



## Benefit-Risk Assessment Record Sheet and Advice

The purpose of **Benefit-Risk Assessments** are to enable you to provide challenge, progression, excitement, creativity and fun in your play environment.

They cannot and will not provide complete 'safety' and this is not their purpose.

They can help you to think about, predict, and manage the most serious and most likely potential causes of harm.

You will need two approaches to managing risk Standing Benefit-Risk Assessments and Dynamic Risk Management

**Standing Benefit-Risk Assessments** means you should, look at your usual environment and practices at least annually, and also when significant changes take place, keep a written record of the areas in the table below.

**Dynamic Risk Management** means that staff should be aware of changing nature of the play taking place. They should support children to assess and manage risk as much as possible for themselves, but they should also be vigilant and take action, if they think that risk of serious harm is becoming unacceptably likely. Actions taken by staff when required should balance the reduction of likelihood or severity or harm with preserving as much of the benefit of the play as possible, and empowering the children to manage future risk as much as possible.

Common areas that need standing assessment.

Boundaries to dangerous areas, trees management and tree climbing, fixed equipment and inspection, broken loose parts, rope tying especially at height, water use and water features.

**OPAL TEAM will carry out daily, ongoing risk assessment and pass on any potential hazards to a member of SLT**



# Risk Benefit Assessment 1 a Updated

**Risk Assessment Date: March 2024**

**Assessed by: Sian Evans**

**Updated March 2025**

Description of Activity, Principle or Object, who might be at risk and what kind of harm.	Benefit or Utility Or Related Policy	Description of risk management and maintenance agreed	Nominated person	Action Date
<p><b>Pupils playing with heavy loose play equipment</b> SCRAPSTORE: Potential for splinters, crush injury from cable drums and pallets. Potential injury when lifting heavy objects.</p> <p>Pallets Barrels Logs</p>	<p>Pupils able to lift and move heavy play parts and use in a safe, creative way.</p>	<p>Pupils briefed in assemblies about safe holding, moving and stacking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Ready, steady, lift” – bent knees and straight back.</li> <li>• No more than 2 pallets high</li> <li>• Play team apply principles of dynamic risk assessment and guide children in movement and use of heavier play parts.</li> </ul>	<p>SE and Play team</p>	<p>ongoing</p>
<p><b>Pupils playing with loose play equipment</b> SCRAPSTORE: Potential for small injury</p>	<p>Pupils able to choose loose parts independently and benefit from creative play</p>	<p>Pupils briefed in assemblies about safe holding, moving and stacking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scrap on Scrap</li> <li>• Crates stacked no higher than knee height of adult</li> </ul> <p>Play Team to discard any loose parts which are damaged or a risk to injury.</p>	<p>Play team</p>	<p>ongoing</p>
<p><b>Children playing with rope:</b> potential for neck injury and strangulation.</p>	<p>Thick rope enables pulling and dragging and other safe applications such as demarcation, den-building etc</p>	<p>Rope for swings checked regularly for fraying and weathering. Any rope must be single with no loops. (Head size) Climbing rope not used. All rope checked to ensure it is the correct thickness.</p> <p><b>UPDATED No Swing due to frayed rope June 25</b></p>	<p>SE/ED and Play team</p>	<p>Sept 24</p>
<p><b>Pupils playing on field</b> (Short grass): potential for tripping due to uneven surface</p>	<p>Benefit of physical play (rolling, scrambling and jumping)</p>	<p>All children to have suitable footwear and aware of uneven nature of field. Area of short grass for sport playing i.e football.</p>	<p>SE and Play team</p>	<p>Sept 2024</p>





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		Rolling down mound - be aware of who is at bottom of mound. Pupils briefed in OPAL assembly		
<b>Football/Basketball</b> Potential for tripping/falling	Benefit of physical activity	All classes are rotad for particular day so there are not too many children playing at once. Rules reminded suitable footwear.	SE and Play team	April 25
<b>Tree climbing:</b> potential injury falling from trees with thin or weak branches.	Tree climbing not available at playtimes currently. (unless SE is outside) Tree climbing only happening at Forest School – Rules of safe tree climbing shared during Forest School sessions.	All children briefed not to climb trees. Supervision by Play Team to enforce this. Tree climbing will resume at playtimes when more staff are available.	SE/OPAL team	Updated Sept 24
<b>Pupils playing in FS area:</b> Trip hazards and potential for cuts in woodland area. Some pupils will want to climb trees.	Woodland provides excellent opportunities for den-making, shelter and play “in corners”. The FS is big enough to accommodate a large number of children and so disagreements over “territory” will be minimised. No walking on log seats in wet/damp weather due to slipping hazard.	Forest School Area (FSA) checked weekly(Wednesdays) by Sian Evans. Unsafe materials removed. FSA to be checked regularly by play team for potential dangers and these reported to Sian Evans. Pupils briefed in OPAL Assembly about NOT stepping on wet log seats.	SE and OPAL Team	Ongoing weekly
<b>Pupils playing in Mud Kitchen:</b> Trip and slip hazards	The mud kitchen provides excellent social play opportunities. The mud kitchen has several small loose parts – pots/pans etc	The mud kitchen checked regularly – at least once a week for any broken handles of pots and pans. Any handles which are broken should be disposed of and SE/OPAL team to be told. Replenish pans when needed. Pupils briefed of how to use mud kitchen safely as there is a step up so potential for tripping. There is	SE/CM and OPAL Team	Ongoing





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		matting laid down to stop slipping from mud spillage.		
<b>Pupils playing in different environment with new potential dangers:</b> There is an increased risk of minor injury to pupils who may require immediate first aid.	Increased freedom to play with larger play area will foster more creative play and ensure pupils learn to manage risks more effectively themselves.	Play team will carry their own 1 <sup>st</sup> aid pouches. Pupils with minor injuries (scratches and minor abrasions) will be treated in situ. More serious injuries will be referred to NS/JW who will deal with as appropriate, informing class teacher if the injury requires parental contact or hospital treatment.	OPAL Team	Ongoing
<b>Pupils using wheeled vehicles:</b> Potential for grazed limbs due to being used on the playground.	This will provide freedom for trajectory and transporting schemas.	Area marked out with tyres for wheeled play boundary. Children are aware of which zone to use for scooters. Stay on low bases bottoms/knees – no standing. OPAL Team (pupils) to lay out area daily and prepare and check the skuttle bugs for any major damage. Scooters checked for defects/broken bits. SE to be informed of any defects.	OPAL Team	Ongoing
<b>Water Play:</b> Potential for drowning	Potential for Exploratory play.	Water butts covered and children to use taps at bottom of water butt to fill trays. Tuff tray available to fill with water. Water stations with water already in buckets no more than half full. Painting with water – bucket half full.	OPAL Team	May 25
<b>Digging area use of real spades</b> Chopping feet Accidental blows Use as weapon Risk to players and bystanders	All those in play policy – plus Upper body strength Creativity Core strength Enjoyment=	Tools not toys training in play assembly Only diggers in the digging zone Only spades, not forks	OPAL Team	Oct 24





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Original Date November 2021 By Sian Evans  
Date Updated March 2024 by Sian Evans  
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