

Health and Safety Policy

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To be reviewed – 30/1/2028

Derby Forest School takes health and safety extremely seriously as a matter of both legal and moral importance. All staff will be familiarised with this policy as part of their induction and be expected to act in accordance with it at all times. We aim to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all staff, children, visitors and other individuals who may be affected by Derby Forest School's activities. The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 and their associated Approved Code of Practice (ACoP) and guidance will be complied with at all times. The steps below will be actioned as a matter of course:

- Ensure that all activities are risk assessed according to the needs of each group in accordance with the risk / benefit analysis statement below
- Ensure a staff member has checked the environment prior to children using it to identify any additional hazards which may have occurred since the last use
- Use a dynamic risk assessment approach throughout all sessions – identified risks should be rectified immediately and added to the written risk assessments later if necessary
- Ensure that where risks to safety or health are identified steps to rectify the situation are taken immediately
- Use, maintain and store equipment safely
- Ensure that all staff are competent in the work in which they are participating
- Maintain accurate records of any accidents or injuries which occur during our sessions
- Reflect on any incidents to ensure appropriate corrective measures are implemented in future
- Ensure that all staff and volunteers who come into unsupervised contact with children have undergone appropriate and up to date Disclosure and Barring Service checks and references where required
- Ensure that a First Aid kit is available at all times
- Ensure that a sufficient number of staff have undergone appropriate First Aid training and have an up to date certificate
- Ensure that safety equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE) is provided as appropriate and is fit for purpose
- Notify Ofsted and the HSE of any incidents as required
- Ensure adequate public liability and employers insurance is maintained at all times

Risk / Benefit analysis statement

At Derby Forest School we believe that a strictly risk adverse approach can be detrimental to children's development and overall wellbeing. A degree of risk is often beneficial, if not essential; children and young people enjoy challenging, adventurous play opportunities where they can test themselves and extend their abilities. Giving children the chance to encounter hazards and take risks provides other benefits, such as the chance to learn how to assess and manage these and similar risks for themselves. Hence accidents and injuries are not necessarily a sign of problems, because of the value of such experiences in children's learning. Instead all staff at Derby Forest School use an approach which aims to weigh up the risks of an activity with the benefits to the child and apply common sense in our

decision making. This initiative is supported by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the UK Government and more information can be found at <http://www.playengland.org.uk/resource/risk-benefit-assessment-form/>. Written examples of how we use this approach are available on request.