

Ponds and Water Features Policy

Because of the dangers of water features to young children through drowning bacteriological poisoning / infections and also to slips and trips care needs to be taken when allowing children supervised access to land that contains ponds or water features. ROSPA Guidance has been followed

Pickering Pre-school Playgroup have been granted use of the Pickering Community Infant and Nursery School forest school area, subject to the school confirming we can use it on a date and time suitable to match the school not using it. This forest school area has a pond.

From time to time Pickering Pre-School Playgroup may take children on trips or visits where pond or water features may be present.

- Any visit location that contains a pond or water feature should be in a secure enclosed fenced area (vertical lattice type with a minimum 1.1m high and the lattice spacing no greater than 100mm), fencing is close panel without gaps accessible for toddlers at floor level or between horizontal or vertical beams. Spacing in any fencing should be much smaller the head size of a child to prevent neck or potential hanging injury.
- Pond entrances have fully lockable access points
- Pond entrances display appropriate warning signs
- Pond depth does not exceed adults being able perform a wading rescue.
- Visit planning identifies pupils with special needs or medical alerts
- In potentially cold weather the pond is checked for ice and any ice broken prior to children arriving.

Bacteriological Infections/Poisoning

- Planting has been referenced to eliminate poisonous plants
- Disposable gloves, grab tools for removing cans/rubbish from the pond area are used
- Hand washing facilities are readily available when handling plants, or animals and after pond dipping and before children return to the regular play within preschool.
- Nets, buckets etc. are of sound construction and are washed clean after use

Slips Trips and Falls

- Pond edges and access routes are clearly defined, preferable anti-slip platforms and in good order
- Staff and pupils are advised of emergency procedures
- Pond dipping is allocated to a safe secure area with direct visual supervision
- Appropriate wheelchair access been identified
- Appropriate footwear is worn taking into account the terrain and the weather conditions when visiting
- Staff carry a mobile phone or two way communication when at the pond area
- A portable first aid kit is carried by a staff

Any accident or potential safety incident involving water will be recorded

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Pickering Pre-School Playgroup held on 31st August 2023.

Date to be reviewed – Before end of August 2024.

Signed on behalf of the management committee

Name of signatory – Richard Allenby (Chairperson).