

Playground Risk Assessment



SCHOOL NAME	Benwick Primary School
ACTIVITY / TASK	Fixed Play Equipment
COMPLETED BY & DATE	<i>Karen Hill</i> 14/3/2023
REVIEW DATE	March 202 Constant review

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you doing already?	What further action is necessary?	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Done
Volume of pupils on playground	Children bumping into each other during the normal course of play, or pushing each other from standing surfaces at height.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ratio pupils and staff regularly monitored to ensure sufficient supervision. KS1 & KS2 have their lunch at different times Lunchtime Clubs offered to groups of pupils to reduce volume 	Constant monitoring taking place	Head/SBM/Staff	Ongoing, weekly, daily	Rota in place
Supervision on playground	Children bumping into each other during the normal course of play, or pushing each other from standing surfaces at height.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff are positioned at stations on the playground that they only leave when notifying another member of staff. These areas are considered where the most risk could occur (climbing, ball play, train and target wall) Staff all have radios and communicate with one another, for first aid and calls for classes in for dinner 	Constant monitoring taking place	Head/SBM/Staff	Daily	Rota in place

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 1 member of staff always carries a first aid kit about their person • Hazard checks made playground/field both break and lunchtime • Pupils to be made aware of what considered as a playground hazard 				
Unsafe condition or use of equipment & furniture	Children hurting themselves on broken equipment leading to cuts or bruising during the normal course of play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-use checks of play equipment by school logged • Weekly inspections of play equipment by school recorded • Play equipment given an annual safety inspection by Competent company • All furniture is kept in good condition ie, free from splinters, loose joints, protruding bolts or screws etc • The supervision assessment accounted for the risk of injury using the play equipment and any defaults reported immediately and taken out of use • Staff supervision use of play equipment understand safe use 	Constant monitoring taking place	Head/SBM/Staff	Daily	Rota in place

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checks for vandalism-broken glass and sharps or animal litter • Playground surface maintained in good condition to minimise slips and trips – see RA Managing risks of slips & trips. • Check free from ice before use in winter • Kept free from build-up of leaves in autumn • Pupils made aware of safe use, what to do if they find equipemtn broken and who to report to immediately. 				
Wet playtimes	Children bumping into each other or slipping during the normal course of play in wet conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rota for classrooms KS1 & KS2 • Use of radios to communicate with other members of staff • First aider made available when needed in an emergency. Pupils reminded to wear correct clothing both coats, shoes and wellies. • Weather to be assessed to allow pupils to have time outside safely. Continued assessment in icy, stormy 	Constant monitoring taking place	Head/SBM/Staff	Daily	

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		thunder and lightening conditions				
Hot playtimes	Dehydration of pupils, sun stroke and burning of skin Hot surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils required and reminded to wear sun hats, suncream and cover up. Sheltered areas provided or alternative sat down activities provided in the shade. 	Constant monitoring taking place	Head/SBM/Staff	During summer months	
Keeping Dry		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will only be able to use areas where they can become muddy/wet if they have appropriate clothing Areas that this type of clothing is worn will be limited in numbers / sectioned off to ensure it is safe and or supervised 		Head/SBM/Staff	During Winter months	
First Aid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff are trained in first aid. Should an incident occur they will take a child to a qualified first aider. They assess and log the injury. Major injuries or minor are both written in the accident book Pupils with Major injuries – parent/carers are telephoned 	Schedule of first aid training and duty rota	Head/SBM/Staff	Daily	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff use radios to ensure adequate levels of staffing available or can call for assistance. 				
Manual Handling	Pupils and staff injuring themselves from lifting incorrectly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils are told how they should move equipment around the playground – through assembly or by staff out on duty A number of staff have Manual Handling training that supervise break/lunchtime duty 	Schedule of training / posters and information sent to all staff	Head/SBM/Staff	Daily	
Keeping the playground tidy	Slip, falls, trips from items laying around un-used.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils are encouraged to tidy and pick up items when they have finished with them The whistle is blown 4 minutes before the end of lunch allowing for lining up and a tidy. All staff support pupils with this task 		Head/SBM/Staff	Daily	
Trees / bushes	Falling branches, trees. Toxic trees/shrubbery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The School Business Manager keeps and check on bushes and trees and will contact the Property Maintenance 	Staff awareness / Frequent Monitoring	Head/SBM/Staff	Daily	

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	can cause poisoning	<p>company to have them cut or removed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils are encouraged to wash their hands after playing outside or touching branches. 				
Poisonous plants/nettles	Pupils, toxic plants and stung by nettles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff must supervise KS1 at all time when moving around the garden area Please ensure area is safe and free from nettles Teach pupils awareness of poisonous plants 	<p>Display boards as reminders of safe plants and poisonous species</p> <p>Do's and don't's notice for garden area clearly displayed</p>	SBM / Karl Pedder Garden Lead	When in use or before	
Rear gates and Boundaries	Fear of intuders out of hours or during school time. Damaged boundaries allowing unwanted animals or humans into the school grounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gates are locked, and staff members keep a check on gates and fences when on dutie Cleaner in Charge checks each morning the condition of gates/locks to ensure no one has tampered with them 	Frequent Monitoriing	Head/SBM/Staff	Daily	
Target wall/carpet area	Children bumping into each other during the normal course of play, or pushing each other from standing surfaces at height	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff members monitor this area when in use Radios in use for first aid and assistance Pupils taught safe play when playing football no pushing or pulling of others or their clothing 	Frequent Monitoring	Head/SBM/Staff	Daily	

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	Balls uncontrolled and hurting others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climbing of target wall not allowed • No climbing fences – request to ask to retrieve the balls especially from trees • Area to be checked for slips and trips regularly and in bad weather • 				
Get Set Go Blocks	Children bumping into each other, pushing pulling, falls, trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff members on duty to monitor area • Radios in use for first aid and assistance • Pupils taught safe play/hands and to take in turn • Quality of blocks to be checked 	Frequent Monitoring	Head/SBM/Staff	Daily	
Large Wooden Climbing frame/balance beams	Children bumping into each other during the normal course of play, or pushing each other from standing surfaces at height.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ropes and wood inspected daily while in use • Annual inspections and remedials carried out as and when needed • Safe play – age appropriate heights monitored when climbing at all times • Do Not lift up pupils and only support in an emergency when accessing the climbing equipment. 	Frequent Monitoring / equipment taken out of action if necessary	Head/SBM/Staff	Daily	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not allow pupils to Jump from heights Pupils not allowed to sit on top of the rails, hang down 1 member of staff to view area at all times Radios to be used at all times Inappropriate pupil behaviour during unstructured play is not allowed 				
Colouring area	Children slipping on small items during the normal course of play, or pushing each other from standing surfaces at height.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tables by shed to be checked regularly No pupil to sit or stand on tables Ensure the area is level and table does not rock Pupils to pick up after themselves / staff monitor to ensure no trips or slips 		Head/SBM/Staff	Daily	
Use of outdoor play equipment	Children bumping into each other during the normal course of play, or pushing each other from standing surfaces at height.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment to be checked regularly by adults Broken equipment to be taken out of action and discarded Pupils to pick up and put back equipment when not in use Adults to assist with picking up of equipment in high populated areas to prevent slips, trips or falls 	Frequent monitoring	Head/SBM/Staff	Daily	

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Netball / Basketball posts	Children bumping into each other during the normal course of play, or pushing each other from standing surfaces at height Balls uncontrolled and hurting others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff members monitor this area when in use • Pupils taught safe play ie no pushing or pulling of others or their clothing • Please ensure younger pupils are able to participate in a safe way or direct to age related basketball area on the playground • No kicking of the basketballs 	Frequent monitoring	Head/SBM/Staff	Daily	
Train & soft play area	Children bumping into each other during the normal course of play, or pushing each other from standing surfaces at height.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure adequate level of supervision at all times as this equipment is for KS1 but not limited to. • Check to ensure splinters and train in working order • Weather – wet weather makes the train slippery • Check ground around is safe use pathway down to limit muddy feet • Pupils should not climb on the roof of the train 	Frequent monitoring	Head/SBM/Staff	Daily	
Sunken ship Limit to 10 pupils	Pupils may fall during busy periods. They play a game of attempting to push	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor effectiveness of equipment and inform immediately if broken or split wood • Ensure adequate level of supervision at all times 	Frequent monitoring	Staff/Head/SBM	Daily	

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	<p>each other off, which may lead to an unprepared child being pushed off, deliberately or accidentally. Injuries sustained may involve broken bones and complex fractures. Foot misplacement or slippery equipment.</p> <p>Entanglement of ropes</p>	<p>positioned to see both sides of equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils briefed on appropriate use of equipment in assembly regularly- be Sensible give others space etc • Limited to 10 pupils • Ensure pupils have correct climbing footwear • Check equipment is not damp and slippery • Ensure age appropriate climbing • An impact attenuating surface (IAS) is not required. Grassed area should be inspected for sharp objects • Inappropriate pupil behaviour during unstructured play is not allowed • Radios to be used • Do not allow pupils to Jump from heights 				
Digging Area	Children bumping into each other during the normal course of play, or pushing with tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Space is large enough for 15 children • Check area for dead animals and faeces 	Frequent monitoring before / during play	Staff/Head/SBM	When in use or before	

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	in their hands. Trips and slips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When spades are used ensure correct use, and equipment is in good condition Throw away broken items Ensure ground is safe. In wet conditions appropriate foot wear should be worn Pupils to wash hands thoroughly after play 				
Garden/planting Area	Children bumping into each other during the normal course of play, or pushing with tools in their hands. Falls, trips and slips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please ensure area is clear of equipment after each use Please read Gardening H&S policy in to review acceptable behaviour 	Frequent monitoring before / during play	Staff/Head/SBM	When in use of before	
Pallets stack	Pupils could be harmed from falling pallets, incorrect lifting, splinters, nails and falling over items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult supervision when lifting and moving at all times Pallets to be checked before pupils move them Broken pallets to be disposed of – risk of splinters/nails Safe assembly of den building ensure structure does not use neighboring boundary fencing 	Frequent monitoring before / during play	Staff/Head/SBM	When in use of before	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure pupils do not climb on top of the stack 				
Playing field	Children bumping into each other during the normal course of play, pushing pulling each other, stray balls, stray branches from trees and falls from climbing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Field will be made available when safe to use on dry days Checks for dog/cat waste and dead animals Check for mole hills and burrowing animal holes No digging allowed on the field 1 member of staff at all times and ratio of pupils monitored throughout Radios to be used First aider available Rough play avoided at all times Football to be kept at a safe height and in one area. Key stage 1 engagement with football matches to be monitored for safety No climbing on goal nets or posts Hand washing in place after play 	Frequent monitoring before / during play	Staff/Head/SBM	When in use of before	

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