Merton Court School

Risk Assessment for: J1 Outdoor Environment	Date of Risk Assessment: Sept 2026	Review Date: Sept 2027
Carried out by: Hayley Hall and Kirsty Richardson	**Approved by: AM (Health & Safety Officer)**	**Date: Sept 2026**

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					
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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	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 supervised by adults at all times. Not to be used in wet conditions. First Aid kits in EY, J1	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. Step out to Jubilee Garden	Encourage children to look where they are going, not to push each other. Ask children to use the banister 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 slippery.	All using the outdoor area. Teacher to monitor.	Daily reminders to children.	√

Outdoor Tunnel		√		Children banging their heads	Regularly remind children to keep their heads down as they go through the tunnel and as they come out	Teachers/TAs to remind Children	Daily Reminders	√
Plants – Flowers, nettles, bracken			√	Children - touching and then putting fingers into their mouths.	To make sure caretakers cut back or remove any poisonous/harmful (e.g. brambles) plants. Make sure children wash hands after touching any plants. Remind children of Forest School "no pick, no lick" Use of outside handwashing sinks	All using the outdoor area.	Daily reminders to children	√
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. Use of outside handwashing sinks	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	√
Sandpit		√		Possible Fox/animal faeces	Daily checks by staff in the morning. Netting to be placed on at night	All staff to monitor	All staff	√
Ride on equipment		√		Children – falling off, bumping into each other.	Remind children how to use equipment safely. Adults to supervise at all times. Adults 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 regularly 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	All using the outdoor area. Teacher to monitor.	Mainly spring/summer season.	√

					accordingly. Remind children to stay still if a bee or wasp is around them.		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 toilets		√		Children catching fingers in the doors	Staff to monitor/accompany children when using outside toilets Children to go to the outside toilets one at a time followed by handwashing routines	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, J1 children may apply their own. All children to wear Merton Court baseball caps outside. Hats. 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 supervise at all times. 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	√
Electronic Fire Doors Closing		√		Risk of children being caught	Staff awareness of the doors, fire policy and Fire marshals following procedure	All staff Fire Marshalls	Fire practices	√

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)
- Jessica Walby (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)
- Lisa Smith (FULL)
- Jess Robinson (Emergency)