

Burnley, St Peter's C of E Primary School: EYFS Outdoor Risk Assessment, 2025-2026

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Role: Reception Class Teacher and EYFS Leader

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Type of Hazard	Risk? HML	What is the hazard?	Who is at risk?	Control Measures
Health and Hygiene	H	Outdoor Hazards e.g. needles, cat excretion, litter, etc.	All who access the outdoor environment.	The play area is checked each morning by the site supervisor and a member of the EYFS team does a second check before the children are allowed outside each day. The site supervisor signs a sheet to verify the yard has been checked and that it is suitable and safe for the children to use. If standards are not met this is reported to the school business manager. Should a dead animal appear during the day, the EYFS team will remove and block off the area for the site supervisor to assess and clean up as soon as possible.
	M	Water Usage	Children and staff who use the equipment.	The water tap is turned on and run for a minute before the children use it each day to ensure the removal of stagnant water from the pipes. After the holidays, it is run for several minutes before first use.
	M	Injury Requiring First Aid Treatment. e.g. scratches	All who access the outdoor environment.	Fixed equipment is checked daily for any visible hazards, any hazards are clearly marked out of bounds and reported for fixing. Children are always supervised when using the outdoor environment. Children are shown and reminded of how to safely use equipment. Full paediatric first aiders are always within the EYFS unit to provide First Aid treatment as required. This is logged following school policy.
	M	Bacteria & Spread Of Germs	Children and staff who use the outdoor environment.	Disposable tissues to be readily available in the whole EYFS setting. Children are shown and reminded of the "Catch it, Kill it, Bin it" protocol and are regularly reminded to wash their hands if they blow their nose, sneeze or cough into their hands/elbows or a tissue. Toys that have been put in children's mouths are washed immediately in antibacterial cleaner.
Weather	M	Heat & Dehydration	Children and staff who use the outdoor environment.	All children are provided with a named water bottle filled with tap water. The bottles are labelled to avoid the spread of germs and are regularly washed in hot soapy water. Children are reminded to drink water even more regularly on hot days. Children are encouraged to play in the shade on hot sunny days and should the temperature become too high, children are advised to play inside to avoid the risk of heat exhaustion/stroke. Parents are reminded to put sun cream on children before school and to bring a hat during summer months.
	M	Wintery Conditions & Rain	Children and staff who use the outdoor environment.	Children must wear a coat when it is cold, which they are shown how to do up properly should they require support. If children do not have a coat in school, school has a number of coats and all in one weather suits that the children can use. All parents are advised to bring a coat everyday regardless of the weather (unless extremely hot) and to provide their children with hats, scarves and gloves when it is cold. Children to wear all in one weather suits and wellies when accessing the outdoor environment during continuous provision in the rain.

	M	Slips On Icy/Wet Ground	All who access the outdoor environment.	The site supervisor salts icy patches of ground with grit when needed. On icy days, children are reminded to only walk in the outdoor environment. If the ground is too dangerous to walk on, the children will come in through the school building and will remain in indoor provision until it is safe to be outside.
Injuries	M	Any Injury That Requires First Aid Treatment	All who access the outdoor environment.	<p>Children are shown how to correctly and safely use the outdoor equipment and are reminded of this regularly. Bikes are limited when in use and children are taught how to be aware of their surroundings so as not to injure another child in the outdoor environment.</p> <p>In the instance that children injure themselves requiring First Aid treatment, a Paediatric First Aider (All EYFS Staff) will provide treatment and record this in accordance with school policy and procedures. If the injury is deemed serious, the child's parents will be contacted immediately, otherwise parents will be informed at the end of the school day, receiving the relevant letter for the injury. Children who have received a head injury will be monitored closely and the specific letter sent home (signed by a member of SLT) to inform parents and provide information of symptoms to monitor for.</p> <p>Trolleys containing equipment are locked in place using a foot break to ensure they do not roll or move when children have free access to the resources.</p> <p>Should an adult require First Aid treatment then a First Aider will administer First Aid and the accident book filled in.</p> <p><i>See separate school First Aid Policy.</i></p>
Steps Out Of/ In To The Classroom	L	Slip Or Trip	All who access the outdoor environment.	<p>Children are taught to hold the railing when entering the classroom, and to climb one step at a time. Children are regularly reminded of this procedure.</p> <p>If the ground is particularly wet or slippery, children are advised to walk in the outdoor provision. Children are regularly reminded to watch where they are going and to always face forwards when running in the outdoor environment to minimise the risk of collisions/trips.</p> <p>Should an adult require First Aid treatment then a First Aider will administer First Aid and the accident book filled in.</p> <p><i>See separate school First Aid Policy.</i></p>
Staff:Child Ratio	L	Supervision	Children and staff who use the outdoor environment.	Children are only allowed to access the outdoor environment with an adult present. If the adult has to return indoors for any reason another adult will swap with them before they enter the indoor environment, not leaving any child(ren) in the outdoor area unsupervised. If a large group of children choose to access continuous provision in the outdoor environment, adults will be distributed across the setting accordingly.

Security	M	Strangers Accessing School/Children Exiting School During School Hours	Children and staff who use the outdoor environment.	<p>During the school day admittance to school is only permitted by a member of staff in the front office. All external doors can only be accessed using a key fob which only school staff have possession of. Once all children are in the school building the outer gates are padlocked, by a member of SLT or office staff, until the end of the school day. Internal gates to separate the EYFS outdoor area are closed and children are taught never to open these gates without an adults express permission.</p> <p><i>See separate school Safeguarding Policy for guidance on drop-off/pick-up procedures.</i></p>
Gardening	M	Injuries & Contamination	Children and staff who use the outdoor environment.	<p>The play area is checked each morning by the site supervisor and a member of the EYFS team does a second check before the children are allowed outside each day. Children to be supervised at all times when doing gardening activities and where possible will wear gloves. Children are to wash their hands immediately after gardening. Adults will wear gloves when removing any weeds or unknown plants and while supervising the children gardening. Any gardening related injuries requiring First Aid treatment will be dealt with by a Paediatric First Aider.</p> <p>Should an adult require First Aid treatment then a First Aider will administer First Aid and the accident book filled in.</p> <p>If poisonous growth is suspected, this shall be reported to the site supervisor/business manager for investigation/removal.</p> <p><i>See separate school First Aid Policy.</i></p>
Den Building	M	Injuries	Children and staff who use the outdoor environment.	<p>The permanent quiet space den has been attached securely to the wall and fence frame. This will be checked regularly to ensure it is still stable and safe. Children will be shown how to safely enter and leave this den, without standing up completely to avoid head injuries.</p> <p>Children will be shown how to safely create dens using the den building equipment. They shall be advised on how to manage their own risk when building and using the dens they have created – including what to do if it falls down, and where it is safe to build the dens i.e. not in the middle of the yard where other children are running around. Children's outdoor play is consistently monitored and in the event an unsafe den is created, the adult shall support the children with adapting the den to become safe.</p>

N.B. This risk assessment is for the purposes of the EYFS outdoor environment on school grounds. A separate comprehensive risk assessment will be completed for any external enrichment opportunities, including school trips. Any areas not covered explicitly in this risk assessment, will be included in the school site risk assessment.