



POLICY FOR USE OF OUTDOOR PLAY EQUIPMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

The school playground, provides opportunities for children to engage in active play in addition to experiencing quiet and environmental areas.

Opportunities for balancing, climbing, hanging and swinging are planned both within the physical education curriculum and during play breaks outside.

2. SAFE USE OF EQUIPMENT

2.1 Supervision

Children are supervised at all times whilst using outdoor play equipment, our risk assessment, which takes into account observation points and line of sight has determined that an appropriate number of people will supervise the climbing equipment when it is in use.

Supervising staff are familiar with the equipment, the rules for use and the ability of the children.

2.2 General guidelines

- All pupils are educated about the use of climbing equipment.
- Staff/supervisors on duty ensure that outdoor play equipment is visible and can be appropriately supervised when in use.
- Staff/supervisors on duty have a responsibility to report any defects they notice as soon as is reasonably possible.
- School has a rota for use, which takes into consideration the age and number of children using it at any one time.
- Staff/supervisors have a responsibility to ensure appropriate behaviour
- Consideration is given to weather conditions, outdoor play equipment will not be used during wet or icy conditions.

- Apparatus will only be used at appropriate times when supervised. Parents have been informed that the apparatus is for school aged children only and not to be used before and after school

2.3 Clothing/Footwear

Suitable clothing should be worn. Hazards can arise from - unfastened coats, woollen gloves, scarves etc.

Appropriate footwear must be worn. Hazards arise from - slippery soles, open toed and sling back sandals, heels and untied laces, etc.

2.4 Zoning of Activities

Consideration is also given to the range of activities occurring within the playground area;

- Ball games/chasing games are sited away from the climbing area.
- In the EYFS garden, wheeled toys are used away from the climbing area.

3 PLAY EQUIPMENT STANDARDS

3.1 All outdoor play equipment has been designed, constructed, installed and maintained in accordance with European standards

3.2 These European standards are not retrospective or a legal requirement but represent good practice in the event of an accident claim.

3.3 An independent competent person carries out an annual inspection and maintenance, and advises whether any alterations need to be made.

3.4 Scrambling and climbing elements do not exceed 3 Metres, and for Children below 5 the height is a maximum of 1.6M.

3.6 Height is not be the dominant feature on any item of equipment. Interest challenge and enjoyment are the most important factors

4.0 SAFETY SURFACES

4.1 All of our outdoor play equipment meets the appropriate Safety Standards. Fixed climbing equipment is on an impact-absorbing surface.

4.2 Although impact absorbing surfaces cannot prevent accidents they may reduce the level of injury.

5.0 INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE

5.1 BS EN 1176 recommends that all outdoor play equipment be inspected and maintained on a regular basis. Such inspection and maintenance is at 3 levels.

5.2.1 Level 1 checks – Daily / pre use checks by staff (these do not require formal recording)

Concentrating on the following points:

- No evidence of obvious wear / damage
- Area safe from health hazards e.g. needles, glass, faeces etc.
- Impact absorbing surfaces no cuts, tears, wear or unstuck areas
- All fastening tightly secured
- No broken chains, stretched links or loose or twisted shackles
- Uprights unbroken and firm in the ground

Where any defects / hazards are identified appropriate steps must be taken to prevent use until problems have been satisfactorily resolved.

5.2.2 Level 2 checks – termly inspection in house

A more thorough check of the equipment to be conducted termly by the site supervisor and these records are kept on site.

5.2.3 Level 3 checks – annual inspection

A detailed certified inspection by an independent competent person. These checks are formally recorded and records kept on site.

Such checks ensure safety and identifies any improvements required in terms of the European standards

Reviewed June 2023

John Dixon

Appendix 1

OUTDOOR PLAY EQUIPMENT TERMLY SAFETY CHECKLIST

SCHOOL NAME: Beech Grove Primary AREA INSPECTED.....

DATE INSPECTED..... INSPECTED BY.....

**SIGNATURE ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT
CHECKED**

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |