



The Birtenshaw Group

Transforming Lives

Birtenshaw Education Services Risk Assessment Policy

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Aims

The school/college aims to ensure that:

- All risks that may cause injury or harm to staff, pupils, learners and visitors are identified, and all control measures that are reasonably practicable are in place to avoid injury or harm
- Risk assessments are conducted and reviewed on a regular basis

Legislation and statutory requirements

This policy is based on the following legislation and Department for Education (DfE) guidance:

Birtenshaw Education Services Risk Assessment Policy

Reviewed July 2023- AS

Next Review: September 2024

- Paragraph 16 of part 3 of The Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 which requires proprietors to have a written risk assessment

Definitions

Risk assessment	A tool for examining the hazards linked to a particular activity or situation, and establishing whether enough precautions have been taken in order to prevent harm from them based on their likelihood and their potential to cause harm
Hazard	Something with the potential to cause harm to people, such as chemicals or working from height
Risk	The chance (high or low) that people could be harmed by hazards, together with an indication of how serious the harm could be
Control measure	Action taken to prevent people being harmed

Roles and responsibilities

The governing board

The governing board has ultimate responsibility for health and safety matters in the school, but will delegate day-to-day responsibility to the Executive Head teacher and Head of School.

The governing board has a duty to take reasonable steps to ensure that staff and pupils are not exposed to risks to their health and safety. This applies to activities on or off the school premises.

The governing board, also has a duty to:

- Assess the risks to staff and others affected by school activities in order to identify and introduce the health and safety measures necessary to manage the risks
- Inform employees about risks and the measures in place to manage them

The Director, Assistant Director and Head of School, are responsible for quality assuring all risk assessments and checking that they are completed and reviewed.

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Service Managers / Class Teachers

Service Managers and Class Teachers are responsible for completing and reviewing all risk assessments.

School staff and volunteers

School staff are responsible for:

- Assisting with, and participating in, risk assessment processes, as required
- Familiarising themselves with risk assessments
- Implementing control measures identified in risk assessments
- Alerting the head of service to any risks they find which need assessing

Pupils and parents

Pupils and parents are responsible for following the school's advice in relation to risks, on-site and off-site, and for reporting any hazards to a member of staff.

Contractors

Contractors are expected to provide evidence that they have adequately risk assessed all their planned work.

Risk assessment process

When assessing risks in the school, we will follow the process outlined below.

We will also involve staff, where appropriate, to ensure that all possible hazards have been identified and to discuss control measures, following a risk assessment.

Step 1: identify hazards – we will consider activities, processes and substances within the school and establish what associated-hazards could injure or harm the health of staff, pupils and visitors.

Step 2: decide who may be harmed and how – for each hazard, we will establish who might be harmed, listing groups rather than individuals. We will bear in mind that some people will have special requirements, for instance pupils with special educational needs (SEN) and expectant mothers. We will then establish how these groups might be harmed.

Step 3: evaluate the risks and decide on control measures (reviewing existing ones as well) – we will establish the level of risk posed by each hazard and review existing control measures. We will balance the level of risk against the measures needed to control them and do everything that is reasonably practicable to protect people from harm.

Step 4: record significant findings – the findings from steps 1-3 will be written up and recorded in order to produce the risk assessment. A risk assessment template can be found in appendix 2 of this policy.

Step 5: review the assessment and update, as needed – we will review our risk assessments, as needed, and the following questions will be asked when doing so:

- Have there been any significant changes?
- Are there improvements that still need to be made?
- Have staff or pupils spotted a problem?
- Have we learnt anything from accidents or near misses?

Step 6: retaining risk assessments – risk assessments are retained for the 3 years after the length of time they apply. Risk assessments are securely disposed of.

Monitoring arrangements

Risk assessments are written as needed and reviewed as required by a relevant manager.

Links with other policies

This risk assessment policy links to the following policies:

- Health and safety
- First aid
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Safeguarding
- Community and Educational Visits Policy