



Early Years Health and Safety Policy



Policy Number:	
Approval date:	
Review date:	

Adopted by the Board of Trustees/Governing Body

Signed Chair of Governors	
Signed Chair of Trustees	
Signed CEO	

The review of this policy will be as and when required in response to national requirements and in light of continuous school based monitoring and evaluation data.

1. Policy Statement

At Watling Meadows Primary School, we are committed to providing a safe, nurturing and developmentally appropriate environment for all children in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). We recognise our statutory duties under the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework (2024)** and the **Health and Safety at Work Act (1974)**. We prioritise children's wellbeing, safety and independence, ensuring that every child can explore, learn and play in a secure and stimulating environment.

This policy sets out the specific arrangements for maintaining high standards of health and safety within our EYFS provision.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

Headteacher

- Ensures compliance with statutory requirements.
- Oversees implementation and monitoring of this policy.
- Ensures appropriate staffing levels, training, and resourcing.

Early Years Leader

- Ensures daily health and safety procedures are followed.
- Monitors the indoor and outdoor learning environments.
- Leads risk assessments and maintains records.

All EYFS Staff

- Follow all health and safety procedures and training.
- Maintain supervision at all times.
- Conduct daily checks and report hazards immediately.
- Promote safe behaviour, independence and self-care in children.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) & Deputy DSL

- Ensure safeguarding duties are upheld within EYFS environments.
- Support staff with any concerns relating to children's wellbeing.

Parents and Carers

- Provide appropriate clothing and footwear.
- Share relevant medical, dietary or welfare information promptly.
- Support the school's safety and wellbeing expectations.

3. Supervision and Ratios

We meet or exceed statutory EYFS staffing ratios at all times:

- **Reception:** 1:30 (with a qualified teacher present).
 - Additional adults allocated based on cohort needs.
- Supervision is **active and continuous**, indoors and outdoors.

4. Environment and Premises Safety

Daily Environment Checks

Staff complete and record daily checks of:

- Classrooms and continuous provision
- Toilet and changing areas
- Outdoor learning spaces
- EYFS resources and equipment
- Security and access points

Any hazards identified are logged and addressed immediately.

Outdoor Provision

- Children access outdoor learning **every day**, in all weather conditions, with appropriate clothing.
- Outdoor play areas are inspected daily, with any unsafe areas restricted.
- Equipment is age-appropriate, well-maintained, and stored safely.

Hygiene and Cleanliness

- Regular cleaning schedules operate throughout the day.
- Handwashing is embedded into routines (arrival, toileting, after outdoor play, before eating).
- All staff follow infection-control guidance.

5. Risk Assessments

Risk assessments cover:

- Indoor and outdoor environments
- Trips, visits and local walks
- Use of tools or specialist equipment
- Forest School and outdoor learning activities
- Food preparation, allergies and choking risks
- Individual needs of vulnerable or SEND children

Risk assessments are reviewed termly or following any incident.

6. Accidents, First Aid and Medical Needs

First Aid

- EYFS has at least one **Paediatric First Aid-trained** staff member present at all times.
- First aid kits are fully stocked and accessible.

Accident Procedures

- All accidents are recorded on the school's incident system.
- Parents are informed the same day.
- Headteacher reviews patterns of incidents to inform improvements.

Medical Needs

- Medical Care Plans are agreed with parents and healthcare professionals.
- Medicines are only administered in line with school policy and parental permission.
- Staff are trained in the use of EpiPens, inhalers or specific medication where required.

7. Intimate Care and Toileting

- Managed in line with our Intimate Care Policy.
- Staff ensure dignity, privacy and safeguarding considerations at all times.
- Parents are informed of any toileting incidents requiring clothes changes.

8. Safe Use of Resources

Children access a wide range of open-ended and natural materials. Staff ensure:

- All resources are safe, clean and fit for purpose.
- Small-parts risks are managed appropriately.
- Tools (e.g., in outdoor learning) are used under supervision and following training.
- Hazardous substances are stored securely out of children's reach.

9. Food, Drink and Snack Safety

- Children have access to fresh drinking water throughout the day.
- Snacks meet healthy eating guidance and allergy requirements.
- Staff sit with children during snack times to model safe eating.
- All allergies and dietary needs are clearly displayed and communicated.

10. Security and Arrival/Collection Procedures

- Secure entry systems are used at all times.
- Pupils are only released to authorised adults.
- Late collection procedures ensure children remain supervised and safe.
- Staff follow robust systems for registering attendance and monitoring absence.

11. Fire Safety and Emergency Procedures

- EYFS staff receive annual fire safety training.
- Fire evacuation routes are displayed at child and adult height.
- Drills take place regularly, and EYFS staff support children sensitively.
- Emergency procedures (lockdown, evacuation) are practised and reviewed.

12. Safeguarding and Child Protection

- All EYFS staff follow the school's Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy.
- Any concerns are reported immediately to the DSL.
- Staff understand early indicators of vulnerability, neglect or developmental concerns.

13. Monitoring and Review

This policy is reviewed:

- Annually
- Following any incident affecting EYFS safety
- In response to updated statutory guidance

The Headteacher and Early Years Lead are responsible for ensuring this policy is consistently implemented.