

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 of 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.

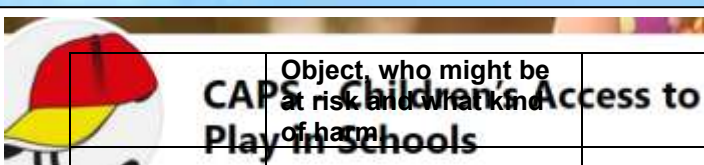
Benefit-Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment Date – 08/07/25 - ongoing

Assessed by – Play Lead & Head of School

Updates	Description of Activity, Principle or	Benefit or Utility Or Related Policy	Description of risk management and maintenance agreed	Nominated person	Action Date
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Object, who might be at risk and what kind of harm

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Tree climbing

At Risk:

- Pupils

Harm - category:

- Breaks – low
- Scrapes – med
- Cuts - low

Play Policy,
Benefits of children engaged in an exciting and engaging activity.

Useful knowledge and skills of safe tree climbing.

H&S link to managing safe climbing strategies.

Only one tree in the far corner of the school has been identified as a safe tree to climb. Other trees have too much risk associated with climbing them due to the height involved, the lack of strong branches and the hidden location of them on the playground.

Tree chosen for ease of and safe climbing:

- Low, strong, healthy branches,
- Dense branches to cushion any fall,
- Soft ground, no obstacles,

Trees prepared by:

- Pruning smaller branches to create space to manoeuvre,
- Thorns cleared from branches/trunks (to be checked yearly)

Risks managed by:

- Check the ground around the tree is clear (you may fall, you don't want to land on something!),
- Don't put your weight on any branch smaller than your wrist,
- Look and test before trusting a branch,
- Keep three points of contact with the tree and only move one point at a time,
- Keep your body close to the trunk,
- No helping other people up (if they can't get up, they can't get down!).
- Don't climb higher than you are tall.

Incident report:

A reception child got their foot firmly stuck in a gap where three boughs sprout from the base of the tree. Two members of staff were needed to free the child. Action taken: A tyre 'bung' has been inserted into the gap to ensure no feet get stuck in the future.

Action:

Play Lead

May 25

Play Lead

July 25



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- Refresher training to remind staff and pupils of the safety guidelines in this area.
- Matting to be re-instated under the tree to provide cushioned landing.
- Branches to be inspected for weaknesses.
- Climbing line/marker to be re-instated.

Incident report:
During after school club, a year 4 child was swinging from a low bough (approx 5ft 5" from floor height), another child held on to the swinging child which caused the bough to be overloaded and consequently break. The child landed on tyres under the tree and recieved a cold compress for a minor bump. The fall height was low.

The interior of the broken bough looks partly decayed – tree will be closed until further notice and will be inspected/assessed by a qualified tree surgeon.

The tree is now permanently closed. GCC assessed the tree in 2025 and passed it as safe for the next 3 years. However, no professional assessment has been carried out with regards to children climbing said safe tree. Therefore this is no longer deemed a safe activity.

Business Manager

09 July 25

Sept 25

Digging and den building area

At Risk:

- Pupils
- Harm - category:
- Knocks – low
- Scrapes – low
- Cuts - low

Play Policy,
Benefits of children engaged in an exciting and engaging activity.

Useful knowledge and skills of working the land.

Area chosen for:

- Ease of supervision,
- Low flow of passers-by.

Area prepared by:

- Creating clear boundary,
- Area checked for harmful materials.

Risks managed by (pupils worked with through play assembly (Sep 21):

- Correct use of equipment

February 2024



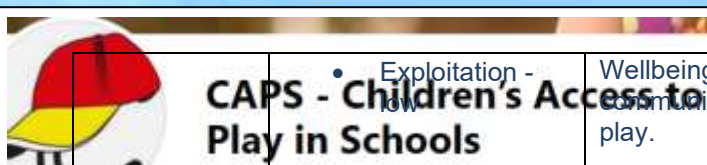
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Healthy living link to core strength and cardiovascular.

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			- Being aware of who is behind and around you when building - Correct footwear (wellies) always worn - Structures not to be built higher than the children. Action: - Refresher training to remind staff and pupils of the safety guidelines in this area. - The Den area is reset every Friday, lose parts are inspected for defects and repaired or removed accordingly. - On a daily basis staff zoned in this area will remove any items which pose a hazard. - New guidance – overhead structures should only be made from tarpaulin, no pallets or heavy objects should be used in case of collapse. - It is only necessary to wear wellies in wet conditions. - Brambles and nettles should be cut back frequently by the Site Team. Play Lead to assess and advise when required.	Play Lead	July 2025
	Tyre use At Risk: - Pupils Harm - category: - Knocks – low - Scrapes – low - Breaks - low	Play Policy, Benefits of children engaged in an exciting and engaging activity. Useful knowledge and skills of construction. Healthy living link to core strength and cardiovascular.	Tyres chosen for: - Reasonable tread, no metal showing, - Size and weight medium/low. - No slope long/steep enough to produce dangerous inertia when tyre rolled down on our field. Risks managed by (pupils worked with through play assembly): - Don't build above head height, - If rolling down slope, check area clear.		February 2024

[illegible]



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- Exploitation - low

Wellbeing communication and nurture play.

PHSCE link to

Risks managed by:

- Play team to be aware of any mixed age groups using dens (exploitation of younger/more vulnerable pupils),
- Play team to be aware of any excessive time groups are in a den, make checks.

Action:

- Refresher training for Play Team
- Check back of den at the end of lunchtime to ensure all pupils have left the area.

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Play Lead

July 25

Access all areas (Zones and supervision)

At Risk:

- Pupils
- Play team

Harm - category:

- Knocks – low
- Scrapes – low
- Cuts – low
- Scratches - low

Play Policy, Benefits of children engaged in an exciting and engaging activity.

Link to children's right to play, creating varied and exciting environment to nurture play.

Area chosen for:

- Varied play environment,
- Ease of non-invasive supervision,
- See specific areas above.

Area prepared by:

- Sourcing relevant equipment to nurture varied play experiences,
- See specific areas above.

Risks managed by:

- Play team introduction and discussion of all areas and specific risks,
- Play team weekly updates,
- Play team trained on play theory and culture.
- Play team trained on risk benefit.

Action:

- Refresher training for Play Team
- Reinstate regular team training sessions (Play Lead to discuss with EN/JP)

Play Lead

July 25

Trim Trail
At Risk pupils:

- Pupils

Harm - category:

- Knocks – low

Equipment prepared by:

- Annual inspection by site manager.
- In play assembly, children told trim trial not to be used when wet. Decision on if

Site manager

Annually

			it can be used to be made daily by Play Leader.	Play Lead	Doc 15 July 25
			Action: - Slide safety to be added to this zone, metal slide not to be used during hot weather. - Check when last site inspection was carried out. - Reminder that trees in this area should not be climbed. Nor should ropes be tied to and hung from the trees in this area.		
	Wheel Zone At Risk pupils: - Pupils Harm - category: - Knocks/bumps – low - Scrapes – low - Breaks - medium	Play Policy, Benefits of children engaged in an exciting and engaging activity. Healthy living link to core strength and cardiovascular.	Equipment prepared by: - Daily inspection by play leaders for wheels, chain and breaks. - All handle bars must have protective rubber grip handles - In play assembly, children told scooters and bikes must be used sensibly and instructions given by play leaders must be followed.' Action: - Refresher training for Play Team - Safe use of equipment to be addressed during Play assembly Sept 9th 25 – AL Incident report – a reception child was being pushed by a y3 child on a red 'roller racer' during play. The reception child fell off the roller racer and grazed their forehead. Low level fall but the y3 child fell on top of the reception child. Action – no children can push other children on any scooter, roller racer or balance bikes etc. Children are to use equipment independently. Update – children can push others (with their consent) whilst WALKING ONLY, children are not to run whilst pushing others.	Play Lead Head of School Play Lead Play Lead	February 2024 June 25 Sept 25 Oct 25 Feb 26

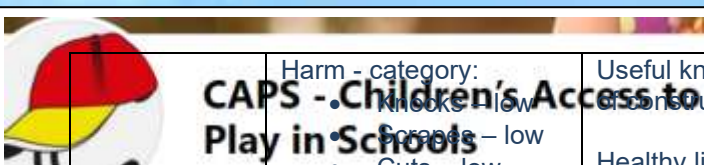


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	<u>Climbing zone</u> - New wooden adventure playground - Climbing domes At Risk: - Pupils Harm - category: - Falls – med - Breaks – low - Scrapes – low - Cuts - very low	Play Policy, Benefits of children engaged in an exciting and engaging activity. Useful knowledge and skills of safe climbing. H&S link to managing safe climbing strategies. Healthy living link to core strength and cardiovascular.	Equipment prepared by: - Annual inspection by site manager. - Daily observation by staff zoned in this area. Action: - In wet conditions the 2 large wooden beams can become slippery, there are no handrails for these beams. During damp or wet conditions children are not to use these balance beams. Climbing guidance: - No helping other people up (if they can't get up, they can't get down!). - Help keep everyone safe by following the one-way system and remember to take your turn, no pushing in - Help to keep the area tidy by not eating on the astro (food gets spilt and then trodden in) - Do not climb above the highest metal beam - Keep three contact points when climbing, only move one limb at a time - Do not sit for periods of time at high points, keep moving - Do not wear wellies on the equipment, no grip Incident report – during lunchtime a reception child was climbing over the top of one of the large domes and caught the bottom of their jumper in the top central hand grip, which acted as a hook. The child could not get free and then slipped, due to his jumper being caught he was	Play Lead Play Lead Logged by Play Lead	Sept 25 Sept 25 26 Feb 26
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			suspended by the top central hand grip/hook. A member of staff quickly intervened and with the help of a second member of staff they freed the child. The child was not physically harmed but was shaken. Incident reported to class teacher and TA. Play Leads aware of the incident. This area should always be supervised, as it currently is. Incident report – during break time a child in RE caught the hood of their 'oodie' on the top foothold of the dome. They were left suspended mid-air and, worryingly, made no sound at all to alert another child or adult. Fortunately, a member of staff caught sight of this and lifted the child whilst dis-entangling the fabric, which was stuck fast. The child was unhurt. Incident escalated, and reception children told not to use the domes until a risk assessment and resolution is found. Climbing domes must be supervised at all times. Incident report: A third Reception child was caught by the bottom of their coat on a hand grip. A Play Lead witnessed the incident and quickly freed the child who was suspended by their coat. Action - Climbing domes are not to be used by Reception children during lunchtime. The area is too busy and poses too much risk for this year group. Reception children are restricted to breaktime use only under strict teacher supervision.	Logged by Play Leader 05 Mar 26	
	Loose parts At Risk: • Pupils • Play team	Play Policy, Benefits of children engaged in an exciting and engaging activity.	Parts chosen for: • Size and weight medium/low. • No sharp edges • No metal objects	Logged by Play Leader 17 Mar 26	February 2024



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- Harm - category:
- Kicks – low
 - Scrapes – low
 - Cuts – low
 - Scratches - low

Useful knowledge and skills in construction.

Healthy living link to core strength and cardiovascular.

- Risks managed by:**
- Non-toxic materials
 - If items damaged beyond reasonable use or have become hazardous, dispose of immediately.
 - Items donated or bought to be checked by Play lead or Coordinator for suitability.
 - Items cleaned if needed.

Doc 15

General updates	• Play Leaders meeting Sep 6th 21 • Play leaders meeting November 5th 21	• Every play leader will have small first aid kit on them at all times. Minor issues (such as grazes) can be dealt with swiftly. • 1 member of staff permanently on first aid based in first aid room so all other play leaders can stay in their zones. Action needed: • Refresher first aid training for Play Team (EN) • Reinstate first aid kits for Play Team (discuss with JP & MD) • Update Play Team during team training sessions (Play Lead to discuss with JP) Team meeting update – first aid to be carried out in the first aid room. The playground is too busy for first aid to be administered on zones. Staff need to supervise activities.		Play Lead	July 25
General Updates	• Play lead meeting incl site tour and discussion	• Play leader has taken every class out with class teacher present for a tour of the lunchtime provision for active discussion of risk, protocols, risk benefit and expectations. Play leader talked through expectations in each zone. Where children can eat? What zones are not allowed to be used in winter due to weather. Clarified rules around clothing needed for various zones. • General reminders around risk management, protocols for first aid, expectations of behaviour. • Visit from our local advisor suggested we are over-staffed. We currently have 13 members of staff overseeing lunchtime. Most local schools our size are between 8 – 11 staff. Decision made to keep the high levels of staff and recruit one more so that we can increase levels of supervision in more hidden areas of the playground such as the Haven, den building, mud area and small world zone.			



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- Member of SMT also now to do a daily duty so that a senior member of staff is always outdoor every day.

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		As at July 25, we have: 1 Play Lead Co-ordinator (RK) 4 full-time Play Leads (TB, TP, VD, KL) 1 full-time TA lunchtime support (SMcC) 5 half-time (LR, LS, SB, PB, TT,) This allows us to cover 7 areas, with the Play Lead overseeing lunchtimes. No SMT presence during lunchtimes. Mar 26: 1 Play Lead Co-ordinator (RK) 3 full-time Play Leads (TB, TP, SB) 7 half-time (LR, LS, SB, PB, TT, MB, CM) Action needed: • Reinstate regular Play assemblies to be run by Head of School to ensure a consistent message.	Play Lead	July 25
			Play Lead	Mar 26
			Head of School	Sept 25
Wet Weather	• Management Meeting Sep 3rd	• During light rain, drizzle etc, children will go outside to play as normal during lunchtimes. Some zones may be closed due to the weather but where possible, children will go out to eat. • If it is deemed too wet, children will stay in their classrooms during 'wet play' and will be supported by play leaders to find an indoor activity/game to do during the hour. Packed lunches will eat in class and school dinners will go to the hall. Update: Children having school dinners are not permitted to carry trays to their classrooms to eat. School dinners must be eaten in the hall.	Play Lead	June 25
Eating Arrangements	Eating Lunch At Risk: • Pupils Harm - category: • Not eating - low	• Lunchtimes will be free flow to allow children to develop more independence and more time playing. • Packed lunches have the option to eat indoors or outdoors. This is their choice. School dinners will eat indoors. This means children spend more time being active and also means the hall is less congested leading to a more positive lunchtime atmosphere.		



		• It is not the school's responsibility to monitor what each child eats. This is unrealistic with 420 children. We encourage all children to put wrappers and plastics back in their box/bag so parents can monitor what your child has eaten. If parents have concerns about what their child has eaten, contact the school and we will put a plan in place to support at lunchtime. • Reception, Y1 and Y2 will all be taken straight to the hall and will eat indoors whether they are school dinner or a packed lunch. • Children who we know have not eaten by 12.45pm will eat during afternoon registration. • Children who are identified as deliberately not eating will be taken straight to the dinner hall to eat before being allowed outside. • Packed lunches can continue to eat outdoors all throughout the winter but must eat in our 'eating zone' where all the benches are stored. This is to allow a member of staff to monitor all children whilst eating. They are also able to eat indoors. This is their choice. Update – children who have not eaten a pre-booked school meal will be located on the playground by 12:40 and will be asked to make their way to the hall to eat immediately.	Play Lead	June 25
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