



Policy	PE Health & Safety policy
Last reviewed on	October 2025
Next review date	October 2026
Approval level	Headteacher

Health & Safety policy in PE Policy

1. Introduction

As part of Cambridgeshire LA, our school adopts AFPE Safe Practice in Physical Education and Sport 2024 as its Policy on Health and Safety, which is subsumed into the county health and safety manual.

When teaching Physical Education teachers need to:

- Refer to county, school and PE Health & Safety policies
- Carry out risk assessment for activities e.g., use of apparatus, hard balls and bats and site of activities.
- Teach pupils how to take action to control risks themselves in order to carry out tasks safely.

The Health and Safety Committee of the Governing Body carry out termly inspections of the premises. Maintenance of large PE equipment is carried out annually. Any defects are reported.

2. Preparation

2.1 Clothing and Footwear

All children need to have PE kit on when they arrive at school.

Indoor Activities:	Shorts
	T-shirt
	Bare feet, soft-soled plimsolls or trainers
Outdoor Activities:	Shorts/Tracksuit bottoms/leggings
	T-shirt
	Sweatshirt
	Trainers
Swimming:	Swimming costume (in one piece)
	Towel
	Slip-on shoes
	Tracksuit or jumper and trousers or dressing gown

All long hair must be tied up with a plain band.

All jewellery must be removed, including earrings. When ears, etc. are newly pierced studs and rings cannot be removed for a period of around four to six weeks while the piercing heals. In such cases AfPE guidance should be followed, i.e.: -

- The following principles should be applied:
- All personal effects should be removed.
- If they cannot be removed, the teacher in charge should take action to make the situation safe (e.g., adjust the activity for the individual pupil or group).
- If the situation cannot be made safe, the individual pupil should not actively participate.

Taping over ear studs is sometimes used to make the situation safe. However, the adult in charge should be confident that this strategy would be effective.

Jewellery worn for religious reasons should be covered in an appropriate way; for example, a bracelet could be covered with a sweat band. Young children will be encouraged to leave jewellery, especially earrings at home on PE days. Other jewellery will be collected by the class teacher and taken with the class to the lesson. The school cannot be held responsible for lost or damaged jewellery.

2.2 Changing

2.2.1 Indoor Activities

Pupils will be in PE kit on arrival to school. Their shoes will be removed and placed by the side of the hall. Children will be supervised by a school adult or approved coaches.

Pupils will line up outside the hall until a member of staff is present and not be left in the hall unattended.

2.2.2 Outdoor Activities

Pupils will be in PE kit on arrival to school.

In summer, caps may be worn to protect children from the sun. The peaks could be turned round to the back of the head. Children may apply sun protection cream themselves, brought from home.

2.2.3 Swimming

Pupils will change under DBS adult supervision. Any pupils or teaching staff with any medical conditions should be brought to the attention of the Lifeguard or NRASTC. Where appropriate medications should be brought onto poolside e.g. asthma inhaler.

Adults will be distributed through pupils when walking to the pool. Staff and children will always cross roads at pelican crossing if possible, other times, adults will block road while pupils crossing in between.

No child should be allowed into the pool area unless the Centre Lifeguard is present poolside. The teacher must be in a position to see the whole group, at all times and therefore must teach from the side of the pool, with an assistant in the pool with children if available. Parent helpers to be placed in the gallery to watch children not participating.

When vacating the poolside, all teachers must remain on poolside until the last child has made their way to the changing areas to stop people re-entering the water.

3. Equipment

3.1 PE Container and Cupboard

The PE container and cupboard contains small games equipment and some larger items of gymnastic equipment. Children's access to the cupboard must be supervised by an adult.

3.2 Netball Posts

Netball posts will be erected by the caretaker, given sufficient notice. They are stored on the floor to the right of the PE container.

3.3. Safe Handling Procedures

Safe handling and use of all equipment will be taught and encouraged at all time. Specific procedures for lifting carry and placing sports apparatus correctly are taught and reinforced throughout the school.

Teachers are responsible for the safe and tidy storage of equipment they have used. Problems should be reported to the PE Subject Leader or Headteacher.

When lifting equipment pupils must:

- bend knees, back straight to lift and lower;

- always travel in a forward/sideways direction – be able to see in the direction they are travelling;
- place apparatus carefully in position;
- hold apparatus securely – thumbs separate from fingers;
- carry apparatus at waist height, not lifted to high.

Benches should be carried by a “wheels on the bus” formation. In KS1 this should be 4 children and in KS2 it should be 2 children. Mats should be carried in a similar way with 4 children in KS1 and at least 2 in KS2.

In addition, safety rules procedures for working on all apparatus are established and reinforced, including:

- checking of the apparatus prior to use;
- starting and stopping signals;
- stopping and moving off the apparatus to listen to instructions;
- clear expectation of noise levels permitted; a quiet working environment is essential so that problems can be identified immediately;
- rules about the number of pupils allowed on a single piece of apparatus at any one time. e.g., 4 children on a bench.

In addition:

- landing mats should not be placed near the wall bars;
- no more than 6 gymnastic set ups should be used at a time;
- apparatus plans should be used and shared with children.
- All gymnastic equipment is stored in the hall or PE cupboard. Teachers must ensure
- the apparatus is returned and stored safely in the correct place.

3.4 Small Games Equipment

Small PE equipment (i.e. balls, bats, cones) are stored in the PE cupboard off the hall. The equipment stored in a range of appropriate containers allows easy access and a safe handling situation. Specific rules and procedures for accessing the PE store and the equipment are outlined below and adhered to by all teachers. All teachers take on the responsibility of keeping the storeroom tidy and safe.

- Equipment being used in the current term is stored to be most easily accessible, therefore storage layout will vary through the year.
- The PE Subject Leader will check equipment termly but problems should be reported when noticed. Broken or damaged equipment must be removed and given to the coordinator or headteacher.
- The store cupboard may be accessed through either door but children should only enter the cupboard when supervised.
- No more than 2 children should be in the cupboard unless there is an adult present. With an adult 4 children may enter.
- Teachers should select and prepare the equipment for lessons to allow easy access at the beginning of a lesson.
- Children should only access small games equipment stored at floor level or on the first shelf. Teachers need to organise the access of heavier or higher equipment themselves

Teachers will check the equipment and the working space prior to the start of physical activity to ensure the teaching and learning environment is safe. Any damaged equipment or gymnastic apparatus should be reported to the PE Subject Leader.

4. Injuries, Accidents and Emergencies

4.1 Warm up

Safe preparation is an integral part of every lesson. Pupils always complete an appropriate warm up prior to physical activity. The warm up involves:

- a. Mobility exercise to prepare the joints;
- b. Pulse raising activities to prepare the cardiovascular system;
- c. Stretches to prepare the muscles and associated ligaments/connective tissues.

Aerobic activity which incorporates mobility of the joints is completed prior to stretching. Specific muscle groups are used that relate to the anticipated activity and about full range of motion. The warm up is a gradual and of a sufficient intensity to increase muscle/core temperature without causing fatigue or reducing energy stores.

4.2 First Aid Procedure

Within PE all teachers adhere to the school accident and emergency procedures.

A first aid box is situated in the Admin Kitchen and class teachers are to take out a First Aid bag and inhalers with them.

[help with when offsite]

4.3 Fire or Evacuation

In the event of evacuation of the hall, teachers will instruct children to pick up their shoes and leave by the appropriate exit. Children will put on their shoes when they reach a safe area. If the teacher judges the risk to the children to be high, shoes will be left behind.

5. Risk Assessment

In accordance with Safe Practice in Physical Education & Sport (2024) teachers will assess the risk from hazards in the working environment, hazards in different areas of activity and performing different movements or skills.

5.1 Risk Assessment of the Environment

At the beginning of the day the caretaker will look for and identify hazards in the working environment and report them to the headteacher.

Teachers will look for and identify hazards within the working environment, which could result in significant harm. Teachers will assess the working environment before children. At lunchtime the lunchtime supervisors will assess the outside environment for hazards.

Hall

- Objects which impinge in to the working space;
- Slippery floor surface;
- Glare from the sun;
- Restricted/obstructed access to the apparatus.

Field and Play Ground

- Objects which impinge in to the working space
- Glare from the sun;
- Rubbish on the working space;
- Holes in the playing surface;
- Permanent equipment in safe state i.e. football goals.
- Other users of public spaces

Risk assessments for particular working areas will be reviewed annually.

5.2 Risk Assessments of the Activities

Teachers will look for and identify hazards inherent within the teaching of different areas of the activity.

For example: Gymnastics, Lifting, transportation and placement of apparatus.

Teachers will consider:

- Does the storage of the apparatus provide easy access i.e. sufficient room for pupils to bend their knees and lift correctly?
- What information and training have the pupils received to ensure safe handling of the apparatus?
- When the apparatus is set out, is there sufficient space around between different sections.
- Are the mats strategically placed in relation to the apparatus to ensure safe exit point?

5.3 Answering a task, performing a specific movement/skill

For example: Jumping and landing off apparatus.

Teachers will consider:

- Have the pupils been taught how to land safely with control?
- Has the pupils' experience in jumping and landing been progressively developed so that the task/activity set is appropriate to their skill level and control?
- Do the pupils require mats to help cushion the landing?

When assessing each area of activity, teachers will assess whether, the necessary precautions been taken to ensure the risk are reduced as far as reasonably practical?

Key Points:

- PE equipment/apparatus should only be used for the type of task/activities it was intended for.
- Pupils require adequate information and training in the handling and using of PE equipment/apparatus.
- Learning experience must be progressively developed and differentiated to ensure the task/activities are appropriate and safe for all pupils.
- Ensure equipment/apparatus is safe to use through regular monitoring, maintenance and inspections

6. Review

This policy will be reviewed as part of the policy cycle by SLT