



# GATEWAY SCHOOL

## GREAT MISSENDEN

### **Risk Assessment Policy**

This Policy Applies to Gateway School and Early Years Setting

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Checked by: Rebecca Izzard (Head of Staff), Helen Francis (Facilities/Compliance Officer)

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**Contents**

What Is A Risk Assessment?	3
What Areas Require Risk Assessments?	3
Educational	3
Pastoral	4
Medical and First Aid	4
Unsupervised Access by Pupils	4
Child Protection	4
Support Areas	4
Conducting a Risk Assessment	5
Specialist Risk Assessments	5
EYFS	5
Reviews	5
Responsibilities of all Staff	5
Appendix 1 - Risk Assessment Checklist	6

*“Sensible risk management is about practical steps to managing real risks, not bureaucratic back covering. Address the real risks, not only to pupils, but also to the health and well-being of your staff. And remember, risk assessment is just good planning – keep it fit for purpose and act on it.” Sir Bill Callaghan, former Chairman, HSC*

Gateway School is fully committed to promoting the safety and welfare of all in our community so that effective education can take place. Their highest priority lies in ensuring that all the operations within the school environment, both educational and support, are delivered in a safe manner that complies fully, not just with the law, but with best practice. Risks are inherent in everyday life. We need to identify them and to adopt systems for minimising them. Our pupils need to be educated into how to cope safely with risk.

### What Is A Risk Assessment?

A risk assessment is a tool for conducting a formal examination of the harm or hazard to people (or an organisation) that could result from a particular activity or situation.

- A **hazard** is something with the potential to cause harm (e.g. fire).
- A **risk** is an evaluation of the probability (or likelihood) of the hazard occurring (e.g. a chip pan will catch fire if left unattended).
- A **risk assessment** is the resulting assessment of the severity of the outcome (e.g. loss of life, destruction of property).
- **Risk control measures** are the measures and procedures that are put in place in order to minimise the consequences of unfettered risk (e.g. staff training, clear work procedures, heat detectors, fire alarms, fire practices, gas and electrical shut down points and insurance).

Accidents and injuries can ruin lives, damage reputations and cost money. Apart from being a legal requirement, risk assessments therefore make good sense, focusing on prevention, rather than reacting when things go wrong. In many cases simple measures are very effective and not costly.

Risk assessments need reviewing and updating regularly. At Gateway School we are very aware that all staff and pupils need to receive training. A “library” of risk assessments is maintained by the Facilities/Compliance Officer and the Educational Visits Coordinator for staff to refer to and use for themselves. The Head of Staff is responsible for keeping records of staff training.

### What Areas Require Risk Assessments?

There are numerous activities carried out in Gateway School, each of which requires a separate risk assessment. The most important of these cover:

- Fire safety and procedures
- Educational visits and trips

But risk assessments are also needed for many other areas, including:

#### Educational

- Science
- Each sport and PE activity
- Art (including the clay and print studios)
- Music (including minimising the risk of hearing loss to staff)
- Drama (including the theatre backstage, stage, props room and lighting box)
- Dance
- Staff, eg pregnancy, return under ‘fit for work’ limitations issued by GP

To help us carry out effective risk assessments, and assess all risks adequately, we make use of model or generic risk assessments, for our educational activities and visits.

## Pastoral

The focus of our pastoral care policy is to ensure that every pupil leaves as a confident, articulate young person capable of keeping him/herself safe. Our PSHCE programme and assemblies are directed towards promoting an increasing understanding as the pupils develop, of the risks that exist in both the real and the electronic worlds, and on sensible precautions that should be taken.

*Ongoing Pastoral Care:* Discussion of individual pupils forms a core of staff meetings; this information is minuted and shared with staff.

*Child Protection issues:* Records of concern are in place to identify children at risk beyond the environs of school.

*Anti-Bullying:* The school follows a clear Anti-bullying policy, of which all staff are made aware. The school keeps a central record of alleged bullying and actions taken.

## Medical and First Aid

The School Nurses maintain risk assessments for first aid and all other treatments and procedures. Accident forms are maintained and the School Nurse is responsible for ensuring that accident reports are passed to the Facilities/Compliance Officer

The school's separate medical questionnaire policy explains the procedures that we would follow in the event of a medical emergency. The Head is responsible for ensuring the reporting any notifiable accident that occurs on school premises to a pupil, member of staff, parent, visitor or contractor to the HSE in accordance with the Reporting of Injuries Diseases and Dangerous Occurrence Regulations (RIDDOR).

## Unsupervised Access by Pupils

We ensure that pupils understand why they do not have unsupervised access to potentially dangerous areas, notably specialist teaching areas.

All flammables are kept securely locked. Pupils do not have access to the Maintenance and Catering areas of the school.

## Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding policies and training for all staff form the core of our child protection risk management. Safer recruitment policies and procedures ensure that the school is not exposed to the risk of employing staff who are barred from working with children, and are not allowed to work in the UK.

## Support Areas

**Catering and Cleaning:** risk assessments and training are required for every item of catering and cleaning equipment, as well as for manual handling, slips and trips and the control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH). Induction and refresher training covers risk assessments, protective equipment and safety notices.

**Site Maintenance and Security:** Risk assessments cover rooms with a greater level of hazard; risk assessments are in place for manual handling, slips and trips, working at height, lone working, asbestos, control of contractors on site, electricity, gas, water and the control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH). Training is given to minimise the risk of both fire and security by adhering to good practice.

## Conducting a Risk Assessment

Our policy at Gateway School is to reduce the risk in all activities to an acceptable level. In order to assure this we ensure that

- Staff delivering the activity or instruction are appropriately trained
- Children receive instructions on safety and behaviour prior to the activity
- Children are appropriately equipped for the activity, including any necessary protective equipment for tasks identified as requiring its usage.

## Specialist Risk Assessments

The Facilities/Compliance Officer arranges for specialists to carry out the following risk assessments:

- Fire safety
- Asbestos
- Legionella
- Gas safety
- Electrical safety

## EYFS

The school has arrangements in place to carry out a daily check of the indoor and outdoor areas used by Early Years pupils. A sample checklist is included in Appendix 1.

## Reviews

All risk assessments are reviewed and recorded annually or when major structural work is planned or in the event of an accident. A separate policy on the management of health and safety describes the arrangements for regular health and safety audits of the fabric of the school, its plant, machinery and equipment, together with its arrangements for catering and cleaning and for water sampling.

Prior to an off-site visit, the trip risk assessment must be evaluated and approved by [the Educational Visits Coordinator](#). Following the visit, the risk assessment must be evaluated by the trip leader with a particular focus on preparing for a future similar visit.

## Responsibilities of all Staff

All members of staff are given a thorough induction into the school's arrangements for risk assessments and health and safety. Specialist training is given to those whose work requires it. However, staff are responsible for taking reasonable care of their own safety, together with that of pupils and visitors. They are responsible for cooperating with the Head, Facilities/Compliance Officer, SLT and Education Committee responsible for the governance of the school to comply with their health and safety duties. Finally, all members of staff are responsible for reporting any risks or defects to the Facilities/Compliance Officer.

**Appendix 1 – Sample Daily Risk Assessment Checklist**

This checklist should be used to provide ideas to create a checklist which is personalised to the school’s environment, covering both indoor and outdoor areas. It is created due to EYFS requirements but could be applied more generally across the age range of the school. If the responsibilities are divided, for example between the site manager and the EYFS staff, then two lists could be created. Once the school has created its own checklist, it should be inserted to replace this sample, the word ‘sample’ removed from the heading above and the EYFS paragraph above, and then this note deleted.

**Pre-School Safety Checklist**

W/C:	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Room Temperature:					
Door closing mechanism at appropriate speed.					
Floors clear from small objects					
No damaged furniture, fixings or equipment					
Scissors, sharp objects out of reach					
Radiators covered or not too hot					
Plug sockets covered					
Electrical cords safe & away from children					
Sensory trays clean and re filled					
Cleaning materials out of reach stored in cupboard					
Stair gate fastened correctly (if in use)					
Water jug filled with fresh water					
Fridge clean and temperature checked and logged.					

Fire Exits unlocked, clear and secure					
Guinea Pig food and equipment covered and away from children					
Cooking equipment safe and secure					
Kitchen area and sink clean, knives stored in cupboard					
<b>Toilets</b>					
Shower water run through					
Nappy area clean and safe					
Cleaning materials on high shelf					
Toilets clean					
Sink clean					
Shower tray clean					
Potties clean					
<b>Outside area</b>					
Play area free from debris					
Climbing frame safe and secure					
Slide safe and secure					
Sandpit free from debris, animal faeces					
Water tray/tuff spot clean and free from debris					
Bikes and riding toys in good condition					
No obstructions under or around play equipment.					
Garden gate safe and secure.					
Outside toilet clear of objects and sprays stored safely on top of cabinet.					

Preschool Fault log

Date	Reported by	Fault	Reported to	Date dealt with	Outcome

Whole School Fault log

Date	Reported by	Fault	Reported to	Date dealt with	Outcome

Pre-School Safety Checklist

W/C:	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Room Temperature:					
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Scissors, sharp objects out of reach					
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Sensory trays clean and re filled					
Cleaning materials out of reach stored in cupboard					
Stair gate fastened correctly (if in use)					
Water jug filled with fresh water					
Fridge clean and temperature checked and logged.					

Fire Exits unlocked, clear and secure					
Guinea Pig food and equipment covered and away from children					
Cooking equipment safe and secure					
Kitchen area and sink clean, knives stored in cupboard					
<b>Toilets</b>					
Shower water run through					
Nappy area clean and safe					

Cleaning materials on high shelf					
Toilets clean					
Sink clean					
Shower tray clean					
Potties clean					
<b>Outside area</b>					
Play area free from debris					
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