Policy: Risky Areas Policy

Created by:	FG
Approved By:	SJG
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Review Frequency:	Annually

Review:
This policy will be formally reviewed **annually** or sooner if significant changes occur in legislation, premises layout, or working practices that may affect risk management or supervision procedures.

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Mission Statement

At Abbey School our aim is to teach to inspire, motivate and nurture the next generation of creative and critical thinkers. We work in partnership with parents and the community to achieve the highest standards. Our main goal is to encourage our children to be resilient, respectful, responsible independent learners, equipped for lifelong learning. Through stimulating, safe learning environments and excellent opportunities to succeed in and out of the classroom, we encourage children's progress and achievements.

Our Core Values

RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, RESILIENCE

These 3 core values underpin the ethos of Abbey School. Our young pupils are encouraged to understand these values and how they develop, initially, at the micro level around themselves, their friendships, their families and our school. Later, our older pupils begin to understand how these self-same values affect our lives on the macro level, with all this means for their lives as they grow into adults and their environment of Devon, the United Kingdom, and also the planet in which we live.

Statutory Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Risk Assessment Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Supervision of Children Policy
- Outdoor Play and Learning Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Premises and Site Management Policy
- Fire Safety and Evacuation Policy

(*Additional related policies may include Behaviour Policy, COSHH Policy, and Visitors and Security Policy.*)

Rationale

This policy supports our statutory duty to provide a safe, well-supervised environment for all children, staff, and visitors. It identifies and manages areas of the school and nursery that present a higher level of physical or environmental risk — ensuring that supervision, maintenance, and access arrangements are clearly defined and consistently applied.

The Risky Areas Policy sits alongside our wider Health and Safety framework and should be read in conjunction with related statutory policies, including Health and Safety, Risk Assessment, Safeguarding and Child Protection, Supervision of Children, Outdoor Play and Learning, First Aid, Premises and Site Management, and Fire Safety and Evacuation. Together, these documents demonstrate our commitment to proactive risk management and the creation of a safe, enabling environment for learning and play.

Aims

This policy aims to:

1. **Identify and manage areas of potential risk** across the school and nursery, ensuring that all staff understand their responsibilities for maintaining safe access, supervision, and use.
2. **Promote a culture of proactive risk awareness**, where staff, children, and visitors recognise and respond appropriately to potential hazards within the learning environment.
3. **Ensure compliance** with statutory requirements under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, and the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework.
4. **Embed regular risk assessment and monitoring** within daily practice, linking this policy to associated documents such as the Health and Safety, Risk Assessment, and Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies.
5. **Support safe, purposeful exploration** by balancing appropriate risk-taking and challenge with the need for security, supervision, and wellbeing.

An aim of this Policy is also to state the School's procedures for controlling or denying unauthorised access by pupils to potentially dangerous or risky areas of Abbey School's buildings and grounds. Rather than formalising our education of these risky areas, and pupil access thereto, for the most part the flow of pupils around site and off-site is based on common sense and trust. There are times when a formal proactive or reactive instruction is required, but common sense prevails on many occasions.

Introduction

The Head Teacher and staff of Abbey School are fully committed to ensuring the safety and welfare of all pupils at the School. Although our school site is small, there are areas within the buildings or the grounds that are considered to present risks to the safety of pupils who may accidentally or deliberately stray into them.

Procedures

The school makes every effort to ensure that all potentially dangerous areas are, wherever possible, made secure by fencing, locking, access control, signage or otherwise physically preventing access to

them. Areas temporarily out of bounds are, where possible, fenced or cordoned off and appropriate warning notices are placed to describe the danger. Much of the school grounds away from the central buildings are lit from dusk to dawn. Pupils are informed or reminded regularly by all staff of the dangers of entering risky areas of the School. They are made aware that to enter such an area deliberately is regarded as a very serious disciplinary offence that will be dealt with in an appropriate manner. A member of the Senior Leadership Team checks the school site in the evening and makes sure it is secure. With the exception of the Main School building, all school buildings having access controlled doors, are timed to exclude pupils, parents and visitors after 17.30hrs each weekday, and are locked on Saturday and Sunday.

The Main School building doors are accessible via keypad entry every day and are locked by 18:30hrs. The school ensures that pupils do not have unsupervised access to potentially dangerous areas, such as the Cleaning Cupboard, Kitchen, Swimming Pool & Boiler Room. Doors to these areas are kept locked at all times when not in use. All flammables and chemicals are kept securely locked in appropriate storage facilities. Pupils are not allowed to use gymnastic, athletic or climbing equipment without supervision. Younger children at Abbey School are subject to strict supervision policies and are not allowed unsupervised access to the site. Details of the EYFS supervision levels, which are adhered to at all times, will ensure young children are kept safe.

Specific Areas out of Bounds to Pupils at all times

Cleaning Cupboard

Boiler Room / Plant Area

Kitchen

Pool Plant Room/Pool Chemical Store/Pool Storage Area

Implementation and Responsibility

The Proprietor holds overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy and for ensuring that all statutory duties relating to health, safety, and welfare are met. Day-to-day management of identified risky areas is delegated to the Health and Safety Officer and the Premises Team, who ensure that supervision levels, access arrangements, and maintenance schedules are effectively followed.

All staff share a collective duty of care to remain vigilant, report hazards promptly, and take reasonable steps to protect themselves and others. Staff must familiarise themselves with the risk assessments relevant to their working areas and always follow agreed control measures.

Supervisory staff are expected to carry out informal visual checks of outdoor and indoor areas each day, reporting any emerging risks or maintenance issues immediately. Formal inspections of the premises and grounds will be conducted on a termly basis, or more frequently if required, with findings recorded and reviewed by senior leadership.

Visitors and contractors will be made aware of designated risky areas and must comply with the school's safety protocols while on site.

The Proprietor receives regular reports on risk management and site safety, ensuring that this policy remains effective, current, and embedded in daily practice.