

01 Health and safety policy

Alongside associated procedures in 01.01 to 01.20 Health and safety, this policy was adopted by Little Doves Christian Pre-school on 2nd September 2021, reviewed Nov 2022, July 2023, Aug 2024, Nov 2024 and Dec 2025.

The designated health and safety assistant has Health & Safety Training Level 2 and regularly updates their knowledge and understanding. The name of the designated health and safety assistant is displayed during pre-school hours.

Aim

Little Doves CP is a suitable, clean and safe place for children to be cared for, where they can grow and learn. All the statutory requirements for health and safety are met and the criteria for meeting the Early Years Foundation Stage Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements is fulfilled. The necessary health and safety poster is displayed in the main hall by the main exit noticeboard.

Objectives

- Little Doves CP recognises that it has a corporate responsibility and duty of care towards those who work in and receive a service from the provision. Individual staff and service users at Little Doves CP also have responsibility for ensuring their own safety as well as that of others. Adherence to policies and procedures and risk assessment is the key means through which this is achieved.
- Insurance is in place (including public liability) and an up-to-date certificate is always displayed in the main hall by the main exit noticeboard.
- Risk assessment is carried out to ensure the safety of children, staff, parents and visitors. Legislation requires all those individuals in the given workplace to be responsible for the health and safety of premises, equipment and working practices.
- Smoking is not allowed on the premises, both indoors and outdoors. If children use any public space that has been used for smoking, members of staff ensure that there is adequate ventilation to clear the atmosphere. Staff do not smoke whilst in their work clothes and are requested not to smoke within at least one hour of working with children. The use of electronic cigarettes is not allowed on the premises.
- Staff must not be under the influence of alcohol or any other substance which may affect their ability to care for children. If staff are taking medication that they believe may impair them, they must seek further medical advice and only work directly with children if that advice is that the medication is unlikely to impair their ability to look after children. The pre-school manager is informed.
- Alcohol must not be bought onto the premises for consumption.
- An appropriate risk assessment (forms 01.1a – 1n) and access audit (form 01.1j) are carried out for each situation/area and the procedure is modified according to needs identified for the specific environment/situation.

- Risk assessments are monitored and reviewed by those responsible for health and safety.

Legal references

Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974

Health and Safety (Consultation with Employees) Regulations 1996

Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999)

Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005)

Electricity at Work Regulations (1989)

Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the hygiene of foodstuffs

Manual Handling Operations Regulations (1992) (Amended 2002)

Medicines Act (1968)

Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) (Amendment) Regulations 2012

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2004

Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981

Childcare Act 2006

Further guidance

Dynamic Risk Management in the Early Years (Alliance 2017)

Health and Safety Executive www.hse.gov.uk/risk

Food Standards Agency www.food.gov.uk

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government www.communities.gov.uk