

Howe Dell Day Care

Physical Environment Policy

Policy adopted in August 2007, to be reviewed May 2026

Aim

Our aim is to provide an environment for children, which is stimulating, safe and secure. It is warm, welcoming and friendly to children, parents/carers, staff and visitors, and offers access to a range of activities, which promote children's development and are inclusive to all children.

Procedure

We are committed to ensuring that our premises are safe, secure, and adequately spacious, providing a welcoming environment and atmosphere for all children.

In line with our *Equal Opportunity and Special Educational Needs Policy*, we strive to ensure that all children, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities, have equal access to our facilities, activities, and play opportunities.

Responsibilities and Maintenance

The Manager, Deputy Manager, and Assistant Deputies are responsible for ensuring that the premises are clean, well-lit, adequately ventilated, and maintained at an appropriate temperature. Regular risk assessments will be conducted to ensure the facilities remain in a good state of repair and decoration, in accordance with the *School's Health and Safety Policy*.

There is adequate storage space for all equipment, ensuring it is stored safely and securely.

Facilities and Accessibility

All toilets and wash basins will be kept clean, safe, and accessible to children at all times.

Staff will have access to two-way radios within their rooms to support communication and safety.



Rooms will be laid out to enable child-led play, allowing children to choose their own activities and access a variety of play opportunities.

Outdoor Play and Environment

Outdoor play will take place in a safe, secure, and well-supervised area. Prior to any outdoor activity, a risk assessment and safety check will be conducted. Outdoor areas will be well-maintained, and efforts will be made to keep them free from hazardous plants.

Weather and Environmental Considerations

Fresh drinking water will be available throughout the day, with particular attention during hot weather.

Staff will ensure all children are adequately protected from varying weather conditions and temperatures.

Procedures are in place to clear snow and ice from pathways and outdoor areas when needed.

Reporting and Communication

Staff are expected to report any repairs, breakages, or maintenance issues to the Manager or Facilities Team promptly, so these can be addressed by the relevant personnel.

We welcome feedback from parents and carers. Any concerns or observations regarding the condition of the premises, both indoors and outdoors, should be reported to staff.