

Slimbridge Primary School

Annual Health & Safety Report

The Health and Safety of the children, staff, volunteers and visitors to the school is always of the highest priority and this includes ensuring that the buildings, equipment and outside spaces are in good order, maintained to an acceptable standard and accessible to all so far as reasonably practicable.

Fire alarms and extinguishers are on a scheduled maintenance contract and every term, a fire drill is held, thereby ensuring, in the unlikely event of an incident, the children and staff are familiar with the evacuation procedures. All records of maintenance including PAT testing are monitored each term and recorded in the committee minutes.

Providing safe, yet inventive play opportunities are a challenge and the OPAL (outdoor play and learning) programme has continued to be very successful, for which the school has received a Platinum award. The addition of the sandpit constructed by members of the Explorer Scouts earlier this year has greatly enhanced the facilities available to the children during play time. Future plans include a Small World play area and an outdoor classroom which is being made possible by the Tesco community award scheme.

It is encouraging to note that a number of parents now regularly use the parking facilities at the British Legion and walk the short distance to school. Parking outside of school continues to be the community number one complaint but it is hoped that eventually, many more children will be encouraged to walk across the playing fields and in through the back entrance to the school. Money from the Solar Farm has enabled a feasibility study and progress towards replacing the bridge which hopefully will be completed during the early part of 2017.

Two Governors with experience in Health & Safety undertook a full site inspection in June and there were no major areas of concern. The LA representative did his annual inspection in the autumn and again, there were no concerns raised. Following recent press reports about the presence of Asbestos in hundreds of schools, we can confirm that a full Asbestos Survey was carried out some years ago and we can reassure parents there is no evidence of Asbestos within the school buildings.

As encouragement for everyone to keep as fit and healthy as possible, a fitness programme has been introduced and this is being monitored so the children can see their progress during the year. The majority of children are enthusiastic and enjoy the challenges. One positive effect is that the children seem more responsive during the whole of the school day.

On-line safety at school is controlled by filters which prevent access to unsuitable sites and material. Specific lessons and visits from the local police about keeping safe while using the internet at home are routinely held and children are encouraged to talk about sites they visit so that staff are alerted to any possible danger areas which can then be addressed with the parents.

All Policies coming under the remit of the Safeguarding, Health, Welfare & Personnel Committee have been reviewed, updated and where required by statutory regulations are uploaded to the school website.