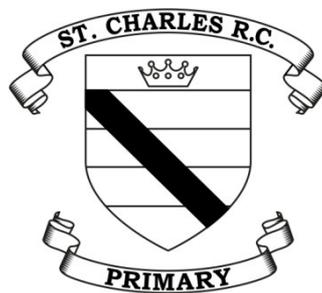


St Charles RC Primary School

Out of Hours Risk Assessment: School Grounds 2017-18



CHRIST IS AT THE CENTRE



Compassionate
Helpful
Respectful
Inclusive
Sharing
Truthful



St Charles RC Primary School

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Our mission at St. Charles RC Primary School is to try and centre our life in Jesus Christ, the spiritual foundation of our community.

We aim to pass on the faith we share in partnership with you.

We want the children in our care to grow and develop to their full potential within a caring Catholic community which recognises fully their true worth and God given talents. We look forward to working with you in a spirit of mutual trust and support.

We take pride belonging to St. Charles RC Primary School.

MISSION STATEMENT

As a family of God, we love to learn and learn to love

Introduction

This Risk Benefit Assessment (RBA) MUST be read alongside the introductory guidance to the assessment format which follows the guidance of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Play England. This RBA takes a balanced approach, which considers the benefits and pays attention primarily to the risks that could cause serious harm, rather than to all risks which could only cause minor injury. This RBA considers activity which would take place outside of school hours only and therefore would be unpermitted or unsupervised activity.

This assessment is comprised of 2 parts:

1. A risk assessment carried out by a safety consultant considering the general safety of the moat and its specific hazards at night

2. A risk benefit assessment of the entire school grounds when used outside of school hours. This takes the recommendations from the moat risk assessment into consideration and incorporates general procedures for managing the moat out of school hours

The risk benefit assessment considers the general safety of the moat as:

- a) a permanent, secured feature of the school grounds and
- b) as a site of significant public hazard during non-school hours
- c)

Risk assessment moat:

A risk assessment was conducted during daylight and night-time hours (dusk till dawn) on Friday 31/03/17 to ascertain the degree of access to the moat and to evaluate the conditions experienced should an individual enter the moat.

Method of evaluation: was by entering the moat from all angles, wading through and exiting

Weather: The evaluation was carried out in Spring weather in light rain

General overview: sees the moat situated wholly within the school grounds and to the left of the main building. The school perimeter fence is a solid metal fence with spiked posts at a height of 3.5metres this is adequate security to keep out trespassers.

The design: of the moat is in an S shape, it is shallow in all areas under 0.5 metres deep. There are stepping stones to cross the moat in 2 areas.

The moat bed: is composed of stones and gravel, the sides are soil

Findings: Other than daylight the areas around the pond has enough ambient light for an individual to judge distance and see obstacles. Light is provided from the fixed lights on the school building, the Sure Start Centre at the left and the football pitches to the right. There are also streetlights to the rear which add to the illumination of the area.

Conclusions and recommendations:

It is to be noted that it is not possible to keep a determined person from entering the moat and that risk to an unauthorised person is at their own risk as the school has taken all precautions reasonable to inform, keep safe and warn the individual of the risks associated with the moat.

1. Even though there is sufficient ambient light a solar motion sensitive light could be fixed directed at the moat: School action - to fit the light in April 2017
2. The depth should ideally be kept as shallow as possible; infants 60cm, junior 75cm: School action - moat depth 50cm at deepest point
3. Moat regularly maintained to ensure that the perimeter and the area around the moat does not deteriorate: School action - discuss with grounds maintenance team April 2017

4. Careful thorough washing of hands after moat activities and general hygiene should be observed: School action – routine in place

Training:

- It is imperative that procedures and regular training like fire drills are carried out to familiarise all in the event of moat safety, e.g. slips, trips into water and various methods of rescue, such as wading in, using the stepping stones etc.

Risk Assessment:

Activity/ potential hazard	How at risk	Persons at risk	Control measures	Risk Rating further actions
Contact with water	Contraction of water borne diseases	Pupils and staff	Advise caution and necessity not to put hands into mouths. Careful thorough washing of hands afterwards	Medium
Weil's disease	Contact with contaminated water	Pupils and staff	Obtain and follow local education guidelines re Weil's disease take sensible hygiene precautions: cover wounds grazes etc. Do not drink river water wash hands before eating	Low Take advice from Environment Agency if necessary
Drowning	Falling slipping into moat	Pupils	Verbal warning of hazard	Low
Slipping on edge of moat	Falling and injury	Pupils and staff	Constant supervision by adult during session to remind pupils to take care around boardwalk and moat edge. No running. Awareness that water levels change and need to assess conditions before and during activity. Good supervision of pupils to ensure sensible behaviour	Low
Nettles and brambles Contact with water creatures	Stings and scratches Bites from certain water creatures	Pupils and staff	Point out area of planting that could cause problems and supervise pupils whilst in pond area. Warn that animals need respect when being handled or could bite (water boatman)	Low
Nets	Injury through improper use	Pupils and staff	Emphasise behaviour expectations	Low

Being outside for a longer period than normal	Sunburn Cold weather	Pupils and staff	Advise the use of hats and sun protection if necessary Consideration of forecast and conditions of the day, provision of suitable clothing, footwear and equipment, dry spare clothing and emergence equipment Weather forecast obtained and leader makes decision whether or not to proceed or adapt activity on basis of weather forecast and conditions on the day	Low
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Benefits:

- From the school perspective, there would never be a promotion of benefit or any support given for the unsupervised use of the school grounds outside of school hours. Such use would be considered trespass.
- However we are responsible for the grounds and therefore have a duty of care for anyone, however legitimate, using the grounds outside of supervised time.
- We recognise that while strongly discouraged (through warning signage and word of mouth) that children may find the space attractive to play in outside of school hours.

Risks:

- We recognise that the controls that we have in place for management only apply in part and that the possible risks during the unsupervised use are greater and more severe.
- We recognise that we cannot predict every kind of activity, but from research and precedents undertaken, we have felt the following risks to be plausible and therefore worthy of consideration in this assessment
- Use of climbing equipment or structures without appropriate competency causing severe harm or injury.
- Climbing onto roofs, to the top of wooden poles, trees or roof of buildings without competency to fall or land safely, resulting in serious harm or injury
- Inappropriate use of equipment for thrill seeking, e.g. by bringing in ropes, animals, moving object or vehicles resulting in injury or severe harm
- Jumping into the moat resulting in harmful injury through swallowing of water or drowning. Pushing over a rock within the moat, causing serious injury if rock falls or traps a person nearby
- Injury or harm caused by setting fires to wooden structures or in any area of the playground with loose materials on site or brought into the site without proper

means of controlling or managing them due to competency access to water or influence of weather conditions.

Local factors:

- GMP monitor local area and activity. Police report lower incidence of disruptive behaviour and of break-ins to site over past 4 years.
- Community police have regular and good relationship with school and are notified of events and children's absence periods from school.
- Community police have offered advice on installing additional security measures and managing safety of vulnerable areas on site
- Local community are involved and aware of positive developments in school and manage and oversee behaviour of families and friends.

Precedents and or comparisons:

- Public sites such as playgrounds and parks suffer from vandalism and out of school hours use which are managed through access limitation controls and are kept safe from general users through good routine inspections by staff. Incidences of fatalities on UK public playgrounds during supervised (and unsupervised) periods average 1 fatality every 4 years (see David Ball – Playgrounds – risk benefits and choices, HSE)
- In addition to the water safety report, we considered fatality statistics to help us take a balanced perspective on the risks. Fatality statistics from National Water Safety and ROSPA are recorded annually. Incidences of drowning in children under age 10 in any water areas (including, home, coast, rivers) in 2014 in the UK totalled 12 (and for adults 324)
- Advice and guidance taken from National Water Safety Forum (WAIF) <http://www.nationalwatersafety.org.uk/about/principles.asp>
- Canals and rivers trust and ROSPA <http://www.rospace.com/leisure-safety/water/advice/children-young-people/>
- Water safety education shared with children and adult staff, particularly via swimming lessons
- Knowledge and awareness of hazards in public space are developed through family and social relationships and by experience.
- Schools have a long history of managing unsolicited intrusions or anti-social use of outside space or play areas

Actions taken:

Monitoring and safety checks:

- The moat is checked daily first thing in the morning particularly for intrusion and dangerous litter and the safety equipment is checked for damage and security.

- The moat area is monitored under our maintenance agreement with Wilkinson Garden Maintenance. Maintenance checks are carried out once a term.

Signage:

- We have placed signage around the entire perimeter explaining the land is private and entrance outside school hours is entirely at own risk

Lighting:

- Solar security lighting has been installed

Ongoing management and monitoring:

- We will review our safety procedures with our school safety consultant and with the council Health and Safety Officer on an annual basis
- Daily checks and monitoring of the moat area and activities identify changes to area and influence dynamic risk assessment processes
- Annual tree inspection to be carried out
- On-going education of staff through CPD and of children through conversation about hazards of natural environment and about routine hand washing after playtime
- We will record and reflect upon any incidents and adapt our practice and paperwork accordingly and inform all related community services.

Equalities Statement:

St Charles RC Primary School is committed to valuing diversity and to equality of opportunity. We aim to create and promote an environment in which pupils, parents and staff are treated fairly and with respect, and feel able to contribute to the best of their abilities. The Governing Body recognises that it is unlawful to take into account anyone's gender, marital status, colour, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, disability, religious beliefs, age or sexual orientation. Full consideration has been given to this during the formulation of this policy as it is the governors' aim that no-one at St Charles RC Primary school should suffer discrimination, either directly or indirectly, or harassment on any of these grounds.