

Risk assessment policy

Approved by:	Trust Board	Date: May 2023
Last reviewed on:	January 2020	
Next review due by:	May 2024	

To be read in conjunction with:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Child protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Exams Risk Assessment Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Privacy Statement
- Keeping Child Safe in Education Sept 2022

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1. Aims

The school aims to ensure that:

- All risks that may cause injury or harm to staff, pupils 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:

- Keeping Child Safe in Education Sept 2019
- 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
- Regulation 4 of [The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012](#) requires that 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 that 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 that 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 that schools are expected to assess the risk of pupils being drawn into terrorism
- [The Health and Safety Executive \(HSE\)](#) say schools that manage their own pools must conduct a risk assessment

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 Trustees

The Trustees have ultimate responsibility for health and safety matters in the school, but will delegate day-to-day responsibility to the Executive Headteacher.

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

The Trustees 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 Executive Headteacher

The Executive Headteacher, or in their absence the Heads of Schools, are 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 Executive Headteacher to any risks they find which need assessing

4.4 Pupils and parents

Pupils and parents 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, the below process outlined below should be followed. The process will also involve staff, where appropriate, to ensure that all possible hazards have been identified and to discuss control measures, following a risk assessment. In addition to the statutory risk assessments outlined in Appendix 1, the Southover Partnership also carries out individual pupil risk assessments to keep them safe while on-site and off-site (See Child Protection and Safeguarding policy). Similarly, staff who require an individual risk assessment to prevent hazards and harm are also in place and stored in a secured folder where SLT and HR have access to.

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

Step 2: decide who may be harmed and how – for each hazard, establish who might be harmed, listing groups rather than individuals. This will bear in mind that some people will have special requirements, for instance pupils 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) – establish the level of risk posed by each hazard and review existing control measures. Balance the level of risk against the measures needed to control them and do everything that is reasonably practicable to protect people from harm.

Step 4: record significant findings – the findings from steps 1-3 will be written up and recorded in order to produce the risk assessment. A risk assessment template can be found in appendix 2 of this policy.

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 pupils spotted a problem?
- Have we learnt anything from accidents or near misses?

Step 6: retaining risk assessments – risk assessments are retained for the 3 years after the length of time they apply. Risk assessments are securely disposed of.

6. Monitoring arrangements

Risk assessments are written as needed and reviewed by the Executive Headteacher and Heads of Schools. This policy will be reviewed by the Executive Headteacher every year and approved by the Trustees.

While risk assessments are updated once a year and when necessary, in case of significant changes to pupils, staff and property, regular checks are conducted by the site manager to monitor any changes that may affect the risk assessments. The regular checklist can be found in appendix 1.

7. Links with other policies and statutory guidance

This risk assessment policy links to the following policies:

- Health and safety
- First aid
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Safeguarding
- Positive Handling
- Keeping Child Safe in Education 2022
- Data Protection

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	✓	Completed by	Date of review
Site specific premises health and safety			
Workers under the age of 18			
Asbestos			
Substances hazardous to health			
Display screen equipment			
Fire			
First aid			
Manual handling			
Working at height			
Children being drawn into terrorism			
Swimming pools (if applicable)			

Commented [JDJ1]: Do you have any of these?

Appendix 2: risk assessment template

Name of person completing the risk assessment					Date	
What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What control measures are already in place? Are they sufficient?	What additional control measures are needed?	Action by who?	Action by when?	Completed?