

GENERAL SCHOOLS RISK ASSESSMENT

School employees using this risk assessment must be aware of and refer to the CLEAPSS guidance mentioned in the 'existing control measures' section



PART A. ASSESSMENT DETAILS:

Area/task/activity: Messy play

Location of activity: In the classroom and on the school grounds

School name: Address & Contact details:	Tonacliffe Primary School Tonacliffe Road Whitworth OL12 8SS	Name of Person(s) undertaking Assessment:	Charlotte Clutterbuck
		Signature(s):	<i>C.L. Clutterbuck</i>
Headteacher (Name):	Joanne Heap	Date of Assessment:	02.07.2026
Signature:	<i>J. B. Heap</i>	Planned Review Date:	01.09.2027
How communicated to staff:	Teachers' Shared Drive/ INSET training 01.09.2026	Date communicated to staff:	01.09.2026

PART B. HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL MEASURES:

List of significant hazards (something with the potential to cause harm)	Who might be harmed	Type of harm	Existing controls (actions already taken to control the risk - include procedure for the task/activity where these are specified)
Lack of planning and preparation for the activity	Pupils, staff, adult volunteers	Potential spread of infectious disease, minor injury, cuts, sunstroke, dehydration, chills etc	- The below CLEAPSS guides are used by staff as a lesson planning and reference document prior to organising an activity: - P094 – Working safely outdoors - P092 – Mud kitchens and potions - CLEAPSS Explore 8 - Staff assess the weather conditions prior to allowing messy play outside. - Outdoor play is avoided in high winds or thunderstorms. - Suitable clothing/footwear must be worn by staff and pupils. - In hot, sunny weather pupils require sunscreen and sun hats to be worn if outside and play time is limited; shaded areas should be used where possible.

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			In cold and / or wet weather, layers, coats, waterproof clothing and wellies are to be worn.
Germs and micro-organisms	Pupils, staff, adult volunteers	Infection, illness	- Strict hygiene controls are in place to prevent the transfer of germs/micro-organisms. - Good handwashing routines are established with the pupils' hands to be washed thoroughly before and after messy play and prior to eating or drinking. - Pupils are instructed to keep their hands away from their face and not to put anything in their mouth. - Frequently touched surfaces and equipment, tools and resources are thoroughly cleaned and dried before they are used by different groups.
Rubbish or broken glass in outdoor area	Pupils, staff, adult volunteers	Trips, sharps injuries such as cuts	- Staff check the outside area used for the activity is clear of any rubbish and sweep/tidy the area at the beginning and end of each session. - Any rubbish is disposed of safely.
Animal faeces in the outdoor area	Pupils, staff, adult volunteers	Infection and illness, such as, campylobacter, salmonella	- Staff safely remove any animal faeces, ensuring appropriate personal protective equipment is worn, and that it is double bagged and disposed of in the correct external bin. - The play area will be thoroughly cleaned prior to use.
Toys and resources unclean or faulty	Pupils, staff, adult volunteers	Illness due to spread of germs, minor cuts/scrapes	- Staff carry out checks of all the equipment and resources prior to use to ensure everything is clean and in good condition. - Toys and resources are cleaned regularly. - Anything broken or damaged is removed or replaced.
Poor housekeeping resulting in slips or trips	Pupils, staff, adult volunteers	Sprains, bumps, bruises, cuts, grazes	Staff are always vigilant ensuring the floor is dry and free from trip hazards.

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List of significant hazards (something with the potential to cause harm)	Who might be harmed	Type of harm	Existing controls (actions already taken to control the risk - include procedure for the task/activity where these are specified)
			- Any spills on the floor will be mopped up straight away. - Staff ensure that equipment and resources are stored appropriately and safely at the end of each play session. - Staff supervise the session and encourage pupils to 'choose it, use it and put it away'; - Staff set out clear rules on how many toys/equipment can be out at any one time and encourage the pupils to tidy up any toys/equipment they are no longer playing with to keep the area safe and uncluttered.
Water becoming contaminated with soil/insects/micro-organisms and being: -ingested -splashed into the eyes -splashed onto clothes -spilt on the floor -used for too long	Pupils, staff, adult volunteers	Infection or allergic reaction Irritation to the eyes or skin Chills from wearing wet clothing Dryness/cracking of skin Slips resulting in sprains, bumps, bruises, cuts, grazes	- Staff change the water at the beginning of each session - Staff ensure the pupils are wearing suitable clothing/footwear for water play. - Staff ensure the pupils wash their hands regularly and before eating or drinking. - In the event of clothing getting too wet pupils will change into dry, clean, spare clothes. - Staff ensure the pupils do not carry water from inside to outside during the session in order to avoid potential spillages resulting in slips. - Staff/adults clean up any spillages immediately where these may pose a slipping hazard. - Staff involve the pupils in assessing the risks of blowing bubbles or spraying water and teach them how to do it safely. - Staff supervise the use of bubble equipment. - Staff will ensure wet play time is limited to prevent pupils from having their hands in the water for too long. - All water trays are emptied at the end of the session and refreshed with clean water.

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			• If pupils have transported soil/sand or other materials into the water the trays will be thoroughly cleaned before they are refreshed with clean water. • Staff ensure that all water toys are drained, cleaned, and left to dry overnight – toys are regularly sterilised and checked for mould.
Sand becoming contaminated with dirt/insects/micro-organisms and being: -ingested -spilt on the floor -transferred into the eyes	Pupils, staff, adult volunteers	Infection or allergic reaction Irritation to the eyes Slips resulting in sprains, bumps, bruises, cuts, grazes	• Staff check that the sand is clean and safe at the beginning and end of each session. The area around the sand pit is checked each day for any contamination such as rubbish or animal droppings • Only sterilised play sand is used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and will be changed when it becomes contaminated. • Staff ensure the pupils wash their hands regularly and before eating or drinking. • Staff involve the pupils in discussions around safety in the sand pit and how to get in and out safely. • Staff monitor the number of pupils allowed in the sand pit to reduce the risk of collisions. • Staff monitor and clear any build-up of sand from around the pit; • Staff instruct the pupils to tidy away small amounts of spilt sand with a dustpan and brush. Large amounts of spilt sand will be swept up by staff/adults. • Staff explain and discuss the dangers and risks of throwing sand with the pupils. • Staff sweep sand from the sandpit walls into the sandpit before the cover is placed over it. • Staff ensure that a sandpit cover is used and is put on at the end of each day or when not in use to avoid the risk of contamination or foreign objects getting into the sand.

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Mud Kitchen Mud being: -ingested -spilt on floor causing skidding or slips -transferred into the eyes	Pupils, staff, adult volunteers	Infection or allergic reaction Irritation to the eyes or skin Slips resulting in sprains, bumps, bruises, cuts, grazes Clothes getting dirty	• Staff ensure the pupils wash their hands regularly and before eating or drinking. • Pupils are instructed to not eat or drink in this area. • Any pupils with special needs or who are likely to explore putting things into their mouths have appropriate levels of supervision when playing in this area. • Staff check the soil for any contaminants before play and to ensure that only purchased loam topsoil is used, not soil from the ground or garden which may contain fertilisers, pesticides, faeces, or manure. • Staff ensure the pupils wear appropriate clothing/footwear for this play. • Staff check tools/equipment at the beginning of play to ensure they are in good condition and safe for use. • Staff monitor the floor areas for water or mud spillages and mop up as and when necessary to avoid slips. • Pupils are reminded not to overload their buckets and baskets to avoid spills. • Pots, pans and utensils are stored at low level within easy reach. • Water containers are emptied and checked for contaminants regularly.
Paint being: -ingested -spilt on floor causing skidding or slips -getting into the eyes	Pupils, staff, adult volunteers	Infection or allergic reaction Irritation to the eyes or skin Slips resulting in sprains, bumps, bruises, cuts, grazes Clothes getting	• Only water-based paints are used and the manufacturer's instructions for the use of any paint is followed. • Staff ensure that pupils are wearing appropriate clothing/footwear for messy paint play. • Any pupils with special needs or who are likely to use the paint inappropriately have adequate levels of supervision when painting. • Staff ensure pupils wash their hands regularly and before eating or drinking.

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List of significant hazards (something with the potential to cause harm)	Who might be harmed	Type of harm	Existing controls (actions already taken to control the risk - include procedure for the task/activity where these are specified)
		damaged	- Any spillages are cleaned up promptly to avoid slips. - All paint pots and brushes are thoroughly cleaned after use. - Paints are stored securely when not in use.

This general risk assessment will apply to this area/task/activity in most schools providing the control measures described are in operation and there are no further local significant hazards. If it does not fully apply, please complete the Action Plan at Part C. If it fully applies please sign below.

I certify that the risk assessment above fully applies to the area/task/activity under assessment in Tonacliffe Primary School

Signed: *Mrs C L Clutterbuck*

Name: Charlotte Clutterbuck

Risk Assessor: Charlotte Clutterbuck

PART C: ACTION PLAN Further action / controls required						
Hazard	Action required	Person(s) to undertake action?	Priority	Projected time scale	Notes / comments	Date completed