incidents involving threats against staff or volunteers
- following any accident or incident involving staff or children

The setting manager liaises with the Head Teacher as appropriate to ensure security arrangements for premises and personnel are appropriate.

Policy review date October 2026