

Health and Safety – General Policy

At Wood Wharf Kindergarten, we provide and maintain safe and healthy working conditions, equipment, and systems of work for all our employees and a safe early learning environment in which children learn and are cared for. To develop and promote a strong health and safety culture within the nursery for the benefit of all staff, children and parents we provide information, training and supervision. We also accept our responsibility for the health and safety of other people who may be affected by our activities.

The allocation of duties for safety matters and the arrangements which we will make to implement our health and safety procedures are set out within this policy and we make sufficient resources available to provide a safe environment.

Legal framework

We follow all relevant legislation and associated guidance relating to health and safety within the nursery including:

- The requirements of the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2024
- The regulations of the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and any other relevant legislation such as Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulation (COSHH)
- Any guidance provided by Public Health England, the local health protection unit, the local authority environmental health department, fire authority or the Health and Safety Executive

Aims and objectives

The aim of this policy statement is to ensure that all reasonable practical steps are taken to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all persons using the premises.

To achieve this, we will actively work towards the following objectives:

- Establish and maintain a safe and healthy environment throughout the nursery including outdoor spaces
- Establish and maintain safe working practices amongst staff and children
- Plan for ensuring safety and the minimising of risks to health in connection with the use, handling, storage and transport of hazardous articles and substances
- Ensure the provision of sufficient information, instruction and supervision to enable all people working in or using the nursery to avoid hazards and contribute positively to their own health and safety and to ensure that staff have access to regular health and safety training
- Maintain a healthy and safe nursery with safe entry and exit routes
- Formulate effective procedures for use in case of fire and other emergencies and for evacuating the nursery premises. Practice this procedure on a regular basis to enable the safe and speedy evacuation of the nursery
- Maintain a safe working environment for pregnant workers or for workers who have recently given birth, including undertaking appropriate risk assessments

- Maintain a safe environment for those with special educational needs and disabilities and ensure all areas of the nursery are accessible (wherever practicable)
- Provide a safe environment for students or trainees to learn in
- Encourage all staff, visitors and parents to report any unsafe working practices or areas to ensure immediate response by the management.

We believe the risks in the nursery environment are low and we will maintain the maximum protection for children, staff and parents. The nursery will:

- Ensure all entrances and exits from the building, including fire exits are clearly identifiable and always remain clear
- Ensure that strangers are not permitted to enter the building, all staff must use the intercom to ask who the person is and ask them to wait while you send someone down to greet them, **DO NOT ALLOW ANYONE ENTRANCE TO THE BUILDING WITHOUT AN ESCORT UNLESS THEY ARE A FAMILIAR PERSON TO THE NURSERY OR A PARENT,**
- **USE THE INTERCOM TO ALERT PRE SCHOOL OR THE OFFICE THAT A STRANGER IS WAITING AT THE DOOR TO BE LET IN.**
- Regularly check the premises room by room for structural defects, worn fixtures and fittings or electrical equipment and take the necessary remedial action
- Ensure that all staff, visitors, parents and children are aware of the fire procedures and regular fire drills are carried out
- Have the appropriate fire detection and control equipment which is checked regularly to make sure it is in working order
- Ensure that all members of staff are aware of the procedure to follow in case of accidents for staff, visitors and children
- Ensure that all members of staff take all reasonable action to control the spread of infectious diseases and wear protective gloves and clothing where appropriate
- Ensure there are suitable hygienic changing facilities, see infection control policy.
- Ensure all sterilising equipment is regularly cleaned.
- Provide sterilised bottles for babies.
- Provide filtered water for the children to drink – we do not provide tap water for the babies or children to drink.
- We use a bottle making station to prepare baby bottles, please make sure the temperature is 70c to kill any bacteria and then cooled to give to the baby,
- Prohibit smoking on the nursery premises.
- Prohibit any contractor from working on the premises without prior discussion with the officer in charge
- Encourage children to manage risks safely and prohibit running inside the premises unless in designated areas
- Risk assess all electrical sockets and take appropriate measures to reduce risks where necessary and ensure no trailing wires are left around the nursery
- Ensure all cleaning materials are placed out of the reach of children and kept in their original containers
- Wear protective clothing when cooking or serving food
- Prohibit certain foods that may relate to children's allergies, e.g. nuts of any kind or form are not allowed in the nursery

- Follow the allergies and allergic reactions policy for children who have allergies
- Ensure risk assessments are undertaken on the storage and preparation of food produce within the nursery
- Familiarise all staff and visitors with the position of the first aid boxes and ensure all know who the appointed first aiders are
- Provide appropriately stocked first aid boxes and check their contents regularly
- Ensure children are supervised at all times
- Ensure no student or volunteer is left unsupervised at any time.

Responsibilities

Responsibility for Health and Safety in the nursery is that of **Heleanna Phair**.

The manager has overall and final responsibility for this policy being carried out, the deputy manager will be responsible in his/her absence.

All employees have the responsibility to co-operate with senior staff and the nursery manager to achieve a healthy and safe environment and to take reasonable care of themselves and others. Neglect of health and safety regulations/duties will be regarded as a disciplinary matter. See policy on disciplinary procedures.

Whenever a member of staff notices a health or safety problem which they are not able to rectify, they must immediately report it to the appropriate person named above. Parents and visitors are requested to report any concerns they may have to the deputy manager/nursery manager.

Daily contact, monthly staff meetings and health and safety meetings provide consultation between management and employees. This will include health and safety matters.

Health and safety training

Person responsible for monitoring staff training is **Heleanna Phair**. Health and safety is covered in all induction training for new staff

Training table

Area	Training required	Who
First aid	Course	All staff
Dealing with blood	In house training/course	All staff and students
Safeguarding/Child protection	In house training/course	All staff and students
Risk assessment	In house training/course	All staff
Fire safety procedures	In house training	All staff and students
Use of fire extinguisher	In house training/course	All staff where possible
Manual handling	In house training/course	All staff and students
Stress awareness and management	In house training/course	All staff

Changing of nappies	In house training	All staff and students
Fire warden duties	External course	Fire Warden

Wood Wharf Kindergarten has an appointed first aid employee Heleanna Phair to ensure compliance and best practice. The nursery aims to have 100% qualified in paediatric first aid before completion of probationary period. First aiders are always present on outings. Our trained first aiders are listed on the staff board.

Health and safety arrangements

- All staff are responsible for general health and safety in the nursery
- Risk assessments will be conducted on all areas of the nursery, including rooms, activities, outdoor areas, resources and cleaning equipment
- These are reviewed at regular intervals and when arrangements change
- All outings away from the nursery (however short) will include a prior risk assessment – more details are included in our outings policy
- All equipment, rooms and outdoor areas will be checked thoroughly by staff before children access them or the area. These checks will be recorded and initialled by the staff responsible. Unsafe areas will be made safe/removed from the area by this member of staff to promote the safety of children. If this cannot be achieved the manager will be notified immediately
- We provide appropriate facilities for all children, staff, parents and visitors to receive a warm welcome and provide for their basic care needs, e.g. easy to access toilet area and fresh drinking water
- The nursery will adhere to the Control Of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulation (COSHH) to ensure all children, staff, parents and visitors are safe in relation to any chemicals we may use on the premises
- All staff and students will receive appropriate training in all areas of health and safety which will include risk assessments, manual handling and fire safety. We may also use benefit risk assessments for activities and resources for children
- We have a clear accident and first aid policy to follow in the case of any person in the nursery suffering injury from an accident or incident
- We have a clear fire safety policy and procedure which supports the prevention of fire and the safe evacuation of all persons in the nursery. This is to be shared with all staff, students, parents and visitors to the nursery
- We review accident and incident records to identify any patterns/hazardous areas
- All health and safety matters are reviewed informally on an ongoing basis and formally every six months or when something changes. Staff and parents will receive these updates, as with all policy changes, as and when they happen
- Staff and parents are able to contribute to any policy through the suggestion scheme and during the regular meetings held at nursery.

The policy is kept up to date and reviewed especially when the nursery changes in nature and size. It is revised annually, or as and when required. We therefore welcome any useful comments from members of staff, parents and visitors regarding this policy.

Equipment and Resources Policy

At Wood Wharf Kindergarten, we believe that high-quality care and early learning is promoted by providing children with safe, clean, stimulating, age and stage appropriate resources, toys and equipment.

To ensure this occurs within the nursery, including in our outdoor areas, we will:

- Provide play equipment and resources which are safe and, where applicable, conform to the European Standards for Playground Equipment: EN 1176 and EN 1177, BS EN safety standards or Toys (Safety) Regulation (1995)
- Provide a sufficient quantity of equipment and resources for the number of children registered in the nursery
- Provide resources to meet children's individual needs and interests
- Provide resources which promote all areas of children's learning and development
- Select books, equipment and resources which promote positive images of people of all races, cultures, ages, gender and abilities, are non-discriminatory and do not stereotype
- Provide play equipment and resources which promote continuity and progression, provide sufficient challenges and meet the needs and interests of all children
- Check all resources and equipment before first use to identify any potential risks and again regularly at the beginning of every session and when they are put away at the end of every session. We repair and clean or replace any unsafe, worn out, dirty or damaged equipment whenever required
- Encourage children to respect the equipment and resources and tidy these away when play has finished.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
07/09/2022	Heleanna Phair	01/09/2023
Reviewed 15.11.23	Heleanna Phair	15.11.24
Reviewed 31.10.24	Heleanna Phair	31.10.25
reviewed 2.10.2025	Heleanna Phair	2.10.26
05/08/2026	Heleanna Phair	05/08/2027