

Risk Assessment Policy



Oastlers Policy

Approved by Governing Body On	1 September 2013
To be Reviewed On	September 2016
Signed on Behalf of the Governing Body	Mike Vigurs

RISK ASSESSMENT POLICY

OVERVIEW

In this school every reasonable action will be taken to promote the safety and well-being of learners and staff. Our aim is always to keep everyone safe and to protect them from danger. Most activities could theoretically entail the **possibility** of harm but it would not be in the interests of the balanced development of learners to be over-protective and restrict their lives because of this. Staff must always be vigilant at all times and risk assessments will be carried out to identify activities and situations where there is a **probability** of danger in order that prompt and appropriate action can be taken to keep everyone safe.

OBJECTIVES

1. To establish efficient and effective procedures for assessing risk and for keeping learners and staff safe from danger and free from harm.
2. To identify and assess any probable sources danger and to take reasonable action to overcome them promptly and effectively.
3. To ensure that staff are trained and carry out risk assessments thoroughly and rigorously.
4. To ensure that before visits, school holidays, fieldwork, excursions, and any other off-site activities, that a risk assessment is carried out.
5. To ensure that parents are made fully aware of the nature of all activities planned for their children's participation during off-site visits.
6. To ensure that appropriately trained members of staff are always present to lead and supervise on visits, excursions, school residential holidays, and all other activities.
7. To ensure that off-site, only appropriately qualified teachers, instructors and coaches lead activities.
8. To ensure that risk assessments are carried out in line with this policy.

STRATEGIES

1. At all times teachers and other staff are expected to be vigilant and pro-active in carrying out assessments of risk for every activity they plan and undertake.
2. Risk assessments will be carried out by staff well in advance of every off-site activity and visit.
3. Regular risk assessments will be carried out to check the school environment and equipment.
4. Written records of risk assessments will be given to the head teacher to be approved before all visits and activities that take place off the school site.
5. Only those with appropriate qualifications will lead specialist activities.
6. Risk assessment should be carried out by teachers where specialist tools and equipment are used, especially for craft design technology, science, physical education activities, games and sport and activities.
7. Appropriate levels of supervision of learners and appropriate adult-to-child ratios must be maintained by teachers and staff at all times. Where activities carry higher levels of risk the adult-to-child ratio must be adjusted accordingly.
8. In a sensible and balanced manner, learners should be made aware of the risks they might encounter and they should be taught how to identify risk so that they know how to keep themselves safe.
9. Teachers will at all times, act in 'loco parentis'- as a good and caring parent would- and ensure that common sense and sound professional judgment is applied when assessing risk in all situations.
10. Parents must be fully informed in advance, in writing, about the nature of any off-site activities that their children are undertaking and must be asked to sign consent forms giving their permission for their children to participate.

OUTCOMES

Everyone in this school will do everything that they reasonably can, first to assess risk, and then to keep learners and staff free from danger at all times when learners are in our care. Our intention is to encourage the healthy growth and development of learners by increasing their self confidence and helping them build an awareness of the risks they face as they engage with the world around them.