

St Michael's Pre-school

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment

Providers must take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children, staff and others on the premises.

Health: The provider must promote the good health of children attending the setting.

Health and safety

3.2 Health and safety general standards

Policy statement

The Pre-school believes that the health and safety of children is of paramount importance. We make our setting a safe and healthy place for children, parents, staff and volunteers.

- We aim to make children, parents and staff aware of health and safety issues and to minimise the hazards and risks to enable the children to thrive in a healthy and safe environment.
- Our members of staff responsible for health and safety are:
Pre-school Leader
- They are competent to carry out these responsibilities.
- We display the necessary health and safety poster in the office

Insurance cover

We have public liability insurance and employers' liability insurance. The certificate for public liability insurance is displayed:

at the front of the main classroom

EYFS key themes and commitments

A Unique Child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
1.3 Keeping safe 1.4 Health and well-being		3.3 The learning environment	

Procedures

Awareness raising

- Our induction training for staff and volunteers includes a clear explanation of health and safety issues so that all adults are able to adhere to our policy and procedures as they understand their shared responsibility for health and safety. The induction training covers matters of employee well-being, alcohol and substance use. Also, safe lifting and the storage of potentially dangerous substances. The staff/student handbook details this information.
- Records are kept of these induction training sessions and new staff and volunteers are asked to sign the records to confirm that they have taken part.
- Health and safety issues are explained to the parents of new children so that they understand the part played by these issues in the daily life of the setting.
- As necessary, health and safety training is included in our training plans for staff, and health and safety is discussed regularly at staff meetings.
- We operate a no smoking policy.
- Children are made aware of health and safety issues through discussions, planned activities and routines.

Safety of adults

- Adults are provided with guidance about the safe storage, movement, lifting and erection of large pieces of equipment.
- When adults need to reach up to store equipment, they are provided with safe equipment to do so.
- All warning signs are clear and in appropriate languages (as necessary).
- We have procedures in place to maintain the safety of adults on the rare occasions that they are alone in the setting.
- Significant sickness of staff and their involvement in accidents is recorded. The records are reviewed half yearly to identify any issues that need to be addressed.

Windows

- Low level windows are made from materials that prevent accidental breakage or are made safe.
- Windows are protected from accidental breakage or vandalism from people outside the building. The whole site is secure out of pre-school hours.
- We ensure that any blind cords are secured safely and do not pose a strangulation risk for young children.

Doors

- We take precautions to prevent children's fingers from being trapped in doors.

Floors

- All floor surfaces are checked daily to ensure they are clean and not uneven, wet or damaged. Any wet spills are mopped up immediately.

Electrical equipment (no gas equipment)

- All electrical equipment conforms to safety requirements and is checked regularly.
- Our boiler/electrical switch gear/meter cupboard is not accessible to the children.
- Fires, heaters, wires and leads are properly guarded, and the children are taught not to touch them.
- Storage heaters are checked daily to make sure they are not covered.
- There are sufficient sockets to prevent overloading.
- The temperature of hot water is controlled to prevent scalds.
- Lighting and ventilation is adequate in all areas including storage areas.

Storage

- All resources and materials from which children select are stored safely.
- All equipment and resources are stored or stacked safely to prevent them accidentally falling or collapsing.

Outdoor area

- Our outdoor area is securely fenced. All gates and fences are childproof and safe.
- Our outdoor area is checked for safety and cleared of rubbish before it is used.
- Our outdoor area is checked for animal droppings and any other unsafe items before it is used.
- Adults and children are alerted to the dangers of poisonous plants, herbicides and pesticides.
- Where water can form a pool on equipment, it is emptied before children start playing outside.
- Our outdoor sand pit and digging area are covered when not in use and are cleaned/checked regularly.
- We check that children are suitably attired for the weather conditions and type of outdoor activities; ensuring that suncream is applied (where consent has been given) and hats are worn during the summer months.
- All outdoor activities are supervised at all times

Hygiene

- We take account of information from the Public Health England to ensure that we keep up-to-date with the latest recommendations.
- Our daily routines encourage the children to learn about personal hygiene.
- We have daily/weekly/half termly/termly and annually cleaning routines for the pre-school
- The toilet area has a high standard of hygiene including hand washing and drying facilities in close proximity.
- Nappies are hygienically wrapped and sent home with parents at the end of a session
- We implement good hygiene practices by:
 - cleaning tables between activities;
 - cleaning and checking toilets regularly;
 - wearing protective clothing – such as disposable gloves - as appropriate;
 - providing sets of clean clothes;
 - providing tissues and wipes; and ensuring individual use of paper towels.
 - washing hands regularly and with soap, particularly after nappy changing and before handling food.

Activities and resources

- Before purchase or loan, equipment and resources are checked to ensure that they are safe for the ages and stages of the children currently attending the setting. We keep a full inventory of all items in the setting for audit and insurance purposes.
- The layout of play equipment allows adults and children to move safely and freely between activities.
- All equipment is regularly checked for cleanliness and safety and any dangerous items are repaired or discarded.
- We separate from general use any areas that are unsafe because repair is needed.
- All materials, including paint and glue, are non-toxic.
- Sand is clean and suitable for children's play.
- Physical play is constantly supervised.
- Children are taught to handle and store tools safely.
- We check children who are sleeping at regular intervals of at least every ten minutes. This is recorded with the times checked and the initials of the person undertaking the check.
- If children fall asleep in-situ, it may be necessary to move or wake them to make sure they are comfortable.
- Children learn about health, safety and personal hygiene through the activities we provide and the routines we follow.

- Any faulty equipment is removed from use and is repaired. If it cannot be repaired, it is discarded.
- Large pieces of equipment are discarded only with the consent of the manager and the chairperson of the management committee.

Jewellery and accessories

- Our staff are careful not to wear jewellery or fashion accessories that may pose a danger to themselves or children.
- We ask that children do not wear generally wear jewellery to pre-school. Exceptions may be made but jewellery worn by children must pose no danger; particularly earrings which may get pulled, bracelets which can get caught when climbing or necklaces that may pose a risk of strangulation.

Control of substances hazardous to health


- Our staff implement the current guidelines of the *Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH)*.
- We keep a record of all substances that may be hazardous to health - such as cleaning chemicals, or gardening chemicals if used and where they are stored.
- Hazardous substances are stored safely away from the children.
- We carry out a risk assessment for all chemicals used in the setting. This states what the risks are and what to do if they have contact with eyes or skin or are ingested.
- We keep all cleaning chemicals in their original containers.
- We keep the chemicals used in the setting to the minimum in order to ensure health and hygiene is maintained
- Environmental factors are taken into account when purchasing, using and disposing of chemicals.
- All members of staff are vigilant and use chemicals safely.
- Members of staff wear protective gloves as necessary when using cleaning chemicals.

Legal Framework

- Health and Safety at Work Act (1974)
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999)
- Electricity at Work Regulations (1989)
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) (2002)
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations (1992 (as amended 2004))
- Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations (1992)

Further guidance

- *Health and Safety Law: What you Should Know (HSE Revised 2009)*
- *Health and Safety Regulation...a Short Guide (HSE 2003)*
- *Electrical Safety and You (HSE 2012)*
- *Working with Substances Hazardous to Health: What You Need to Know About COSHH (HSE Revised 2009)*
- *Getting to grips with Manual Handling – Frequently Asked Questions (HSE 2011)*

This policy was adopted at a meeting of	St Michael's Pre-school
Held on	07/05/2024 (date)
Date to be reviewed	(date)
Signed on behalf of the management committee	
Name of signatory	Ellena Lloyd
Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)	Committee Chair