

10: Physical Environment Policy

Our Club is committed to providing children with a stimulating and safe environment. We will do all we can to make our premises welcoming and friendly to children, their parents/carers and any other visitors.

The Club's premises are safe, secure and adequately spacious for its purpose. The environment and atmosphere of the Club is welcoming to children and offers access to the necessary facilities for a broad and varied programme of activities that promotes children's development.

The Club is committed to taking every possible step to ensure that all children have equal access to facilities, activities and play opportunities; including children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (for further details see the Equality and Diversity policy).

The club's premises comply with all the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and 1995 and all other relevant regulations and guidance, so far as possible for a Grade 1 listed building.

The Manager is responsible for ensuring that the Club's premises are clean, well lit, adequately ventilated and maintained at an appropriate temperature. Daily risk assessments are carried out, in accordance with the Risk Assessment policy, to ensure that the facilities are maintained in a suitable state of repair and decoration.

During the opening hours, the premises are used by and solely available to the Club, its staff and the children, as far as this is possible.

The Club will do all it can to maintain an open room layout, allowing children to move freely and choose from a variety of play opportunities and activities, ensuring equal opportunity to access all play options and environments.

The setting also ensures that there is an area where staff may talk to parents/carers confidentially.

All children will have adequate space to play and interact freely. The setting meets the requirements set by Ofsted even though this is based on younger children:¹

- Children aged three to five years: 2.3m² per child

There is adequate space for storing all the Club's equipment safely and securely.

Under normal circumstances, staff will ensure that there is one toilet and one wash basin with hot and cold water available for every 10 children, ensuring an adequate balance between male and female facilities.

No child will be left unsupervised in the kitchen area

Members of staff will have access to a telephone on the Club's premises at all times.

¹ 'These calculations are based on the useable areas of the rooms used by the children, not including storage areas, toilets, cloakrooms, kitchen etc.



Outdoor Play

Any outdoor play will take place in safe secure and well-supervised spaces. A thorough safety check and risk assessment will take place before any outdoor activities commence.

Outdoor play areas will be well maintained and free from holes, bumps or uneven surface areas. Drains, and any unnatural water will be made safe or inaccessible to children.

Any outside water features will be kept safe, and inaccessible to unsupervised children.

In the event of snow or ice on external walkways, staff will ensure that this is regularly cleared and kept safe.

Staff will make sure there is a regular supply of water available to children at all times, especially in hot conditions. In such circumstances, staff will also ensure that children are reminded to take precautions from the sun and if this is not possible to stay inside or under shelter outside, according to the provisions set out in the Health, Illness and Emergency policy.