

Health and Safety

General Welfare Requirement: Suitable premises, environment and equipment

Outdoor and indoor spaces, furniture and toys must be safe and suitable for their purpose.

3.2 Health and safety general standards

Policy statement

This setting believes that the health and safety of children is of paramount importance. We make our setting a safe and healthy place for children, parents, staff and volunteers.

- We aim to make children, parents and staff aware of health and safety issues and to minimise the hazards and risks to enable the children to thrive in a healthy and safe environment.
- Our member of staff responsible for health and safety is:
Mrs D Stimpson. Nursery Manager
- She is competent to carry out these responsibilities.
- She has undertaken health and safety training and regularly updates her knowledge and understanding.
- We display the necessary health and safety poster in the Kitchen [on the back of the door]

Insurance cover

We have public liability insurance and employers' liability insurance. The certificate for public liability insurance is displayed in:

In the main entrance of the nursery on the parents information Board

Procedures

Awareness raising

- Our induction training for staff and volunteers includes a clear explanation of health and safety issues so that all adults are able to adhere to our policy and procedures as they understand their shared responsibility for health and safety. The induction training covers matters of employee well-being, including safe lifting and the storage of potentially dangerous substances.
- Records are kept of these induction training sessions and new staff and volunteers are asked to sign the records to confirm that they have taken part. *(see staff file)*
- Health and safety issues are explained to the parents of new children so that they understand the part played by these issues in the daily life of the setting.
- As necessary, health and safety training is included in the annual training plans of staff, and health and safety is discussed regularly at staff meetings.
- We operate a no smoking policy, this includes vaping and e-cigarettes.
- Children are made aware of health and safety issues through discussions, planned activities and routines.

Safety of adults

- Adults are provided with guidance about the safe storage, movement, lifting and erection of large pieces of equipment.
- When adults need to reach up to store equipment or to change light bulbs they are provided with safe equipment to do so.
- All warning signs are clear

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- The sickness of staff and their involvement in accidents is recorded. The records are reviewed termly to identify any issues that need to be addressed.
- We keep a record of all substances that may be hazardous to health - such as cleaning chemicals, or gardening chemicals if used. This states what the risks are and what to do if they have contact with eyes or skin or are ingested. It also states where they are stored.
- We keep all cleaning chemicals in their original containers.

Windows

- Low level windows are made from materials that prevent accidental breakage or are made safe.
- Windows are protected from accidental breakage or vandalism from people outside the building.
- Windows above the ground floor are secured so that children cannot climb through them. All windows are secured with locks, comply with British Safety Standards.

Doors

- We take precautions to prevent children's fingers from being trapped in doors.

Floors

- All floor surfaces are checked daily to ensure they are clean and not uneven, wet or damaged.

Electrical/gas equipment

- All electrical/gas equipment conforms to safety requirements and is checked regularly.
- Our boiler/electrical switch gear/meter cupboard is not accessible to the children.
- Fires, heaters, electric sockets, wires and leads are properly guarded and the children are taught not to touch them.
- There are sufficient sockets to prevent overloading.
- The temperature of hot water is controlled to prevent scalds.
- Lighting and ventilation is adequate in all areas including storage areas.

Heating

- Room Temperature will be monitored regularly and will be kept between 18°C and 20°C. If the temperature drops below 18°C Mr Sharpe will be informed of the situation immediately.

Storage

- All resources and materials from which children select are stored safely.
- All equipment and resources are stored or stacked safely to prevent them accidentally falling or collapsing.

Outdoor area

- Our outdoor area is securely fenced with a lockable gate.
- Our outdoor area is checked for safety and cleared of rubbish before it is used.
- Adults and children are alerted to the dangers of poisonous plants, no herbicides and pesticides are used at the setting.
- Where water can form a pool on equipment, it is emptied before children start playing outside.
- Our outdoor sand pit is covered when not in use and is cleaned regularly.
- All outdoor activities are supervised at all times.

Outdoor Play Policy

Green RAG rating: 'there are free flow opportunities to play inside and out'. 'Children are always encouraged to be active'.

- When the weather permits the door to the securely fenced garden, is left open to allow the children free access to the garden.
- We plan outdoor learning activities and also provide a wide range of resources for physical development, ball pit, climbing frames, slides, bicycles, sand pit, etc.
- There is a covered play area which allows the children to play outside if it is raining. The children have mini beast hunts, listen to stories, play number and shape games, grow plants, look after the chickens and have picnics outside.
- When the weather is very windy or cold we do not leave the door open, as the temperature in the nursery would drop below the minimum limit allowed. However several times during the day we ask who would like to go outside. Those who chose to do so are then dressed in warm/waterproof clothes. We do find that for many children, especially the younger ones fifteen minutes is enough. After which they start to get cold and want to come in.
- In summary there are always opportunities for the children to play and learn outside but we only operate a 'free flow' open door policy when the weather permits.

Hygiene

- We regularly seek information from the Environmental Health Department and the Health Authority to ensure that we keep up-to-date with the latest recommendations.
- Our daily routines encourage the children to learn about personal hygiene.
- We have a daily cleaning routine for the setting which includes play room(s), kitchen, rest area, toilets and nappy changing areas.
- We have a schedule for cleaning resources and equipment, dressing-up clothes and furnishings, this is done during the holiday care when less children attend.
- We employ professional cleaners to clean the setting every evening.
- The toilet area has a high standard of hygiene including hand washing and drying facilities and the disposal of nappies.
- We implement good hygiene practices by:
 - cleaning tables between activities;
 - cleaning toilets regularly;
 - wearing protective clothing - such as aprons and disposable gloves - as appropriate;
 - providing sets of clean clothes;
- providing tissues and wipes;

Activities and resources

- Before purchase or loan, equipment and resources are checked to ensure that they are safe for the ages and stages of the children currently attending the setting.
- The layout of play equipment allows adults and children to move safely and freely between activities.
- All equipment is regularly checked for cleanliness and safety and any dangerous items are repaired or discarded.
- All materials, including paint and glue, are non-toxic.
- Sand is clean and suitable for children's play.
- Physical play is constantly supervised.
- Children are taught to handle and store tools safely.

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- Children who are sleeping are checked every ten minutes and baby monitor is kept with the child's key person.
- Children learn about health, safety and personal hygiene through the activities we provide and the routines we follow.
- Any faulty equipment is removed from use and is repaired. If it cannot be repaired it is discarded.
- Large pieces of equipment are discarded only with the consent of the proprietor

Legal Framework

- Health and Safety at Work Act (1974)
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992
- Electricity at Work Regulations 1989
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations(COSHH) (2002)
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 (as amended)
- Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations 1992

Further guidance

- *Health and Safety Law: What you Should Know (HSE 1999)*
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/law.pdf
- *Health and Safety Regulation...a Short Guide (HSE 2003)*
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hsc13.pdf
- *Electrical Safety and You (HSE 1998)*
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg231.pdf
- *COSHH: A Brief Guide to the Regulations (HSE 2005)*
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg136.pdf
- *Manual Handling – Frequently Asked Questions (HSE)*
www.hse.gov.uk/contact/faqs/manualhandling.htm

This policy was adopted at a meeting of	Downham Nursery School	name of setting
Held on	July 2024	(date)
Date to be reviewed	July 2025	
PP		
Name of signatory	E. J. Laffeaty- Sharpe	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)	Principal / proprietor	