HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Vishenka Nursery

Policy owner Luchia Vanyatynska, Health and Safety Officer
Approved by Tatiana Henderson-Stewart, Nursery Director
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Vishenka Nursery believes that the health and safety of children is of paramount importance. We make our nursery 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.

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 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**, group and school-based providers, effective 1 September 2026.
The regulations of the **Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974**, and any other relevant legislation such as the **Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002**.
The **Food Information Regulations 2014**, which enforce the EU Food Information for Consumers Regulation in the UK.
Guidance from the **UK Health Security Agency** — *Health protection in children and young people's settings, including education* — including the public health exclusion periods table.

Guidance from the **Food Standards Agency**, the local authority environmental health department, the fire authority, and the **Health and Safety Executive**. **The Lullaby Trust** guidance on safer sleep, and currentNHS weaning information.
The requirements of the **Crime and Policing Act 2026** in relation to DBS and barred list checks for staff, students and volunteers, and current DBS guidance for childcare providers.

The EYFS statutory framework is published on GOV.UK. We link to the GOV.UK publication page rather than a direct file, so that the reference remains current when the framework is republished. Current guidance on health protection in education and childcare settings is published by UKHSA, and COSHH essentials for nurseries is available from HSE.

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. Practise 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 .
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.

Safer sleep

The nursery follows the safer sleep requirements of theEYFS 2026 framework and The Lullaby Trust guidance. We will:

Place babies to sleep **on their backs**, in their own separate sleep space.
Ensure babies **under 12 months sleep in a cot**.
Use **firm, flat, waterproof mattresses**, with bedding secured and babies positioned **feet to foot**.
Keep sleep spaces **clear of pillows, cot bumpers, wedges, loose blankets and soft toys**.
Maintain a **recommended room temperature of 16–20°C**, recorded on the sleep log.
Ensure babies **under 6 months sleep in the same room as an adult** who can monitor them appropriately.
Keep sleeping children **within sight and/or hearing at all times**, with active and continuous supervision.
Record all sleeps and checks, and review sleep records regularly for patterns.

Safer eating, weaning and choking prevention

The nursery follows the EYFS 2026 safer eating requirements. We will:

Supervise children appropriately while eating and drinking.
Seat children appropriately for all meals and snacks, and never allow eating while moving, running or lying down.
Follow safe weaning practices in line with current NHS weaning information.
Maintain arrangements to reduce choking risks, including food preparation, texture and portion guidance for each age group.
Ensure all staff are trained in safe eating practices and know how to respond to a choking emergency.
Identify the 14 allergens listed in law in all food and snacks provided, and inform all parents.

Screen use and electronic devices

We **avoid screen use for children under 2**.
Screen time for children aged **2–5 is limited to no more than one hour per day**, and only where there is a clear learning and development purpose.

Staff use of personal mobile phones, cameras and recording devices is governed by our mobile phone and camera policy; devices are not used in sleep rooms, nappy-changing areas or toilets.
Children are protected from inappropriate photography or recording at all times.

General safety arrangements

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 checks the premises room by room for structural defects, worn fixtures and fittings or electrical equipment, and takes 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.
Prohibits smoking and 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 prohibits running inside the premises unless in designated areas.
Conducts risk assessments for all electrical sockets and takes appropriate measures to reduce risks where necessary. Ensures that 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; for example, nuts are not allowed in the nursery.
Follows the EU Food Information for Food Consumers Regulations , enforced in the UK by the Food Information Regulations 2014 . We identify the 14 allergens listed by EU law that are used as ingredients in any of the food and snacks we provide to children, and ensure that all parents are informed.

Follows the allergies and allergic reactions policy for children who have allergies.
Familiarises all staff and visitors with the position of the first aid boxes and ensures all know who the appointed first aiders are.
Appropriately stocks first aid boxes and checks their contents regularly.
Ensures children are supervised at all times.
Ensures no student, apprentice or volunteer is left unsupervised at any time.
Ensures staff paediatric first aid certificates are made available to parents upon request.

Animals on the premises

Banned dog breeds, including XL Bully type dogs, must not be kept or present on the nursery premises at any time, even where an exemption certificate exists. Visitors bringing dogs onto the premises must seek prior agreement from the manager, and no dog is permitted in children's play or sleep areas.

Responsibilities

Members of staff responsible for health and safety are:

— designated Health and Safety Officer
— Nursery Director

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 or 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 and termly staff meetings provide consultation between management and employees, and will include health and safety matters.

Health and safety matters are reported in the first instance to the Health and Safety Officer, and escalated to the Nursery Director where immediate action is required. Safeguarding concerns follow the separate safeguarding and child protection policy and are reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Training

Health and safety is covered in all inductions for new staff. All staff, students and volunteers receive training in risk assessment, manual handling, fire safety, safer sleep and safer eating. Safeguarding training is renewed **at least every two years**, with evidence of its impact on practice, in line with Working Together to Safeguard Children.

Our trained paediatric first aiders are: Anzelika Churyumova, Luchia Vanyatynska, Tatiana Henderson Stewart.

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; more details are included in our outings policy.
All equipment, rooms and outdoor areas are checked thoroughly by staff before children access them or the area. These checks are recorded and initialled 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, for example an easily accessible toilet area and fresh drinking water.
The nursery will adhere to the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 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.
We may also use benefit 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 or 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.

Review and key updates

The policy is kept up to date and reviewed **annually, or sooner where legislation, guidance or our arrangements change**. The last review was

; the next is due

. We welcome any useful comments from members of staff, parents and visitors regarding this policy.

Key updates in this version:

Updated to the EYFS statutory framework effective 1 September 2026, including the new safer sleep, safer eating, weaning and screen use requirements.
References to Public Health England replaced with the UK Health Security Agency and its current health protection guidance.
Stricter protocols for administering medication, with proper records and parental consent.
Enhanced allergy management, including the 14 statutory allergens and nut-free arrangements.
Infection control and hygiene procedures aligned to currentUKHSA exclusion guidance.
New clause prohibiting banned dog breeds on the premises.
Strengthened supervision requirements for students, volunteers and apprentices.