



COTTESMORE SCHOOL

Risk Assessment Policy

1. Introduction

The aim of this Policy is to set out the systematic approach for suitable and sufficient risk management throughout Cottesmore. This policy has particular regard for ensuring the welfare of pupils at the school are safeguarded and promoted at all times and appropriate action is taken to reduce risks and potential risks that are identified.

This guidance is applicable to all those with responsibility for undertaking risk assessments for activities which are under their control.

This Policy applies to the entire setting including the EYFS and after school activities and trips. Copies of this Policy are available for viewing and/or downloading on the school's website.

This guidance is applicable to general risk assessment. Where specialist skills are required, e.g. asbestos, fire, etc., there will be separate policy guidance in place.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Health & Safety Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- Supervision of Children Policy
- EYFS Supervision Policy
- Safeguarding Policy

2. Purpose

The objectives of this policy are:

- To ensure that risks are systematically identified and managed to promoting children's welfare.
- To ensure that suitable and sufficient risk assessments are undertaken for activities where there is likely to be significant risk including school trips.
- That identified control measures are implemented to control risk so far as reasonably practicable.
- That those affected by school activities have received suitable information on what to do.
- That the risk management strategy and risk assessments are recorded and reviewed when appropriate. To identify those in the school responsible for conducting risk assessment and monitoring its implementation.



COTTESMORE SCHOOL

3. Responsibilities

The following have responsibilities for risk assessment:

- The Head will be responsible for the implementation of this policy.
- The Head of EYFS will be responsible for the EYFS risk assessment and the regular checks required as a result of the assessment.
- The Bursar will complete risk assessments for the site, including teaching rooms.
- Trip leaders will complete risk assessments for educational trips and visits.
- The Catering Contractors will complete an annual risk assessment for the Kitchen and food storage and service areas.
- The Head and/or Bursar will be responsible for checking risk assessments.
- The Head and/or Bursar will be responsible for keeping risk assessment records.

4. Training and Guidance

Staff will receive guidance on risk assessment as part of their induction. This will be refreshed on an annual basis. Risk assessment training will be provided on specific areas where identified by the Head, / Bursar .

5. When is a Risk Assessment required?

The following is a non-exhaustive list of circumstances which are likely to require a risk assessment to be produced. If in doubt, staff should seek guidance from the Head and/or Bursar .

Educational

- Science experiments
- Use of hazardous materials in design technology or art
- Sport & PE
- Drama & dance
- School trips

Support

- Catering and cleaning
- Security
- Site and equipment maintenance
- Visitors
- Fire & emergencies



COTTESMORE SCHOOL

6. Procedure for completing a Risk Assessment

A template risk assessment form is included at Appendix 1.

Risk assessments should consider:

- hazard - something with the potential to cause harm
- risk - an evaluation of the likelihood of the hazard causing harm
- risk rating - assessment of the severity of the outcome of an event
- control measures - physical measures and procedures put in place to mitigate the risk

Completing a Risk Assessment will require answering the following six questions:

- what could go wrong?
- who might be harmed?
- how likely is it to go wrong?
- how serious would it be if it did?
- what are you going to do to stop it?
- how are you going to check that your plans are working?

7. School Visits

Planning for school visits and trips must be completed in accordance with the Supervision of Children/EYFS Supervision Policy.

A careful risk assessment should be completed by the trip leader, using the form in the Appendix. Many attractions and museums provide their own risk assessments, which should be appended to the school's own assessment of the risks of the trip.

Where the visit or trip is a repeat of a previous trip, the existing risk assessment may be used as the basis for assessment, but must be reviewed.

When planning an activity that will involve such activities as caving, climbing, trekking, skiing or water sports, the trip leader must check that the provider holds a license as required by the Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations 2004.

For visits involving EYFS children, the assessment must take account of the nature of the outing, and consider whether it is appropriate to exceed the normal supervision ratio.

8. Supervision of Pupils

The school's Supervision of Children and EYFS Supervision Policies set out the measures in place to supervise children during the school day and on school visits.

These arrangements are risk assessed and reviewed as part of the review process for these policies. Staff should be aware of their responsibility to dynamically risk assess on a daily basis, taking into account changes in individual circumstances and the weather for example.



COTTESMORE SCHOOL

In circumstances which fall outside these policies, a risk assessment should be undertaken to ensure sufficient supervision is in place to ensure the safety of pupils.

9. EYFS

A risk assessment must be completed of outdoor spaces and the classroom of EYFS children. This risk assessment will be reviewed at least once a year or more frequently when the need arises.

The risk assessment must identify aspects of the environment that need to be checked on a regular basis and a record of these aspects and when and by whom they have been checked must be kept. The regularity of these checks will be determined according to the assessment of the significance of individual risks.

10. When should Risk Assessments be reviewed?

Risk assessments will be reviewed:

- when there are changes to the activity
- after a near miss or accident
- when there are changes to the type of people involved in the activity
- when there are changes in good practice
- when there are legislative changes
- annually if for no other reason

11. Approval & Review

This policy was approved by the Headmaster. It will be reviewed every two years or as necessary following a change in regulation.