

Merton Court School

Risk Assessment for: Early Years Outdoor Environment				Date of Risk Assessment: Sept 2025			Review Date: Sept 2026	
Please see also Daily Risk Assessment Sheets								
Carried out by: Kirsty Richardson, Jane Amphlett				Approved by: AM (Health & Safety Officer)			Date: Sept 2025	
What are the Hazards?	Level of risk			Who might be harmed and how?	Action to be taken to lower the risk.	Action by whom?	Action by when?	Level of risk reduced to low.
	Low	Med	High					
Falling over on concrete			√	Children by running and bumping into each other or just general tripping over.	To remind children to look where they are going and be aware of people and equipment around them. First Aid kits in EY, J1 & ASC	All using the outdoor areas. Teacher to monitor.	Daily reminders to children,	√
Falling off equipment, e.g. climbing frame		√		Children not using equipment appropriately or younger children acquiring new skills	Equipment to be always supervised by adults. Not to be used in wet conditions. First Aid kits in EY, J1 & ASC	All using the outdoor areas. Teacher to monitor.	Daily reminders to children of safe practice	√
Steps			√	Children – tripping up or down steps by the swimming pool or the staircases to The Elizabeth Price building.	Encourage children to look where they are going, not to push each other. Ask children to use the bannister rails provided. Adults to support younger children.	All using the outdoor area. Teacher to monitor.	Daily reminders	√
EY decking slope		√		Children slipping down the slope.	Encourage children to be safe and not carry equipment up and down the slope. Remind children not to run down the slope when wet.	All using the outdoor area. Teacher to monitor.	Daily reminders to children.	√
Plants – Flowers, nettles, bracken			√	Children - touching and then putting fingers into their mouths.	To make sure caretakers/gardener cut back or remove any poisonous/harmful (e.g. brambles) plants. Make sure children wash hands after touching any plants. Remind	All using the outdoor area.	Daily reminders to children	√

					children of Forest School rule “no pick, no lick”			
Soil			√	Children – putting soil into their mouths	Make sure children wash hands after touching any soil. Talk to children about how to handle soil safely.	All using the outdoor area. Teacher to monitor.	Daily reminders to children	√
Sand			√	Children – putting sand into their mouths, throwing sand.	Make sure children wash hands after playing with the sand. Talk to children about how to handle sand safely. Remind children not to throw sand when digging	All using the outdoor area. Teacher to monitor.	Daily reminders when using the sandpit	√
Investigation Station		√		Children putting sand/leaves/ mixtures in their mouths Doors closing and hurting children’s fingers	Make sure children understand how the station should be used – remind them weekly of best practice and make use of outdoor sinks. Ensure doors to the investigation station are held open with hooks on doors.	All weekly and staff member on duty	Daily reminders when station open	√
Imagination Station		√		Children trip up/fall down the step. Children trap fingers in the door.	Remind children of the step prior to opening it each day. Doors to be hooked back when in use	All weekly and staff member opening it daily	Daily reminders when in use	√
Clamber ladder		√		Children miss their footing. Children bang their heads on wooden frame	Remind children as they are using the ladder.	Daily reminders to staff as children using it	Daily reminders	√
Book Nook		√		Children trap fingers in the door Bang heads on wooden shelves	Door to be hooked back Chairs and cushions to be positioned away from shelves	Staff opening it to hook the door back Daily checks of equipment position	Daily when in use	√
Grass boxes		√		Adults trap fingers when using the boxes	Take off the lid completely when removing or replacing items	Staff only	Staff to be reminded of this weekly	√

Outdoor Stage Area		√		Children falling off the edge	Ensure children are aware of how to get down using the steps provided.	Staff outside	Daily reminder when children are using the area.	√
Wooden Ladder		√		Children losing footing Children banging heads on wooden frame	Remind children as they are using the ladder.	Daily reminders to staff as children using it	Daily when in use	√
Sandpit			√	Children – getting sand in their eyes	Remind children about how to safely use sand equipment and not to throw sand	Staff to remind children	Daily when in use and during circle time sessions	√
Social Slide		√		Children hurting themselves if slide too slippery and bumping into children at the bottom.	Slide to be cordoned off in wet weather or children to have waterproofs on. Re-iterate to children the need to be careful when sliding down – ensure other children have moved away from the bottom.	Staff outside to reiterate and staff inside to help with waterproofs if needed.	Daily reminders to children	√
Ride on equipment		√		Children – falling off, bumping into each other.	Remind children how to use equipment safely. Adults to always supervise. Adults in EY to get bikes out and put them away.	All using the outdoor area. Teacher to monitor.	Daily reminders to children	√
Hazards on equipment e.g. sharp corners, broken toys		√		Children - may bump into corners, broken toys could cause injury.	Adults to minimise hazards on equipment as far as possible, check toys daily/whenever used and discard broken or un-repairable toys.	All using the outdoor area. Teacher to monitor.	Daily checks by staff when getting equipment out	√
Insect stings/bites SEASONAL			√	Children/Adults – maybe stung by bee or wasp or other insect.	Check area for wasp/bees nest regularly during warm weather and inform caretaker if any found. Treat stings accordingly. Remind children to stay still if a bee or wasp is around them.	All using the outdoor area. Teacher to monitor.	Mainly spring/summer season. Remind children to stand still	√

Animal Faeces		√		Children/Adults – stepping on animal faeces, children touching it with hands.	Check area is clear on a daily basis.	All using the outdoor area. Teacher to monitor.	Daily checks	√
Outdoor toilet (J1)		√		Children catching fingers in the doors	Staff to monitor/accompany children when using outside toilet	All staff working outside	Daily	√
Sun SEASONAL			√	Children/Adults – risk of sunburn or heat stroke.	Ask parents to apply sunscreen to their children. Sunscreen can be applied to children in EY if brought in & specifically named. Parents to complete sunscreen form. All children to wear Merton Court baseball caps outside (spares available in class if forgotten). Avoid being in the sun at peak times, stay under cover when temperature is very hot.	All using the outdoor area. Teacher to monitor. Remind parents to put caps in bags daily & to bring in clearly named sunscreen.	Mainly summer term. Remind children about putting on caps.	√
Natural hazards – stones, twigs, branches logs etc.		√		Children – possible throwing of stones, playing with twigs, falling branches may cause injury	Adults to always supervise. Caretaker to check trees regularly for any decay.	All using the outdoor area. Teacher to monitor.	Daily checks as appropriate	√
Faulty equipment	√			Children – may cause injury	Adults to check all equipment regularly and discard if faulty	All using the outdoor area. Teacher to monitor.	Daily checks	√
Ice & Snow, (seasonal)			√	Children, Staff and Visitors – risk of slipping and falling	Caretaker to clear snow and ice and put down salt. Children to be reminded not to throw ice or snow in faces	All using the outdoor area. Caretaker/Teachers monitor	Seasonal Check environment as appropriate	√

The following EYFS team members hold a paediatric First Aid Certificate (see MC Qualified First Aiders List for renewal dates)

- Tessa Langton (FULL)
- Jane Amphlett (FULL)
- Kirsty Richardson (FULL)
- Amy Clarke (FULL)
- Isabelle Clifford (FULL)
- Milie Dawson (FULL)
- Laura Thatcher (Emergency)
- Hayley Hall (FULL)
- Victoria Learmouth (FULL)
- Laura Reynolds (Emergency)
- Amber Downs (FULL)
- Theresa Baker (Emergency)
- Michelle Houghton (Emergency)
- Lisa Smith (FULL)
- Jess Robinson (Emergency)