



Risk assessment policy

Longridge School

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1. Aims

The school aims to ensure that:

- › All risks that may cause injury or harm to staff, students and visitors are identified, and all control measures that are reasonably practicable are in place to avoid injury or harm
- › Risk assessments are conducted and reviewed on a regular basis

2. Legislation and statutory requirements

This policy is based on the following legislation and Department for Education (DfE) guidance:

- › Paragraph 16 of part 3 of [The Education \(Independent School Standards\) Regulations 2014](#), which requires proprietors to have a written risk assessment policy.
- › Regulations 3 and 16 of [The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999](#) require employers to assess risks to the health and safety of their employees, including new and expectant mothers
- › Regulation 4 of [The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012](#) requires employers carry out an asbestos risk assessment
- › Employers must assess the risk to workers from substances hazardous to health under regulation 6 of [The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002](#)
- › Under regulation 2 of [The Health and Safety \(Display Screen Equipment\) Regulations 1992](#), employers must assess the health and safety risks that display screen equipment pose to staff
- › Regulation 9 of [The Regulatory Reform \(Fire Safety\) Order 2005](#) says fire risks must be assessed
- › Regulation 4 of [The Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992](#) requires employers to conduct a risk assessment for manual handling operations
- › [The Work at Height Regulations 2005](#) say employers must conduct a risk assessment to help them identify the measures needed to ensure that work at height is carried out safely
- › [DfE guidance on first aid in schools](#) says schools must carry out a risk assessment to determine what first aid provision is needed
- › [DfE guidance on the Prevent duty](#) states schools are expected to assess the risk of students being drawn into terrorism
- › [The Health and Safety Executive \(HSE\)](#) say schools that manage their own pools must conduct a risk assessment
- › DfE guidance on [health and safety: responsibilities and duties for schools](#) says schools must identify the measures needed to reduce the risks from public health incidents, including COVID-19, so far as is reasonably practicable

A table of all the risk assessments schools are required to have in place can be found in appendix 1 of this policy.

3. Definitions

Risk assessment	A tool for examining the hazards linked to a particular activity or situation, and establishing whether enough precautions have been taken in order to prevent harm from them based on their likelihood and their potential to cause harm
Hazard	Something with the potential to cause harm to people, such as chemicals or working from height
Risk	The chance (high or low) that people could be harmed by hazards, together with an indication of how serious the harm could be
Control measure	Action taken to prevent people being harmed

4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1 The Proprietal board

The proprietarial board has ultimate responsibility for health and safety matters in the school, but will delegate day-to-day responsibility to the Head Teacher, Carol Harvey.

The proprietarial board has a duty to take reasonable steps to ensure that staff and students are not exposed to risks to their health and safety. This applies to activities on or off the school premises.

The proprietarial board as the employer, also has a duty to:

- Assess the risks to staff and others affected by school activities in order to identify and introduce the health and safety measures necessary to manage the risks
- Inform employees about risks and the measures in place to manage them

4.2 The headteacher

The head teacher is responsible for ensuring that all risk assessments are completed and reviewed.

4.3 School staff and volunteers

School staff are responsible for:

- › Assisting with, and participating in, risk assessment processes, as required
- › Familiarising themselves with risk assessments
- › Implementing control measures identified in risk assessments
- › Alerting the head teacher to any risks they find that need assessing

4.4 Students parents and carers

Students, parents and carers are responsible for following the school's advice in relation to risks, on-site and off-site, and for reporting any hazards to a member of staff.

4.5 Contractors

Contractors are expected to provide evidence that they have adequately risk assessed all their planned work.

5. Risk assessment process

When assessing risks in the school, we will follow the process outlined below.

We will also involve staff, where appropriate, to ensure that all possible hazards have been identified and to discuss control measures, following a risk assessment.

Step 1: identify hazards – we will consider activities, processes and substances within the school and establish what associated-hazards could injure or harm the health of staff, students and visitors.

Step 2: decide who may be harmed and how – for each hazard, we will establish who might be harmed, listing groups rather than individuals. We will bear in mind that some people will have special requirements, for instance students with special educational needs (SEN) and expectant mothers. We will then establish how these groups might be harmed.

Step 3: evaluate the risks and decide on control measures (reviewing existing ones as well) – we will establish the level of risk posed by each hazard and review existing control measures. We will balance the level of risk against the measures needed to control the risks and do everything that is reasonably practicable to protect people from harm.

Step 4: record significant findings – the findings from steps 1 to 3 will be written up and recorded in order to produce the risk assessment. Our risk assessment template is saved in the staff drive and examples can be requested by parents and carers.

Step 5: review the assessment and update, as needed – we will review our risk assessments, as needed, and the following questions will be asked when doing so:

- › Have there been any significant changes?
- › Are there improvements that still need to be made?
- › Have staff or students spotted a problem?
- › Have we learnt anything from accidents or near misses?

Step 6: retaining risk assessments – risk assessments are retained for 3 years after the length of time they apply and may be kept to inform future risk management. Risk assessments that are no longer needed are securely disposed of.

6. Monitoring arrangements

Risk assessments can be written as needed by any member of staff but with careful consideration for whether that person has sufficient knowledge and understanding of the activity to complete the risk assessment competently. Risk assessments are reviewed by the Head Teacher.

This policy will be reviewed at least every 2 years.

7. Links with other policies

This risk assessment policy links to the following policies:

- › Health and safety
- › First aid
- › Curriculum intent
- › Educational visits policy
- › Alternative provider and Duke of Edinburgh Policy

Appendix 1: statutory risk assessments checklist

The following table lists the risk assessments that schools are required to have in place.

Statutory or mandatory risk assessment	✓	Found in....
Asbestos	✓	Health and Safety Folder
Substances hazardous to health	✓	COSH
Display screen equipment	✓	Work station assessments
Fire	✓	Health and Safety Folder
First aid	✓	In policy
Manual handling	✓	Induction training
Working at height	✓	Ladder risk assessment
Children being drawn into terrorism	✓	Prevent training
Public health incidents, including COVID-19	✓	As required, all Covid in archive.

Last reviewed on: January 2023

Next review due by: January 2025