



## **Policy for outdoor play equipment**

**Aim of The Langley Academy Trust:** To provide an outstanding education for every child in the trust through high aspirations and through the principles of quality learning using curiosity, exploration and discovery

### **Introduction**

Opportunities for balancing, climbing, hanging and swinging are planned both within the physical education curriculum and during breaks outside, including free-flow and lunch-time.

### **Safe use of equipment**

#### **Supervision:**

Children are supervised at all times whilst using outdoor play equipment, our risk assessment, takes into account observation points and line of sight. Supervising staff are familiar with the equipment, the rules for use and the ability of the children.

#### **General guidelines**

- All pupils are educated about the use of climbing equipment.
- Staff on duty ensure that outdoor play equipment is visible and can be appropriately supervised when in use.
- Staff on duty have a responsibility to report any defects they notice as soon as is reasonably possible.
- Staff/supervisors have a responsibility to ensure appropriate behaviour
- Consideration is given to weather conditions, outdoor play equipment will not be used during wet or icy conditions.
- Apparatus will only be used at appropriate times when supervised.
- Parents have been informed that the apparatus is for school aged children only and not to be used before and after school.

#### **Clothing/Footwear**

- Suitable clothing and footwear must should be worn.

#### **Zoning of Activities**

- Consideration is also given to the range of activities occurring within the playground area:
- Ball games/chasing games are sited away from the climbing area.
- In the EYFS outdoor area, wheeled toys are used away from the climbing area.

#### **Play Equipment Standards**

- All outdoor play equipment has been designed, constructed, installed and maintained in accordance with European standards
- These European standards are not retrospective or a legal requirement but represent good practice in the event of an accident claim.

- An independent competent person carries out an annual inspection and maintenance, and advises whether any alterations need to be made
- Height is not be the dominant feature on any item of equipment. Interest, challenge and enjoyment are the most important factors.

### **Inspection and maintenance**

BS EN 1176 recommends that all outdoor play equipment be inspected and maintained on a regular basis. Such inspection and maintenance is at 3 levels.

**Level 1 checks** – Daily / pre use checks by staff (these do not require formal recording) and checks by site supervisor

- Concentrating on the following points:
- No evidence of obvious wear / damage
- Area safe from health hazards e.g. needles, glass, faeces etc.
- Impact absorbing surfaces no cuts, tears, wear or unstuck areas
- All fastening tightly secured
- No broken chains, stretched links or loose or twisted shackles
- Uprights unbroken and firm in the ground

Where any defects / hazards are identified appropriate steps must be taken to prevent use until problems have been satisfactorily resolved.

**Level 2 checks** – half-termly inspection in house

A more thorough check of the equipment to be conducted termly by the site supervisor and these records are kept on site.

**Level 3 checks** – annual inspection

A detailed certified inspection by an independent competent person capable of inspecting to BS EN 1176 and 1177 these checks are formally recorded and records kept on site.

Such checks ensure safety and identifies any improvements required in terms of the European standards

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