



Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Risk Assessment

Reviewed and Updated: November 2025

Next Review Due: November 2026

Responsible Person: EYFS Lead

Approved by: Headteacher / Governing Body November 20th 2025

1. Policy Statement

At Hexham First School, we are committed to providing a safe, secure, and stimulating environment where children can learn and play confidently. In line with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework (2025), the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), and the Equality Act 2010, we identify, assess, and manage risks to minimise potential harm to children, staff, parents, visitors, and volunteers.

Our approach to risk assessment balances safeguarding with enabling children to develop independence, resilience, and an understanding of risk through play and exploration.

2. Aims

We aim to:

- Identify potential hazards in indoor and outdoor environments, including those affecting children with SEND, ensuring reasonable adjustments are made.
- Evaluate and manage risks to reduce the likelihood and severity of harm.
- Ensure control measures are in place, regularly reviewed, and clearly understood by all staff.
- Engage parents and carers in risk management processes to promote transparency and partnership.
- Comply fully with relevant legislation and guidance, including:
 - EYFS Statutory Framework (2025)
 - Health and Safety Executive (HSE) guidance
 - Ofsted “Safe and Sound” expectations
 - Northumberland County Council Health and Safety Policy

3. Roles and Responsibilities

- Headteacher: Overall responsibility for safety and welfare; ensures policy implementation and resource allocation.
- EYFS Lead: Coordinates and monitors risk assessments; ensures regular review and communicates updates to the EYFS team.
- All EYFS Staff: Conduct daily visual checks; implement control measures; escalate hazards immediately; support children’s understanding of risk.
- Caretaker / Site Manager: Addresses repairs, maintenance, and site security promptly; maintains safety equipment.
- Designated Safeguarding Lead: Ensures risk assessments consider safeguarding risks and supports staff in related concerns.
- Governors: Monitor compliance with health and safety legislation; support policy implementation and review.

4. Frequency of Risk Assessments

Type of Check	Frequency	Responsible Person	Notes
Daily visual checks	Each session	EYFS Staff	Includes indoor and outdoor areas.
Weekly environment checks	Weekly	EYFS Lead / Staff Team	Includes equipment and resources.
Termly full risk review	Termly	EYFS Lead	Review after incidents or changes.
Annual policy review	Annually	Headteacher & Governors	Includes staff training updates.
Post-incident review	As needed	EYFS Lead / Headteacher	Following accidents or near misses.

5. General Principles

- Children are encouraged to develop personal safety awareness, hygiene, and respect for their environment.
- Risk assessments support a risk-benefit approach to play, promoting learning through managed risks.
- Staff receive annual training in first aid, safeguarding, and inclusion.
- All staff in school are paediatric first aid trained
- Incidents and near misses are recorded and reviewed to inform continuous safety improvements.
- Reasonable adjustments are made to ensure inclusion of children with SEND, aligned with the Equality Act 2010.

6. Indoor Environment – Key Risk Areas

Hazard	Who might be harmed & how	Control measures in place	Further action	Responsible
Entrance doors and access	Children & adults – security risk	Staff monitor doors; doors closed promptly; faults reported.	Maintain door rota; report issues.	EYFS Staff
Trapping hazards (doors)	Children/adults – injury	Finger guards fitted; staff supervise; children taught routines.	Inspect finger guards regularly.	EYFS Staff
Fire safety and signage	All – injury	Clear signage; regular evacuation drills; alarms tested weekly.	Replace damaged signs; maintain logs.	Headteacher / Caretaker

Slips, trips, flooring	All – injury	Daily checks; prompt repairs; floor kept dry and clear.	Monitor repairs; report hazards.	EYFS Staff / Caretaker
Heating/ventilation	All – discomfort/poor air quality	Heating monitored; ventilation maintained	Report malfunctions immediately.	Headteacher / EYFS Staff / Caretaker
Trailing wires/cables	All – tripping/electrical hazard	Cables secured with covers; kept out of reach; PAT testing done.	Include in daily checks.	EYFS Staff
Sand, water, malleable play	Children/adults – slipping, hygiene	Regular cleaning; spillages mopped; materials replaced.	Reinforce safety messages.	EYFS Staff
Tools/scissors	Children/adults – cuts	Safe handling modelled; adult supervision; age-appropriate tools.	Replace damaged tools immediately.	EYFS Staff
Toilet and hygiene areas	All – slips, infection	Checked and cleaned regularly; privacy maintained.	Report leaks promptly.	EYFS Staff
Food/snack time	Children – choking/allergies	Supervised eating; Children always sit when eating, allergy info accessible; emergency plans in place.	Regular allergy updates from parents.	EYFS Staff
Unhygienic surfaces	All – infection risk	Daily cleaning; antibacterial spray before food prep. Enhanced cleaning in instances of infectious disease	Continue daily cleaning schedule.	Caretaker
Water Quality	All – infection risk	Statutory water hygiene tests	Weekly Monthly Annual risk assessment	Caretaker External Health and Safety

7. Outdoor Environment – Key Risk Areas

Hazard	Who might be harmed & how	Control measures in place	Further action	Responsible
Footwear and clothing	All – slipping/tripping	Reminders for appropriate clothing; visual checks. Footwear / clothing provided from school where possible	Reinforce with parents seasonally.	EYFS Staff

Staffing ratios	Children – supervision	Maintain EYFS statutory ratios (e.g., 1:13 or as per policy).	Ongoing monitoring.	EYFS Lead
Storage sheds/resources	All – falling objects/access to unsafe materials	Sheds secured; adults only access; checklist for checks.	Include in weekly checks.	EYFS Staff
Perimeter fencing	All – splinters, escape risk	Daily fence inspections; maintenance recorded.	Record in site manager's log.	EYFS Staff / Caretaker
Site Security - gate	All - risk of children leaving premises/ strangers entering	Gate locked in the morning and overnight. Open for beginning and end of day	Include in daily checks.	EYFS Staff / Caretaker
Rubbish/glass	All – cuts, contamination	Outdoor areas checked and cleared daily.	Continuous monitoring.	EYFS Staff
Extreme weather	All – sunburn, dehydration, slips	Shade, hydration, sunscreen policy; surfaces checked in rain/ice.	Remind parents about weather clothing.	EYFS Staff
Outdoor equipment/toys	All – injury, hygiene	Daily inspections; remove broken items immediately.	Replace damaged equipment promptly.	EYFS Staff
Bikes/scooters	All – collisions	Designated times/areas; clear safety rules; helmet use enforced.	Reinforce safety discussions.	EYFS Staff
Bikes/scooters	All – maintenance - injury from broken resources	Daily inspections; remove broken items immediately. Termly MOT of all bikes and scooters	Replace / repair damaged equipment promptly.	EYFS Staff EYFS children
Gardening/mud kitchen/tools	All – misuse of tools	Tools checked before/after use; supervised; safe storage.	Record checks in log.	EYFS Staff

8. Monitoring and Review

- Risk assessments are dynamic documents updated after any change to environment, activities, or staffing.
- Feedback from staff, children (where appropriate), and parents informs reviews.
- Incident and near-miss logs are analysed to improve safety.
- The EYFS Lead reports termly on health and safety to the Headteacher.

9. Linked Policies

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- First Aid and Accident Reporting Policy
- Managing Behaviour Policy
- Infection Control and Cleaning Procedures
- Educational Visits Policy

10. Sign-Off

Name	Role	Date
Jenna Moore	EYFS Lead	
Justine Overton	Headteacher	
Rivca Fletcher	Governor	

- Aligns with *EYFS 2024* and *HSE guidance*.
- Includes daily/weekly/termly review structure.
- Incorporates CO₂ monitoring, sustainability, and wellbeing considerations.
- Integrates allergy and infection control measures.
- Strengthens supervision ratios and documentation expectations.
- Uses clear, inspection-ready formatting.