



Benefit-Risk Assessment Record Sheet and Advice – DURHAM TRINITY SCHOOL AND SPORTS COLLEGE

The purpose of **Benefit-Risk Assessments** is to enable you to provide challenge, progression, excitement, creativity and fun in your play environment.

They cannot and will not provide complete 'safety' and this is not their purpose.

They can help you to think about, predict, and manage the most serious and most likely potential causes of harm.

You will need two approaches to managing risk Standing Benefit-Risk Assessments and Dynamic Risk Management

Standing Benefit-Risk Assessments means you should, look at your usual environment and practices at least annually, and also when significant changes take place, keep a written record of the areas in the table below.

Dynamic Risk Management means that staff should be aware of changing nature of the play taking place. They should support children to assess and manage risk as much as possible for themselves, but they should also be vigilant and take action, if they think that risk of serious harm is becoming unacceptably likely. Actions taken by staff when required should balance the reduction of likelihood or severity or harm with preserving as much of the benefit of the play as possible, and empowering the children to manage future risk as much as possible.

Common areas that need standing assessment.

Boundaries to dangerous areas, trees management and tree climbing, fixed equipment and inspection, broken loose parts, rope tying especially at height, water use and water features.

At Durham Trinity School and Sports College OPAL will be introduced **gradually** therefore some areas of the grounds will be **out of action** and some activities **will not take place**, this includes **no tree climbing** and **only one field in action at playtimes/lunchtimes**. This risk assessment will be regularly updated through the academic year as more resources and areas of the school grounds are introduced.

OPAL identified staff will carry out daily, ongoing risk assessment and pass on any potential hazards to a member of SLT



Durham Trinity School and Sports College Benefit-Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment Date – 01/09/2018

Assessed by – Mrs R Grimwood

Reviewed Date 25/02/19 Paula Donkin 16/04/21 Claire Taylor 20.04.2021

Claire Taylor 05.10.2021

COVID-19 restrictions in school include KS Bubbles, additional cleaning of equipment and a short period of isolation for equipment, where necessary. Whilst restrictions have reduced (Aug 2021), Durham Trinity School & Sports College will adhere to guidance and recommendations provided by Public Health: England. Additional risk mitigation (COVID SAFETY) will continue whilst we are under local restrictions. When schools based restrictions cease, these measures do not require risk management.

Description of Activity, Principle or Object, who might be at risk and what kind of harm.	Benefit or Utility Or Related Policy	Description of risk management and maintenance agreed	Nominated person	Action Date
<p>Field and yard: Unsuitable at lunchtimes for EYFS/KS1 and other identified classes due to mud/soft ground for wheelchairs, size, slope, distance. Supervision difficult and risk of pupils being injured and out of sight.</p> <p>At Risk pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils in wheelchairs, unsteady on feet, younger pupils and those with very low development levels. 	<p>Play Policy: Benefit of physical play (rolling, running, walking and jumping) on field and yard. Benefits of children engaged in an exciting and engaging activity.</p> <p>Healthy living link to core strength, cardiovascular and mental health.</p>	<p>Area chosen for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ease of supervision Varied surfaces and levels for challenge <p>Area prepared by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearing rubbish/junk and checking for harmful materials by Cleaner in Charge, Grass maintained by contractors. <p>Risks managed by (pupils worked with through play assembly):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils briefed and Staff ensure pupils stay in bounds. 	All staff	05/09/18



<p>Harm – category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trips and falls • Supervision • Stranded pupils in wheelchairs 				
<p>Description of Activity, Principle or Object, who might be at risk and what kind of harm.</p>	<p>Benefit or Utility Or Related Policy</p>	<p>Description of risk management and maintenance agreed</p>	<p>Nominated person</p>	<p>Action Date</p>
<p>Journeys through bushes /undergrowth</p> <p>At Risk pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils <p>Harm - category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrapes – low • Cuts – low • Scratches - med 	<p>Play Policy, Benefits of children engaged in an exciting and engaging activity.</p> <p>Explore/adventure play</p>	<p>Area chosen for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ease of but not always direct vision. • Challenging but clear access/exit. <p>Area prepared by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearing rubbish/junk by Cleaner in Charge, by OPAL identified staff. • Clearing undergrowth to make accessible but challenging, • Clearing direct route brambles. <p>Risks managed by (pupils worked with through play assembly):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be aware of spikey plants/bushes, • Be aware of hidden trip hazards. • Staff to be aware of any excessive time groups are in a den, make checks. • At least two members of staff on the top field where pupils like to play with sticks and rocks. • OPAL Supervisor to monitor risk factors 	<p>Play lead Play team</p>	<p>05/09/18 16/04/21 05.10.2021</p>
<p>Tyre use</p> <p>At Risk pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils <p>Harm - category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knocks – low • Scrapes – low 	<p>Play Policy, Benefits of children engaged in an exciting and engaging activity.</p> <p>Useful knowledge and skills of construction.</p>	<p>Tyres chosen for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasonable tread, no metal showing, • Size and weight medium/low – moving • Large tractor - climbing. • No slope long/steep enough to produce dangerous inertia when tyre rolled down. <p>Risks managed by (pupils worked with through play assembly):</p>	<p>Play lead Play team</p>	<p>05/09/18 20.04.2021</p>





	Healthy living link to core strength, proprioceptive input, cardiovascular and mental health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't build above waist height, • Don't move tractor tyres for climbing/balancing only. • If rolling down slope, check area clear. • Co-support for pupils using tyres for proprioceptive activities. 		
Description of Activity, Principle or Object, who might be at risk and what kind of harm.	Benefit or Utility Or Related Policy	Description of risk management and maintenance agreed	Nominated person	Action Date
<p>Pallet use</p> <p>At Risk pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils <p>Harm - category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Splinters – med • Scrapes – low • Cuts - low 	<p>Play Policy, Benefits of children engaged in an exciting and engaging activity.</p> <p>Useful knowledge and skills of construction.</p> <p>Healthy living link to core strength, cardiovascular and mental health.</p>	<p>Pallets chosen for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasonable condition/sturdy, • Any protruding nails removed/made safe. <p>Area prepared by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caretaker sanding down pallets prior to use. • OPAL identified staff check area daily <p>Risks managed by (pupils worked with through play assembly):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't build above waist height, • Pallet may break, uncovering protruding nail/screw, be careful and tell play team, • Pallets can give splinters if not handled correctly. • Caretaker to prepare 	Play lead Play team	05/09/18
<p>Den use</p> <p>At Risk pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils <p>Harm - category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploitation – low • Scrapes – low • Cuts – low • Scratches - low 	<p>Play Policy, Benefits of children engaged in an exciting and engaging activity.</p> <p>Wellbeing PHSE link to communication, team work and nurture play.</p>	<p>Area chosen for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ease of supervision, • Low flow of passers-by. <p>Area prepared by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating sturdy den structures, • Two members of staff allocated to support Den building. <p>Risks managed by:</p>	Play lead Play team	05/09/18 16/04/21 05.10.2021



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated named staff to supervise this area – as per play zones and monitored by OPAL Supervisor Staff to be aware of any mixed age groups using dens (exploitation of younger/more vulnerable pupils), Staff to support with cutting any cords/string (identified staff carry scissors) Staff supervising on anything that looks unsteady or equipment handled inappropriately. Staff to be aware of any excessive time groups are in a den, make checks. Staff to be aware of excessive wind for canopies. 		
Description of Activity, Principle or Object, who might be at risk and what kind of harm.	Benefit or Utility Or Related Policy	Description of risk management and maintenance agreed	Nominated person	Action Date
<p>Access all areas (Zones and supervision)</p> <p>At Risk pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils Play team <p>Harm - category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knocks – low Scrapes – low Cuts – low Scratches - low 	<p>Play Policy, Benefits of children engaged in an exciting and engaging activity.</p> <p>Link to children’s right to play, creating varied and exciting environment to nurture play to develop the following skills: team work, communication, social skills, creativity, risk taking and resilience.</p> <p>Healthy living link to core strength, cardiovascular and mental health.</p>	<p>Area chosen for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Varied play environment – only one field used during lunchtime and playtimes, Ease of non-invasive supervision – see supervision plan, See specific areas above. <p>Area prepared by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sourcing relevant equipment to nurture varied play experiences, See specific areas above. COVID SAFETY - Activity rota in place for KS3 and KS4- Resources are stored in different boxes and remain in isolation for 72 hours before the next key stage us them. <p>Risks managed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play team introduction and discussion of all areas and specific risks, 	<p>Play lead Play team</p>	<p>05/09/18</p> <p>16/04/21</p>





		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OPAL staff identified to check equipment daily.• OPAL team regular updates (at least twice a half term),• All staff trained on play theory and culture.• All staff trained on risk benefit.• COVID SAFETY - Opal lunchtime rota for KS3 and KS4 where staff are allocated to activities.		
Risk benefit		<p>Play team prepared by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Risk benefit training, incl dynamic risk assessment,• Made aware of all specific risk assessments. <p>Pupils prepared by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assembly to introduce individual dynamic risk assessment (with demonstration) and specific risk assessments incl rules and advice.	Play lead Play team Opal lunchtime rota for KS3 and KS4 where staff are allocated to activities.	05/09/18





Description of Activity, Principle or Object, who might be at risk and what kind of harm.	Benefit or Utility Or Related Policy	Description of risk management and maintenance agreed	Nominated person	Action Date
<p>Trim Trail</p> <p>At Risk pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils <p>Harm - category:</p> <p>Pupils playing on trim trail:</p> <p>Boundary fence not completely secure in places. Pupils could climb over leaving school site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knocks – low Scrapes – low Leaving site unattended. 	<p>Play Policy, Benefits of children engaged in an exciting and engaging activity.</p> <p>Link to children’s right to play, creating varied and exciting environment to nurture play to develop the following skills: team work, communication, social skills, creativity, risk taking and resilience.</p> <p>Healthy living link to core strength, cardiovascular and mental health.</p>	<p>Area chosen for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Varied play environment,, See specific areas above. COVID SAFETY - Trim trail rota is in place but will also be used as and when pupils need the area. <p>Area prepared by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OPAL identified staff check area daily Staff assess weather conditions risk of slips <p>Risks managed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff to risk assess suitability of class/group accessing field and trim trail Pupils briefed before first field session about boundaries. Staff ongoing risk assess pupils accessing equipment through supervision and support where required – i.e. limit to number of pupils on any part of the trim trail. <p>Equipment prepared by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual inspection by caretaker manager. 	<p>Play team</p> <p>Class staff</p> <p>Site manager</p>	<p>05/09/18</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>16/04/21</p>
<p>Trees unsafe to climb:</p> <p>Potential injury falling from trees with thin or weak branches.</p>	<p>Although we would like to allow the children to climb, as a school we are not ready to introduce this activity. OPAL will be introduced</p>	<p>All children briefed not to climb trees. Supervision by all staff to enforce this.</p> <p>We will introduce this aspect of OPAL when pupils and staff are ready to enable safe climbing as part of the project at a later date.</p>	<p>All staff</p>	<p>05/09/18</p>



Description of Activity, Principle or Object, who might be at risk and what kind of harm.	Benefit or Utility Or Related Policy	Description of risk management and maintenance agreed	Nominated person	Action Date
Pupils playing in different environment with new potential dangers: There is an increased risk of minor injury to pupils who may require immediate first aid.	Increased freedom to play will foster more creative play and ensure pupils learn to manage risks more effectively themselves.	All First Aiders will carry their own 1 st aid pouches and 1 st aid records. Pupils with minor injuries (scratches and minor abrasions) will be treated in situ. Injuries that are more serious will be referred to more than one First Aider who will deal with as appropriate, informing a member of SLT if the injury requires parental contact or hospital treatment.	All staff	05/09/18
Terracotta tubes use At Risk pupils: • Pupils Harm - category: • Knocks – low • Scrapes – low	Play Policy, Benefits of children engaged in an exciting and engaging activity. Useful knowledge and skills of construction. Healthy living link to core strength, cardiovascular and mental health.	Tubes chosen for: , • Size and weight medium/low – moving. • No slope long/steep enough to produce dangerous inertia when tyre rolled down. Risks managed by (pupils worked with through play assembly): • Don't build above waist height, • If rolling down slope, check area clear and not a slope to steep.	Play lead Play team	31/10/18





<p>Wall Area use</p> <p>At Risk pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils <p>Harm - category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury to body and head – high <p>Due to the high risk pupils MUST NOT climb the wall on the back field there must be a member of staff supervising this area at all times.</p>	<p>Although we would like to allow the children to climb, this area is not safe and secure to climb. Staff to encourage to use the trim trail if they want to climb. OPAL working party to look into how to use this area for decoration or a safe area to climb/play.</p>	<p>All children briefed not to climb wall. Supervision by all staff to enforce this.</p>	<p>All staff</p>	<p>31/10/18</p>
<p>ASD Sensory Trail</p> <p>At Risk pupils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils <p>Harm - category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury to body and head – low 	<p>Benefits of children engaged in an exciting, challenging and engaging activity.</p> <p>Benefit in meeting ASD pupils sensory needs – regulate their behaviour.</p> <p>Healthy living link to core strength, cardiovascular and mental health.</p>	<p>Area chosen for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varied play environment, • Children with sensory needs <p>Area prepared by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OPAL identified staff check area daily • Staff assess weather conditions risk of slips <p>Risks managed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated members of staff to supervise this area. • Staff to model and risk assess suitability of class/group accessing sensory trail • Staff ongoing risk assess pupils accessing equipment through supervision and support where required – i.e. limit two pupils on each piece of the sensory trail. • ASD staff to supervise birds nest specifically 1 pupil at a time. <p>Equipment prepared by:</p> <p>Annual inspection by caretaker manager.</p>	<p>Staff on duty within ASD yard.</p> <p>Member of class staff to monitor pupils usage of the birds nest.</p>	<p>23/04/19</p> <p>20.04.2021</p>





<p>Trolleys, bikes, scooters and Go karts</p> <p>At Risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils <p>Harm – category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury to body and head – medium 	<p>Benefits of children engaged in an exciting, challenging and engaging activity.</p> <p>Benefit in meeting pupils sensory needs – regulate their behaviour.</p> <p>Healthy living link to core strength, cardiovascular and mental health.</p>	<p>Area chosen for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children with sensory and physical needs <p>Area prepared by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OPAL identified staff check area, equipment and helmets daily • Staff assess weather conditions risk of slips • COVID SAFETY - Staff to wash the equipment down after each key stage to limit cross contamination. <p>Risks managed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated member of staff to supervise this area to ensure pupils wearing helmets when in a trolley on a bike/scooter. • Staff to model and risk assess suitability of class/group accessing trolley, bikes and scooters by size of equipment • Staff ongoing risk assess pupils accessing equipment through supervision and support where required – i.e. speed, spatial awareness and use of space. • Staff to remind pupils to remain on the road and not go onto the path areas with the equipment. • Staff to remind pupils to put the equipment away after each use so pupils do not trip and fall. • Pupils will be reminded to remain on the flat surfaces and not going down the hill. • Pupils using equipment within the ASD yard will be reminded and supported to remain in the open yard. • Capacity of play area to be monitored by staff to reduce risks of collision. 	<p>All staff</p>	<p>23/04/19</p> <p>16/04/21</p> <p>20.04.2021</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Balance bikes and passenger trikes based in EYFS yards to be used by appropriate pupils only.		
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Description of Activity, Principle or Object, who might be at risk and what kind of harm.	Benefit or Utility Or Related Policy	Description of risk management and maintenance agreed	Nominated person	Action Date
<p>Outdoor classroom & Thinking Shed</p> <p>At Risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils <p>Harm – category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slips, trips & falls - low 	<p>Benefits of children engaged in an exciting, challenging and engaging activity.</p> <p>Link to children’s right to play, creating varied and exciting environment to nurture play to develop the following skills: team work, communication, social skills, creativity, risk taking and resilience.</p>	<p>Area chosen for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor classroom – KS2-KS5 Thinking Shed – EYFS/KS1 <p>Area prepared by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OPAL identified staff and teaching staff to check area. Staff assess weather conditions risk of slips Staff to manage access to COVID bubbles <p>Risks managed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated member of staff to supervise this area to ensure pupils do not mix bubbles. Staff to model and support activities within the outdoor classroom/Thinking Shed. Staff ongoing risk assess pupils accessing equipment through supervision and support where required. Capacity of play area to be monitored by staff to reduce risks of collision. Balance bikes and passenger trikes based in EYFS yards not being used within the Thinking Shed. 	All staff	20.04.2021
<p>Outdoor water trays and water activities – paddling pools, water sprinkler and hose.</p> <p>At Risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils <p>Harm – category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slip - low Supervision - low Drowning - low 	<p>Benefits of children engaged in an exciting, challenging and engaging activity.</p> <p>Link to children’s right to play, creating varied and exciting environment to nurture play to develop the following skills: team work, communication, social skills, creativity, risk</p>	<p>Area chosen for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Trays Water Sprinkler Paddling Pool Water sprays/guns <p>Area prepared by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OPAL identified staff and teaching staff to check area and refresh water when in use. Staff assess temperature and weather conditions to ensure body temperature is not affected. 	EYFS, ASD & Sensory Staff	20.04.2021



	taking and safety, and resilience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff to manage access to activities and equipment. Risks managed by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designated member of staff to supervise each water play area.• Designated member of class staff to support pupils hyper-sensitive to the sensory impact of water and/or temperature (interoception).• Staff to model and support activities within water play.• Staff ongoing risk assess pupils accessing equipment through supervision and support where required (COVID SAFETY protocols apply).• Capacity of play equipment to be monitored by staff to reduce risks of collisions, slips, trips and falls.• Classes having appropriate clothing and equipment for pupils to access water play safely and to return to learning regulated.		
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