



Health, safety and risk assessment in the EYFS

We believe that the health and safety of children is of paramount importance. We make our setting a safe and healthy place for children, parents, staff and volunteers by assessing and minimising the hazards and risks to enable the children to thrive in a healthy and safe environment.

The basis of this policy is risk assessment. Risk assessment processes follow the steps below:

- Identification of risk: Where is it and what is it?
- Who is at risk: Childcare staff, children, parents.
- Control measures to reduce/eliminate risk: What will you need to do, or ensure others will do, in order to reduce that risk?
- Monitoring and review: How do you know if what you have said is working, or is thorough enough? If it is not working, it will need to be amended, or maybe there is a better solution.

EYFS key themes and commitments

A Unique Child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
1.3 Keeping safe		3.3 The learning environment 3.4 The wider context	

Procedures

- Fire safety: Fire exits are identifiable and unobstructed; alarms/drills are completed in line with school procedures and recorded
- Vaping/smoking: Staff do not vape or use e-cigarettes when children are present or about to be present. 'No vaping' is included in staff briefings.
- Food hygiene: Staff who handle/prepare food/snacks hold appropriate food hygiene and allergen awareness training.

- Choking log: Any choking incidents are recorded and reviewed termly to identify patterns and actions. First aid kits are checked and stocked.
- Allergies: Pre-admission medical/dietary information is shared with relevant staff. Allergy Action Plans are displayed/accessible in the snack area.
- Safer eating: When children are eating (snack or lunch), a paediatric first aider (PFA) is present in the same room. Seating plans minimise choking risk.
- Supervision: Children are always within sight or hearing of staff, and usually within both. Staff deployment and zoning ensure safe visibility.

Updates for Sept 2025 (Safeguarding & Welfare alignment)

- Our risk assessment process covers adults and children and includes:
 - checking for and noting hazards and risks indoors and outside and for activities;
 - assessing the level of risk and who might be affected;
 - deciding which areas need attention and acting accordingly
 - It is the responsibility of all adults to report any concerns to a senior leader
- A daily risk assessment checklist (attached) is completed for the outdoor areas during setting up time.
- A daily risk assessment checklist (attached) is completed for the indoor areas before children arrive.
- For school trips and any off-premises activities, staff follow the whole school risk assessment procedure for trips and visits.
- In addition to these checks, staff monitor the environment throughout the day, in accordance with the 'daily general risk analysis' sheet (attached).
- Children are taught about being keeping areas safe and are actively involved in tidying up. Under adult supervision, they are involved in clearing potential risks such as spilt sand or milk, and making sure objects are picked up from the floor.

EYFS DAILY SWEEP/RISK ASSESSMENT/SET UP RESOURCES Week of	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
OUTDOOR					
Check for any signs of vandalism and if possible sort/cordon off damage before children arrive.					
Area free from animal faeces?					
Free from litter?					
Are resources and equipment safe for children to use?					
Are sun hats/sun cream (signed consent if needed), waterproofs/wellies available to use?					
Are the gates locked before the children have access to outdoors?					
Mud kitchen checked, resourced and fit for purpose?					
Water butt/water area checked					
Sand replenished?					
Is there enough space to move around safely?					
INDOOR					
Snack area cleaned and ready to be used					
Playdough checked – suitable to use?					
Lights/wires/trip hazards checked					
Are displays current/boards tidy?					
Is environment ready for learning?					
Staff cupboard door locked/staff mobiles away					
Are cleaning products out of reach?					
Check snack area, clean and ready to use?					
Laminator/paper slicer away?					
Temperature of tap water and heaters is appropriate?					
Floor clutter free – check for trip hazards					
All surfaces clutter free					

All steps are clutter free					
Unused electrical sockets secured with safety covers					
Computer cables do not trail on the floor					
Worn / broken resources replaced					
Mealtime supervision: PFA present in the room during snack/lunch					
Allergy Action Plans visible/accessible in snack area					
Choking log & first-aid kit present in snack area					
Food prep surfaces cleaned; allergen controls in place (snack area)					
PFA list on display (EYFS/office)					
Fire exits identifiable and unobstructed (indoor)					
No vaping/e-cigs policy observed					
Fire assembly points clear and identifiable (outdoor)					
Outdoor water features/containers safe/covered; water area supervised					

ANY NOTES TO PASS TO SLT/SITE MANAGER

Policy updated to align with EYFS Safeguarding & Welfare (Sept 2025). Review: annually or sooner if guidance changes.