

# Risk Assessment Policy



Policy Document	Risk Assessment Policy
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**This policy is written so it complies with the Independent School Standards and is taken from the National Curriculum and Ofsted framework.**

## The Oaks – Risk Assessment Policy

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## The Oaks – Risk Assessment Policy

### 1. Aims

The school aims to ensure that:

- All risks that may cause injury or harm to staff, pupils and visitors are identified, and all control measures that are reasonably practicable are in place to avoid injury or harm.
- Risk assessments are conducted and reviewed on a regular basis.

### 2. Legislation and statutory requirements

This policy is based on the following legislation and Department for Education (DfE) guidance:

Paragraph 16 of part 3 of [The Education \(Independent School Standards\) Regulations 2014](#) requires proprietors to have a written risk assessment policy.

- Regulations 3 and 16 of [The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999](#) require employers to assess risks to the health and safety of their employees, including new and expectant mothers.
- Regulation 4 of [The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012](#) requires that employers carry out an asbestos risk assessment.
- Employers must assess the risk to workers from substances hazardous to health under regulation 6 of [The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002](#)
- Under regulation 2 of [The Health and Safety \(Display Screen Equipment\) Regulations 1992](#), employers must assess the health and safety risks that display screen equipment poses to staff.
- Regulation 9 of [The Regulatory Reform \(Fire Safety\) Order 2005](#) says that fire risks must be assessed.
- Regulation 4 of [The Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992](#) requires employers to conduct a risk assessment for manual handling operations.
- [The Work at Height Regulations 2005](#) say employers must conduct a risk assessment to help them identify the measures needed to ensure that work at height is carried out safely.
- [DfE guidance on first aid in schools](#) says schools must carry out a risk assessment to determine what first aid provision is needed.
- [DfE guidance on the Prevent duty](#) states that schools are expected to assess the risk of pupils being drawn into terrorism.

A table of all the risk assessments schools are required to have in place can be found in Appendix 1 of this policy.

### 3. Definitions

Risk assessment	A tool for examining the hazards linked to a particular activity or situation, and establishing whether enough precautions have been taken to prevent harm from them based on their likelihood and their potential to cause harm.
Hazard	Something with the potential to cause harm to people, such as chemicals or working at height.

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Risk	The chance (high or low) that people could be harmed by hazards, together with an indication of how serious the harm could be.
Control measure	Action taken to prevent people from being harmed.

## 4. Roles and responsibilities

### 4.1 The proprietor

The governing board has ultimate responsibility for health and safety matters in the school, but will delegate day-to-day responsibility to the Executive Headteacher.

The proprietor has a duty to take reasonable steps to ensure that staff and pupils are not exposed to risks to their health and safety. This applies to activities on or off the school premises.

The proprietor, as the employer, also has a duty to:

- Assess the risks to staff and others affected by school activities in order to identify and introduce the health and safety measures necessary to manage the risks.
- Inform employees about risks and the measures in place to manage them.

### 4.2 The Executive Headteacher

The Executive Headteacher, or in the Executive Headteacher's absence, the Head of School, is responsible for ensuring that all risk assessments are completed and reviewed.

### 4.3

The Head of School (trained Education Visits Coordinator), will over see all risk assessments relating to educational visits.

### 4.4 School staff

School staff are responsible for:

- Assisting with and participating in risk assessment processes, as required.
- Familiarising themselves with risk assessments.
- Implementing control measures identified in risk assessments.
- Alerting the Executive Headteacher to any risks they find that need assessing.

### 4.5 Pupils and parents/carers

Pupils and parents/carers are responsible for following the school's advice in relation to risks, on-site and off-site, and for reporting any hazards to a member of staff.

### 4.6 Contractors

Contractors are expected to provide evidence that they have adequately risk-assessed all their planned work.

## 5. Risk assessment process

When assessing risks in the school, we will follow the process outlined below.

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We will also involve staff, where appropriate, to ensure that all possible hazards have been identified and to discuss control measures, following a risk assessment.

**Step 1: Identify hazards** – we will consider activities, processes and substances within the school and identify the associated hazards that could injure or harm the health of staff, pupils and visitors.

**Step 2: Decide who may be harmed and how** – for each hazard, we will establish who might be hurt, listing groups rather than individuals. We will bear in mind that some people will have special requirements, for instance, pupils with special educational needs (SEN) and expectant mothers. We will then establish how these groups might be harmed.

**Step 3: Evaluate the risks and decide on control measures (including existing ones)** – we will establish the level of risk posed by each hazard and review existing control measures. We will balance the level of risk with the necessary measures to control it and do everything reasonably practicable to protect people from harm.

**Step 4: Record significant findings** – the findings from steps 1 to 3 will be written up and recorded to produce the risk assessment. A risk assessment template is available in Appendix 2 of this policy.

**Step 5: Review the assessment and update, as needed** – we will review our risk assessments, as needed, and the following questions will be asked when doing so:

- Have there been any significant changes?
- Are there improvements that still need to be made?
- Have staff or pupils spotted a problem?
- Have we learnt anything from accidents or near misses?

**Step 6: retaining risk assessments** – risk assessments are retained for 3 years after the length of time they apply. Risk assessments are securely disposed of.

## **6. Monitoring arrangements**

Risk assessments are written as needed and reviewed by the school business manager. This policy will be reviewed by the school business manager every year and approved by the Executive Headteacher.

## **7. Links with other policies**

This risk assessment policy links to the following policies:

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- Health and safety
- First aid
- Supporting pupils with a medical condition

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**Appendix 1: Statutory Risk Assessments Checklist**

The following table lists the risk assessments that schools are required to have in place.

Statutory or mandatory risk assessment	✓	Completed by	Date of review
Workers under the age of 18	✓	Julie Gilson	September 2025
Asbestos	✓	Julie Gilson	September 2025
Substances hazardous to health	✓	Gemma Lockett	September 2025
Display screen equipment	✓	Julie Gilson	September 2025
Fire	✓	Robert Phillis/Julie Gilson	September 2025
First aid	✓	Julie Gilson	September 2025
Manual handling	✓	Julie Gilson	September 2025
Working at height	✓	Julie Gilson	September 2025
Children being drawn into terrorism	✓	Joanne Anderson	September 2025
Swimming pools (if applicable)	x✓	Rebecca Daddy	September 2025



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**Appendix 2: Risk Assessment Template**

Name of the person completing the risk assessment					Date	
What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What control measures are already in place? Are they sufficient?	What additional control measures are needed?	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Completed?