

Badger Club Policy 19 - Physical Environment and Equipment

Our Club is committed to providing children with a stimulating and safe environment. We will do all we can to make our premises welcoming and friendly to children, their parents/carers and any other visitors. The Club is also committed to providing children with access to a wide range of equipment that stimulates enjoyment, learning and development, both indoors and outdoors.

Premises refer primarily to the School hall and side equipment playground.

The Club's premises are safe, secure and adequately spacious for its purpose. The environment and atmosphere of the Club is welcoming to children and offers access to the necessary facilities for a broad and varied programme of activities.

The Club is committed to taking every possible step to ensure that all children have equal access to facilities, activities and play opportunities; including children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (for further details see the Special Needs policy).

The Manager is responsible for ensuring that the Club's premises are clean, well lit, adequately ventilated and maintained at an appropriate temperature. Weekly risk assessments are carried out, in accordance with the Risk Assessment policy, to ensure that the facilities are maintained in a suitable state of repair and decoration.

The Club will do all it can to maintain an open room layout, allowing children to choose from a variety of play opportunities. All children will have adequate space to play and interact freely (a minimum of 2.3 square metres' space per child).

There is adequate space for storing all the Club's equipment safely and securely.

Under normal circumstances, staff will ensure that there is one toilet and one wash basin with hot and cold water available for every 10 children, ensuring an adequate balance between male and female facilities.

No child will be left unsupervised in the kitchen area.

Members of staff will have access to a telephone on the Club's premises at all times.

Outdoor Play

Any outdoor play will take place in safe, secure and well-supervised spaces. A thorough safety check and risk assessment will take place on a weekly basis.

Outdoor play areas will be well maintained and free from holes, bumps or uneven surface areas. Ponds, drains, pools or any unnatural water will be made safe or inaccessible to children.

Badger Club Long Furlong School's After School Club, Boulter Drive, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 1XP

Charity number: 1175264 – Ofsted reg number: EY561085 04/07/2018

In the event of snow or ice on external walkways, staff will ensure that this is regularly cleared and kept safe.

Staff will make sure there is a regular supply of water available to children at all times, especially in hot conditions. In such circumstances, staff will also ensure that children are adequately protected from the sun, according to the provisions set out in the Health, Illness and Emergency policy.

Equipment

All furniture, toys and equipment are kept clean, well maintained and in good repair.

Equipment will be properly maintained and inspected in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. All electrical toys and equipment are subject to PAT (Portable Appliance Testing, this is done by the school), and that relevant staff are trained on the correct use of computers and other IT equipment.

Levels of staff supervision will be sufficient to ensure that the safety of children is assured, and set according to the type of equipment being used, along with the ages and number of children involved in a given activity.

The Club's equipment and resources reflect positive images with regard to culture, ethnicity, gender, and disability.

Resources will, whenever possible, show men and women in a variety of roles and jobs, and people with different abilities being both active and creative. Examples of everyday life will portray people from a variety of family groupings and cultural backgrounds in a range of non-stereotypical roles.

Outside a Club's opening hours, all equipment will be kept in a suitable and secure location; safe from unauthorised access or use. When discovered, defective or broken equipment will be taken out of use and stored in a safe place before being disposed of. Flammable equipment will be stored in a safe location away from sources of heat and/or naked flames.