



Likelihood Rating	Severity Rating	Risk Rating = L x S
1 = Almost impossible	1 = No injury or accident	
2 = Unlikely	2 = Minor injury or illness (first aid only)	0 - 8 LOW
3 = Likely	3 = 3 day injury or illness (RIDDOR)	9 - 15 MEDIUM
4 = Very likely	4 = Major illness or injury (RIDDOR)	16 + HIGH
5 = Almost certain	5 = Fatality or disabling injury	

RISK ASSESSMENT FORM – PLAYGROUND and FIELD	Date: MAY 2024	Review date: July 2025
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Victoria Road recognises the value in both assessing risk and identifying risk benefits for our young people. All playgrounds and play practices offer a level of risk, and there is a clear history and evidence for children experiencing ‘free play’ over generations. Schools providing opportunities for physical exertion, mental stimulus and social interaction is a standard practice worldwide. Risks cannot be reduced to nil, therefore this risk assessment identifies risks and appropriate control measures, as well as recognising the significant benefits for the children. This risk assessment has been completed in conjunction with staff and pupils at Victoria Road Primary School.

Concerns, changes in risk management practice or minor injuries that are seen by staff to be significant should be reported to SLT for discussion with the team. The correct Incident Report form should be used for any injuries sustained.

Prior to accessing the playground children will review this document with staff and agree to treat all participants and resources in accordance with school values. We will practise respect, establishing a routine that ensures appropriate care for and storage of all resources.

Guidance has been taken from:

- **Play Safety Forum** ‘Managing Risk in Play Provision’
- **Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents** – ‘Play Safety Advice’, guidance on inspection and construction of playgrounds & statistics on playground accidents.
- **Health and Safety Executive** – ‘Children’s Play and Leisure – Promoting a Balance Approach’
- **Forestry Commission** guidance on rope swings and tree climbing.
- **Grounds for Learning/SCHOOL.** – ‘Playtime Revolution’, ‘The Good School Playground Guide’ and ‘Woodland Play’ books.

Benefits	Risks Potential Hazard Description	Risk Classification			Standard actions and measures taken to reduce or control risks	Risk Classification		
		Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating		Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating
Personal & Social Development Children will have opportunities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enjoy fun experiences. - Contribute to groups, include others, and adapt play. - Develop teamwork, imagination, creativity, and problem-solving skills. - Enhance language, communication, confidence, resilience, and well-being. - Appreciate risks and make balanced social and emotional decisions. 	Fixed playground equipment is defective by user wear and tear, damage by vandalism, lack of maintenance and repair. Injuries sustained from breaking or collapsing parts will include bumps, bruising, cuts and sprains. May lead to broken bones and other significant injuries	4	3	12 Medium Risk	Daily pre -user checks carried out by school staff. Weekly check monitored by site manager using the Operational Weekly Inspection Report. Any visible defects are noted and shared with the head teacher for action which may include closing off the equipment or monitoring use Annual maintenance of equipment by a contractor who is registered with The	4	2	= 8 Low Risk

<p>- Take responsibility and develop self-awareness. - Foster ownership and pride in their school.</p> <p>Physical Development: Children will have opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop physical literacy and capabilities. - Engage in activities like climbing, scrambling, and weaving to improve spatial awareness and physical impact. - Appreciate risks and make balanced decisions about physical challenges. - Engage with natural spaces and changing weather/seasons. - Supports Vitamin D for a healthy body. 	<p>Weather Hot weather can cause exhaustion, dehydration, lack of concentration and engagement from pupils and sun burn</p> <p>Wet and windy weather can cause increased slips and trips, lack of concentration and engagement from pupils and thermal discomfort.</p>	4	3	12 Medium Risk	<p>Register of Play Inspectors International (RPII) Improved security over the equipment and more regular checks if vandalism is a major problem.</p> <p>Monitor weather forecast and make decision to postpone if weather warnings are in place or conditions give concern. All children will wear suitable clothing and footwear for weather conditions and activities. A reminder to bring drinking water, lightweight jacket, sun cream and sun hat regardless of the expected weather If excessively warm then additional breaks will be scheduled and activities adjusted to ensure good periods of shade to reduce sun exposure. If damp weather then checks will be carried out to ensure ground suitability. For Adverse Weather, follow the Adverse Weather Policy.</p>	3	3	= 9 Low Risk
	<p>Climbing Nest, Standing Tables, Benches and A Frame Using fixed outdoor play equipment. Falls from climbing apparatus- Cuts / abrasions, broken limbs, muscular skeletal and other physical injuries.</p>	4	4	16 High Risk	<p>Restrict and control numbers on apparatus at one time through close supervision. Rotate children on apparatus if needed. Ensure that the equipment is appropriate for the age of the pupils using it. Consider segregating age groups (Specify the age or year groups if appropriate) Supervision of use required at all times. Apparatus not to be used when wet and slippery. Clear rules about appropriate behaviour (E.g. not to hang upside down from monkey bars) Children to wear appropriate footwear Weekly check monitored by site manager using the Operational Weekly Inspection Report to check equipment to remove soiling and debris which may contribute to slips and falls. Splinters Sudden failure or collapse of fixed equipment.</p>	4	3	12 Medium Risk

	Collisions between pupils resulting in trips, slips and fall which injuries ranging from bumps to cuts and broken bones.	4	4	16 High Risk	Various groups play in delegated areas with appropriate supervision allocated. Restrict and control numbers on apparatus at one time through close supervision. Appropriate footwear is worn for the activity.	4	3	12 Medium Risk
	Play items (e.g. Skipping ropes, footballs etc.) - Head injury, broken bones or minor injury from contact, trips and falls.	4	4	16 High Risk	Ensure items are used only for their intended purpose. Games to be played in appropriate location Zone activities e.g. for ball games / wheeled toys.	4	3	12 Medium Risk
	Bullying -stress, physical injury	2	2	4 Low Risk	Refer to the school anti-bullying policy. Staff are familiar with the policy. Training for staff in relation to the policy.	2	1	2 Low Risk
	Fighting - Cuts/abrasion other physical injury	2	2	4 Low Risk	Staff are aware of school rules on appropriate behaviour and follow the school policy. Staff are trained in how to deal with this type of situation.	2	1	2 Low Risk
	Rough play or unsafe games- e.g. British Bulldog, last man standing and piggy backing -Cuts/abrasion other physical injury	2	2	4 Low Risk	Games are supervised and supported by staff. Staff monitor and intervene if unacceptable play is identified.	2	1	2 Low Risk
	Security - Unsupervised contact with unauthorised adults - Abduction, assault, child protection issues	2	5	10 Medium Risk	Maintained fencing and gates – ensure they close. Points of access onto the site for visitors minimised with clearly signed routes to the reception. Children are not to play in areas out of sight of staff. Areas of site identified as higher risk made “out of bounds” – ramps on playground. Supervision levels appropriate for the layout of the site and the play areas, especially in the vicinity of the gates. Parental consent obtained for children who need to go home for lunch. Swipe in and out system is used within school outside of break times. All doors remain closed.	2	4	8 Low Risk

Absconding children -leaving the school grounds unobserved. Abduction, assault, child protection issues	4	3	12 Medium Risk	Points of access onto the site for visitors minimised with clearly signed routes to the reception. Gates closed at break times. Avoid children playing in areas out of sight of staff. Areas of site identified as higher risk made “out of bounds” – ramps on playground. Supervision levels appropriate for the layout of the site and the play areas, especially in the vicinity of the gates. Parental consent obtained for children who need to go home for lunch. Swipe in and out system is used within school outside of break times. All doors remain closed. Individual Risk Assessment for those children identified as potential ‘flight risk’.	2	3	6 Low Risk
Steps and steep slopes / slips, trips, falls – Cuts / abrasions, broken limbs, muscular skeletal and other physical injuries	3	4	12 Medium Risk	Games not to be played in these areas. Ensure these areas are gritted in the winter when ice and snow. No running on steps and steep slopes Care to be taken on slopes	2	4	8 Low Risk
Inadequate response to accidents. Potentially more severe outcome from injury	2	5	10 Medium Risk	Adequate numbers of supervision to account for emergency situations. Adequate first aid cover should a member of staff report sick. Specific First Aid Arrangements in place at break times with trained staff accessing First Aid Kit. First aid kits stations close by in school building. Trained first aiders present on the site and available during lunch and break times Staff understand how to use the accident book and accident forms when necessary.	2	3	6 Low Risk
Litter, glass - Minor injuries, cuts / abrasions	3	4	12 Medium Risk	Weekly check monitored by site manager using the Operational Weekly Inspection Report. Inspection of the area and litter picked and dealt with as required.	2	4	8 Low Risk

	Used Needles - Needle stick injury Blood borne viruses (HIV, Hepatitis B)	2	4	8 Low Risk	Weekly check monitored by site manager using the Operational Weekly Inspection Report. Caretaking staff equipped and trained to deal with Used Needles and their disposal.	2	4	8 Low Risk
	Dog faeces- Infection, Toxocariasis	3	4	12 Medium Risk	Where possible prevent dog walking within the school grounds Post signage at entrance to field. Remove faeces safely.	2	4	8 Low Risk
	Trees, poisonous or thorny plants –Minor injury, abrasions, allergic reactions	3	4	12 Medium Risk	Grounds maintenance contract in place which includes a tree survey to identify any foreseeable risks from falling branches etc. Remove or control access to any plants identified as being an irritant or a danger to children. Educate the pupils re such plants any plants.	2	4	8 Low Risk
	Hard surfaces/slips trips and falls – Broken limbs, muscular skeletal and other physical injuries	3	4	12 Medium Risk	Ensure the play areas are even and maintained. Area periodically checked for missing drain covers uneven surfaces, etc. Any areas which become unsuitable will need to be barriered off and placed out of bounds until repairs can be undertaken.	2	4	8 Low Risk
	Snow and ice Slips trips and falls	3	4	12 Medium Risk	Follow adverse weather policy which is reviewed on an annual basis with arrangements in place for poor weather and debris.	2	4	8 Low Risk
	Staff Supervision Levels Insufficient staffing, steps, walls, play/climbing equipment , trees, gates, blind spots	3	4	12 Medium Risk	Pupils regularly reminded about the school’s code of conduct when in the playground Staff training in playground safety awareness Additional staffing to supervise pupils with additional needs Identify any known site specific hazards which influence staffing positions. Supervising Zones of control will assist, especially in identifying blind spots. Staff to be easily visible on the playgrounds e.g. school hi viz jacket. This	2	4	8 Low Risk

					helps everyone to quickly identify staff from unauthorised adult who may gain access to the playgrounds Staff trained in First Aid and accident investigating and reporting.			
	Inappropriate use of Mounds Broken limbs, muscular skeletal and other physical injuries	4	4	16 High Risk	Restrict and control numbers on mounds at one time through close supervision. Rotate children on mounds if needed. Consider segregating age groups, if needed. Supervision of use required at all times. Mounds are not to be used when wet and slippery. Clear rules about appropriate behaviour (E.g. not to pushing people) Children to wear appropriate footwear. Weekly check monitored by site manager using the Operational Weekly Inspection Report to check mounds for holes or ditches which may contribute to slips and falls.	4	3	12 Medium Risk
	Sand Pit Sand in eyes, cut from objects in sand or Infection, Toxocariasis from faeces.	3	4	12 Medium Risk	First Aid Kit nearby encase sand gets in eyes. Ensure children wash hands after playing in the sand. Supervision of use required at all times. Clear rules about appropriate behaviour (E.g. not throwing sand) Daily check by staff of the sand pit to ensure that it is clean of any faeces and foreign objects, and if necessary, removed safely. Weekly check monitored by site manager using the Operational Weekly Inspection Report to check sandpit for dangerous objects and cleanliness – treat if necessary.	3	3	9 Medium Risk
	Scooter Track Broken limbs, muscular skeletal and other physical injuries Minor injuries, cuts / abrasions. Lack of maintenance and repair.	3	4	12 Medium Risk	Age-appropriate use of scooters/balanced bikes on the track. First Aid Kit nearby. Restrict and control numbers on track at one time through close supervision. Rotate children on track if needed. Supervision of use always required.	2	4	8 Low Risk

					<p>Ensure adequate spacing between children on the track.</p> <p>Supervise speed and have a crossing point for children to cross over.</p> <p>Teach children how to use the crossing point and to look after the equipment.</p> <p>Children must wear a helmet and hi viz when using the bikes and scooters.</p> <p>Weekly check monitored by site manager using the Operational Weekly Inspection Report to check scooters and track for damage to the surface and maintenance of bikes/scooters.</p>			
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Assessors

Signature: **(Print Name):** **Referred for Action?** **Yes / No**

Date of Assessment: **Review Date:** **Person responsible for action:**

Please ensure that this document is read and understood by all staff before this activity.

To be signed off by all staff taking part in this activity.

Signature: **(Print Name):** **Date:**.....