

Health and Safety – General Policy

At Alton College Nursery we provide and maintain safe and healthy working conditions, equipment and systems of work for all our employees and a safe early learning environment in which children learn and are cared for. To develop and promote a strong health and safety culture within the nursery for the benefit of all staff, children and parents, we provide information, training and supervision. We also accept our responsibility for the health and safety of other people who may be affected by our activities.

The allocation of duties for safety matters and the particular arrangements which we will make to implement our health and safety procedures are set out within this policy and we make sufficient resources available to provide a safe environment.

Legal framework

We follow all relevant legislation and associated guidance relating to health and safety within the nursery including:

- The requirements of the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2021
- The regulations of the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and any other relevant legislation such as Control Of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulation (COSHH)
- Any guidance provided by Public Health England, the local health protection unit, the local authority environmental health department, fire authority or the Health and Safety Executive.

Aims and objectives

The aim of this policy statement is to ensure that all reasonably practical steps are taken to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all persons using the premises.

To achieve this we will actively work towards the following objectives:

- Establish and maintain a safe and healthy environment throughout the nursery including outdoor spaces
- Establish and maintain safe working practices amongst staff and children
- Make arrangements for ensuring safety and the minimising of risks to health in connection with the use, handling, storage and transport of hazardous articles and substances

- Ensure the provision of sufficient information, instruction and supervision to enable all people working in or using the nursery to avoid hazards and contribute positively to their own health and safety and to ensure that staff have access to regular health and safety training
- Maintain a healthy and safe nursery with safe entry and exit routes
- Formulate effective procedures for use in case of fire and other emergencies and for evacuating the nursery premises. Practice this procedure on a regular basis to enable the safe and speedy evacuation of the nursery
- Maintain a safe working environment for pregnant workers or for workers who have recently given birth, including undertaking appropriate risk assessments
- Maintain a safe environment for those with special educational needs and disabilities and ensure all areas of the nursery are accessible (wherever practicable)
- Provide a safe environment for students or trainees to learn in
- Encourage all staff, visitors and parents to report any unsafe working practices or areas to ensure immediate response by the management.

We believe the risks in the nursery environment are low and we will maintain the maximum protection for children, staff and parents. The nursery:

- Ensures all entrances and exits from the building, including fire exits are clearly identifiable and remain clear at all times
- Regularly check the premises room by room for structural defects, worn fixtures and fittings or electrical equipment and take the necessary remedial action
- Ensures that all staff, visitors, parents and children are aware of the fire procedures and regular fire drills are carried out
- Has the appropriate fire detection and control equipment which is checked regularly to make sure it is in working order
- Ensures that all members of staff are aware of the procedure to follow in case of accidents for staff, visitors and children
- Ensures that all members of staff take all reasonable action to control the spread of infectious diseases and wear protective gloves and clothing where appropriate
- Ensures there are suitable hygienic changing facilities
- Prohibits smoking/vaping on the nursery premises
- Prohibits any contractor from working on the premises without prior discussion with the manager in charge
- Encourages children to manage risks safely and prohibit running inside the premises unless in designated areas

- Risk assesses all electrical sockets and take appropriate measures to reduce risks where necessary and ensure no trailing wires are left around the nursery
- Ensures all cleaning materials are placed out of the reach of children and kept in their original containers
- Prohibits certain foods that may relate to children's allergies, e.g. nuts / kiwi are not allowed in the nursery
- Follows the EU Food Information for Food Consumers Regulations (EU FIC). These rules are enforced in the UK by the Food Information Regulations 2014 (FIR). We identify the 14 allergens listed by EU Law that we use as ingredients in any of the dishes we provide to children and ensure that all parents are informed
- Follows the allergies and allergic reactions policy for children who have allergies
- Ensures risk assessments are undertaken on the storage and preparation of food produce within the nursery
- Familiarises all staff and visitors with the position of the first aid boxes and ensure all know who the appointed first aiders are
- Provides appropriately stocked first aid boxes and check their contents regularly
- Ensures children are supervised at all times
- Ensures no student or volunteer is left unsupervised at any time
- Ensures staff paediatric first aid certificates are made available to parents upon request.

Responsibilities

The designated Health and Safety Officer in the nursery is Jo Osgood. This is overseen by **HSDC Health and Safety Officer**

The employer has overall and final responsibility for this policy being carried out at:
 Alton College Nursery,
 Old Odiham Road,
 Alton,
 Hampshire,
 GU34 2LX

The nursery manager/deputy nursery managers will be responsible in his/her absence.

All employees have the responsibility to cooperate with senior staff and the manager to achieve a healthy and safe nursery and to take reasonable care of themselves

and others. Neglect of health and safety regulations/duties will be regarded as a disciplinary matter.

Whenever a member of staff notices a health or safety problem which they are not able to rectify, they must immediately report it to the appropriate person named above. Parents and visitors are requested to report any concerns they may have to the manager.

Daily contact half termly staff meetings provide consultation between management and employees. This will include health and safety matters.

Health and safety training

Health and safety is covered in all induction for new staff.

Training table

Area	Training required	Who
Paediatric First aid	Course	All staff
Safeguarding/Child protection	In house training/external courses	All staff and students
Care of babies	In house training / Local Authority / Noodle Now	All Staff
Risk assessment	In house training	All staff
Fire safety procedures	In house training	All staff and students
Food hygiene	In house training / noodle now	All staff

Allergy awareness	In house training	All staff and students
Manual handling	In house training	All staff
Changing of nappies	In house training	All staff and students
Fire warden duties	External course/in house	Fire Warden: Manager and deputies
Medication requiring technical or medical knowledge e.g. Epi Pen	External course/In house First Aid Training	As required
SENCO	External course	SENCO
Supervision and appraisal	College Support	Manager and deputies

Our trained paediatric first aiders are:

Jo Osgood, Kayleigh Murrell, Ellie Stevenson, Jess Murrell, Rachel Shipp, Sandra Vincent, Alison Jones.

Health and safety arrangements

- All staff are responsible for general health and safety in the nursery
- Risk assessments will be conducted on all areas of the nursery, including rooms, activities, outdoor areas, resources and cleaning equipment
- These are reviewed at regular intervals and when arrangements change
- All outings away from the nursery will include a prior risk assessment
- All equipment, rooms and outdoor areas are checked thoroughly by staff before children access them or the area. These checks are recorded and initialed by the staff responsible. Unsafe areas are made safe where possible or the area is not used to promote the safety of children. In these cases the manager will be notified immediately
- We provide appropriate facilities for all children, staff, parents and visitors to receive a warm welcome and provide for their basic care needs, e.g. easy to access toilet area and fresh drinking water

- The nursery will adhere to the Control Of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulation (COSHH) to ensure all children, staff, parents and visitors are safe in relation to any chemicals we may use on the premises
- All staff and students will receive appropriate training in all areas of health and safety which includes risk assessments, manual handling and fire safety during induction. We also use risk assessments for particular activities and resources for children
- We have a clear accident and first aid policy to follow in the case of any person in the nursery suffering injury from an accident or incident
- We have a clear fire safety policy and procedure which supports the prevention of fire and the safe evacuation of all persons in the nursery. This is shared with all staff, students, parents and visitors to the nursery
- We review accident and incident records to identify any patterns/hazardous areas
- All health and safety matters are reviewed informally on an ongoing basis and formally every six months or when something changes. Staff and parents will receive these updates, as with all policy changes, as and when they happen
- Staff and parents are able to contribute to any policy through the suggestion scheme and during informal discussion held at nursery.

The policy is kept up to date and reviewed especially when the nursery changes in nature and size. It is revised annually, or as and when required.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
<i>20th August 2022</i>	<i>Jo Osgood</i>	<i>20th August 2023</i>