

Slimbridge Primary School Annual Health & Safety Report

The Health, Safety and Welfare of the children, staff and volunteers is a number one priority. The school has a comprehensive Health & Safety policy which is reviewed and updated annually and, in collaboration with Gloucestershire County Council, risk assessments are in place for all school activities including off-site visits. These are regularly reviewed to ensure they meet current requirements

Scheduled testing and maintenance contracts are in place for such items as fire alarms and extinguishers, and each term a fire drill is held for the whole school so that in the unlikely event of a fire occurring, children and staff are familiar with the evacuation procedure. Electrical equipment testing is carried out on all equipment annually. The Safeguarding, Health, Safety & Welfare Committee ensures that registers are completed and up to date, and generally monitors everyday health and safety issues that may arise. The LA usually carries out its own Health & Safety annual audit to ensure safe systems and procedures are in place, and to date we have always passed this.

The OPAL (Outdoor play and learning) programme has been very successful and Slimbridge School is held up as a model for other schools to visit for inspiration.

We are delighted with the outdoor classroom which was installed during the summer holiday and is being well used by the pupils. Thanks must go to FOSS for putting the bid into Tesco's and for arranging the very enjoyable opening ceremony attended by parents, guests and pupils.

Sadly, from time to time, there has been trespassing occurring during holiday periods, when undesirable graffiti has been left behind. This unsociable behaviour has meant that we will now install security cameras. We are working with community policing who will not hesitate to take action against the perpetrators. We also now carry out a weekly security sweep of the site to ensure that there isn't anything undesirable left behind which could cause injury to the children.

With the growing pupil numbers attending the school, parking is inevitably the main contention for the local community. It is encouraging to note that quite a few parents park at the Legion and walk the few hundred yards to school. Our regular newsletters remind parents that safety on the pavements is also necessary and scooters/bikes do not mix well with pedestrians. Regular assemblies reinforce this message to the children. It is hoped that the replacement/repairs to the bridges giving access to the rear of the school will be carried out within the next few months as this will relieve the congestion at the front of the school.

Staff and Governors continue to be vigilant on e-safety and parents/guardians are encouraged to be aware of what their children are accessing on the internet at home. At school, filters prevent access to unsuitable sites but a recent survey indicated that at home some children spend quite a few hours on unsupervised internet activity, which can pose a threat to their safety. Where concerns arise, staff will take immediate action by contacting the parents/guardians.

We have a schedule for all Policies throughout the year to enable these to be reviewed and updated as necessary in line with updated legislation and best practice guidance. In line with statutory requirements, many of these policies are published on the school website and hard copies can be requested from the school office.