



Juniper Hill School – Risk Assessment – EYFS Outdoor Activities / Whole School Outdoor Play Activities January 2026

<p>Purpose of Risk Assessment / Workplace Activity This assessment considers the risks involved in the management of outdoor activities and the safety of play equipment. Hazards include; defective play or climbing equipment; unsuitable or damaged play surfaces; rough play; sunburn; weather conditions; unsafe use of bicycles/tricycles & hoppers; sand pits; water trays and storage of play equipment</p>	<p>People Involved The Juniper Staff and Children</p>
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Theme What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how? (Who is at special risk)	What are you already doing? (Current control measures, including those for people at special risk)	What further action is necessary? (Further control measures)	RISK LEVEL (Low, Medium, High)	Action by whom	Additional Information/ Review Notes.
1) Defective play or climbing equipment	Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All play equipment and safety surfacing meets British or European Standards as appropriate All load bearing play equipment (climbing frames etc.) is checked routinely and inspected annually by a competent person Play on climbing equipment is closely supervised All play equipment is checked for damage, splinters etc. before use and damage reported Playground furniture is checked regularly and damage reported Procedures to ensure adequate supervision of pupils according to activity and degree of risk are in place Timber climbing/play equipment is routinely inspected for splinters each day 	To make sure the school regularly replaces and removes play equipment / seating that is damaged and dangerous.	Low	All staff	



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2) Unsuitable or damaged play surfaces	Children and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidence & cracking is reported and any significant holes protected • The playground is swept regularly and checked for broken glass etc... • Pupils are not allowed to play on damaged surfaces 	Make sure the staff are clear about how to report issues with the play ground	Low	All staff	
3) Rough Play	Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils are closely supervised during play/break times • Pupils who partake in rough play will be removed from play activities and follow the stages of behaviour as listed in the school Behaviour Policy. 	Ensure a risk assessment / behaviour plan is completed for any children the school has behaviour concerns about.	Low	All staff	
4) Exposure to Hot weather, sunburn, heat exhaustion	Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are educated throughout the curriculum about causes of skin cancer and how to protect their skin (Life Skills unit Health and Prevention) • Children are encouraged to wear clothes that provide good sun protection, and to use sunscreens where appropriate • We try to are scheduled outdoor activities at times other than the middle of the day when the sun’s rays are most harmful • Outdoor activities are held in areas of shade whenever possible and encourage children to use shady areas during breaks, lunch hours, sports and trips. 	<p>The school is looking into increasing the number of areas that provide the children with shade in the summer months. We ask the children to apply sunscreen before coming into school.</p> <p>The school is purchasing more glasses and jug to</p>	Low	All member of the Juniper Community.	



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils will not be allowed to play outside during lunch breaks or attend school trips without adequate protective clothing or sunscreen on really hot days. • Staff and parents are encouraged to act as good role models by practising sun safety • Children, staff and parents are regularly reminded about sun safety through newsletters, posters, parents magazines, and activities for pupils • In sunnier weather, children will be told that they must have a hat in school every day • The children will not be exposed to long period in the sun or inclement weather • The school has implemented a sun safe policy • The policy is communicated to all staff and parents. Parents are informed of the importance of providing their children will appropriate sun hats and sunscreen (SPF 30+) • Staff to remind students to seek shade • Parents are informed to ensure their child has their own named water bottle • Provisions are in place to ensure students can refill their water bottles. • Students are encouraged to drink plenty of water throughout the school day 	<p>ensure all of the children have water to drink at lunchtime.</p> <p>The teachers have been reminded to let the children have opportunities to drink water during lesson time.</p>			
5) Inclement Weather Conditions	Children, Staff and Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site is gritted or salted the previous night or early the next morning before staff, students and visitors arrive on site 	None	Low	All members of the Juniper Community	



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gritting and salting is focused on key areas such as walkways, steps, driveways and staff car parks• Snow and ice clearing is carried out as soon as possible• Grit/salt bins are positioned around the site• Snow shovels, grit/salt spreaders are purchased and maintained to ensure in good working order. Other equipment also on site, i.e. wheel barrows to transfer supplies around site• First Aiders in place throughout the day• Everyone encouraged to wear sensible clothing and appropriate footwear• Weather forecasts checked regularly and information relayed to staff<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Met Office: http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/index.html○ BBC weather website: http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/○ Highways Agency website: http://www.highways.gov.uk• Regular dialogue between the premises manager and Senior Management regarding site conditions• Lighting maintained around site, especially between buildings, pathways and main gates• Night time lighting on to ensure safety of security patrols, key holders and emergency services• Corridors and vinyl floors monitored to ensure wet floors attended to as soon as possible				
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wet floor signs positioned Entrance mats in place to absorb as much water as possible Pathways/driveways, car parks and key access routes are gritted/salted and cleared as a priority 				
6) Unsafe use of bicycles/tricycles & hoppers (EYFS)	Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bicycles, tricycles and hoppers are stored safely Play on bicycles, tricycles and hoppers is supervised Children are taught to be aware of their fellow pupils and staff while using bicycles, tricycles and hoppers Pupils are restricted from playing near entrances and driveways The play area is kept clean and rubbish and other items that may cause an accident are removed Equipment is checked regularly 	Inform the staff the any old damaged equipment must be removed.	Low	All staff	
7) Sand pits	Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sand pits are covered at night and when they are not in use Sand is regularly changed Sand pits are checked each morning for animal droppings and broken glass 	None	Low	EYFS Team	
8) Water trays	Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play in water trays is supervised Children are taught the importance of water safety Numbers of children playing in with a water tray is restricted 	None	Low	EYFS Team	



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water trays are emptied and stored away when they are not in use• Water trays are only used when weather conditions are suitable				
9) Storage of play equipment	Staff and children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Play equipment is stored in designated storage areas• Walkways to storage areas are kept clear as necessary• Storage areas are easily accessible• Staff who pack storage areas are trained in safe handling techniques	Staff to be reminded to follow the Health and Safety Policy when moving equipment.	Low	All staff	

Reviewed / Approved by _____

Job Title _____

Date _____



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Appendix – Assess the Level of Risk

In this risk assessment the level of risk is expressed qualitatively as **Low, Medium, High or Very High**. Underlying these descriptors of risk is a probabilistic model which factors the **likelihood** of an accident or event against the **severity** of harm that may occur. The **risk rating**, calculated as **likelihood x severity**, maps into the qualitative terms used as follows:

		Severity			
		Minor Injury	Reportable Injury	Serious Injury	Critical
Likelihood	Unlikely	Low	Low	Low	Medium
	Possible	Low	Medium	High	High
	Probable	Medium	High	High	Very High

Reportable Injury is an important threshold and refers to UK legislation in this respect, often referred to as **RIDDOR**. A reportable injury or occurrence includes:

- major injuries as defined in RIDDOR,
- accidents that resulted in more than 7 days off work,
- an injury to member of the public, a customer or visitor, or a school pupil or student, that required hospital treatment.

(See <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/edis1.pdf> for more information on RIDDOR).