



OPAL RISK – BENEFIT – Godinton Primary School

This document will provide a clear risk – benefit log of loose part items and equipment. It forms an essential part of our Opal Play Policy and our school Risk Assessment. All staff should be aware of the information held within the document.

Please note that no items intended for pupil use can be added to the play area without items being checked for safety by either the Site Manager, Mr Howard Rowson or the Opal Play Co-ordinator, Mrs Karen Carr.

The document below will identify:

Topic – the item of equipment e.g. tyres, pallets

Hazard – What the potential risks are


Who might be harmed? Staff, children, visitors etc


Risk (after existing controls) – what is the risk after our existing controls have been applied


Risk Benefits – what is the benefit of allowing this equipment to be used


Existing controls – what measures are we taking to reduce/ minimise the risk. These will be shared with staff and children.


Proposed action / Action recorded – this will be used if further amendments are needed after an accident or injury.


Godinton Primary School	H/Teacher:-	J TALBOT		Topic:-	TYRES
	Assessor:-	J TALBOT	Review in 12 months	Assessment Date:-	24/01/2025
HAZARD	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED	RISK (after existing controls)	RISK BENEFITS	EXISTING CONTROLS	PROPOSED ACTION / ACTION RECORD
Bumps, Bruises, Fractures from falling or rolling tyres	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	Enjoyment for children. Opportunity to develop health, well-being and confidence. Upper body strength development. Coordination development. Creative development to decide how to use as a 'building material'	Children introduced to tyres through Whole School Opal assembly. Clear rules identified: Only car tyres to be used and moved by children. Tyres checked by HR or KC prior to being made accessible to children. Tyres must not be stacked more than 3 high Children taught to roll with control a tyre - one hand on. Children not allowed to roll in tyres.	
Injuries from lifting tyres	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	SEE ABOVE	Children introduced to tyres through Whole School Opal assembly. Clear rules identified: Only car tyres to be used and moved by children. Children taught to roll with control rather than lift and carry Tyres must not be stacked more than 3 high Children taught how to lift tyres - ready, steady, lift. Knees bent. Minimum of 2 children to lift a car tyre - too many causes congestion.	
Cuts and Scrathes from tyres	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	SEE ABOVE	Tyres checked for safety removal of valves, nails, wires etc by Site Manager or Play C-ordinator prior to being made accessible to children. Weekly checks on state of tyres by play team.	
Injuries from lifting and moving tractor tyres	Staff	LOW	SEE ABOVE	Only staff are able to move tractor tyres. Children taught they must not move or attempt to move tractor tyres. Tyres only to be moved with presence and assistance of Site Manager. Drainage holes drilled into tractor tyres to avoid stagnant water collecting. Moving and Handling training completed by at least one member of staff involved in moving of tractor tyres.	


Godinton Primary School	H/Teacher:-	J TALBOT		Topic:-	CRATES
	Assessor:-	J TALBOT	Review in 12 months	Assessment Date:-	20/03/25 updated 23/04/25 updated
HAZARD	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED	RISK (after existing controls)	RISK BENEFITS	EXISTING CONTROLS	PROPOSED ACTION / ACTION RECORD
Scratches, bumps and bruises from falling crates or falling out of crates	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	Enjoyment for children. Opportunity to develop health, well-being and confidence. Creative development to decide how to use as a 'building material'	All crates checked prior to entering the play environment. Play co-ordinator checks weekly for safety. Children taught to report and cracked or broken items Children introduced to crates through Whole School Opal assembly. Clear rules identified: Stack height limit of waist high as a visual guide Only lift crates to waist height when carrying Restriction of space to reduce speed Children can only pull not push crates with passengers	
Scratches, cuts and pinches from trapping hands/feet in crates	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	SEE ABOVE	All crates checked prior to entering the play environment. Play co-ordinator checks weekly for safety. Children taught to report and cracked or broken items Children introduced to crates through Whole School Opal assembly. Clear rules identified: Crates are not to be stood on Children shown how to fold and assemble collapsible crates. Restriction of space to reduce speed Children can only pull not push crates with passengers	
Damage to clothing	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	SEE ABOVE	All crates must be lined with either cardboard or a sack to prevent clothing getting ripped/torn.	


Godinton Primary School	H/Teacher:-	J TALBOT		Topic:-	PIPING & PIPE JOINS
	Assessor:-	J TALBOT	Review in 12 months	Assessment Date:-	12/02/2025
HAZARD	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED	RISK (after existing controls)	RISK BENEFITS	EXISTING CONTROLS	PROPOSED ACTION / ACTION RECORD
Cuts and grazes from broken pipes OR limbs stuck in pipes.	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	<p>Enjoyment for children.</p> <p>Opportunity to develop health, well-being and confidence.</p> <p>Upper body strength development.</p> <p>Coordination development.</p> <p>Creative development to decide how to use as a 'building material'</p> <p>development of problem solving and Team work skills.</p> <p>Develop spatial awareness.</p>	<p>Pipes to be checked on arrival – cleanliness and any sharp edges removed.</p> <p>Pipes checked on a weekly basis by K Carr for broken or cracked pipes. Play team to also carry out weekly checks.</p> <p>Children taught to stop using broken pipes immediately report items to play team who will remove it from play area.</p> <p>Clear play rules shared in assembly:</p> <p>Only balls and pipes should be put in the pipes – no arms!</p>	
Bumps to head from toppling pipes or pipes being moved.	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	SEE ABOVE	<p>Clear play rules shared in assembly:</p> <p>Be aware of the space around when moving pipes.</p> <p>Pipes should be kept below shoulder height.</p> <p>Consider whether you can lift the pipes on your own or whether you need to do this with a friend.</p>	


Godinton Primary School	H/Teacher:-	J TALBOT		Topic:-	PALLETS
	Assessor:-	J TALBOT	Review in 12 months	Assessment Date:-	12/12/2025
HAZARD	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED	RISK (after existing controls)	RISK BENEFITS	EXISTING CONTROLS	PROPOSED ACTION / ACTION RECORD
Bumps, bruises, scratches, cuts from unsuitable pallets sourced.	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	Enjoyment for children. Opportunity to develop health, well-being and confidence. Upper body strength development. Coordination development. Creative development to decide how to use as a 'building material' This could be building houses, forts, structures, bracing, staging.	No coloured pallets to be used in play All pallets to be inspected by Site Manager and Opal Co-ordinator (K.Carr) prior to be used in play. Unsuitable pallets (broken, cracked, nails exposed) will either be disposed of or repaired.	
Bumps, bruises, scratches, cuts from toppling pallets	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	SEE ABOVE	Clear play rules established during play assembly: Maximum stack height of 4 pallets when laid flat. One pallet high when upright. Pupils taught skills in testing and improving stability of pallet structures. Short sections of rope can be used to tie pallets at right angles to each other to provide a secure and stable corner before playing with or on them. Pallets can be braced with piping, or up against trees/fences for greater stability.	
Injuries to hands, fingers and feet from slipping between gaps, nails popping up, slats breaking or dropping pallets	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	SEE ABOVE	Pallets to be inspected weekly by K Carr and daily by Play team. Children taught to check for integrity of pallets - nails exposed, cracking pallets and know how to respond by reporting to staff. Children taught how to carry pallets safely. Children should talk about the integrity of pallet structures with play team members before standing on them.	
Splinter injuries	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	SEE ABOVE	Children made aware that they are playing with wood and splinters can occur. Children taught to seek first aid if they get a splinter.	
Back injury from carrying pallet	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	SEE ABOVE	Children taught and regularly reminded of 'Ready, Steady, Lift.' At least 4 children in Yrs 3-6 to carry one pallet At least 6 children in Yrs R-2 to carry a pallet	
Fall from stacked pallets	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	SEE ABOVE	Maximum stack height of 4 when lying flat. One pallet high when upright. Limit the activity of standing on pallet structures to a height of 1.4m off the ground, whatever the underlying surface.	


Godinton Primary School	H/Teacher:-	J TALBOT		Topic:-	Builder's bags / taurpaulin / sheeting/ bags with straps
	Assessor:-	J TALBOT	Review in 12 months	Assessment Date:-	12/02/2025
HAZARD	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED	RISK (after existing controls)	RISK BENEFITS	EXISTING CONTROLS	PROPOSED ACTION / ACTION RECORD
dust, grit, foreign object in eye	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	Enjoyment for children. Opportunity to develop health, well-being and confidence. Upper body strength development. Coordination development. Creative development to decide how to use as a 'building material' Items can be used as part of imaginative play. They may be used to transport items around play area, to sit in or act as a covering over a den.	Items inspected for cleanliness upon arrival on site and before entering the play area. Any items which contain remnants of building items such as sand will be removed before use. Items regularly checked by K Carr and playteam.	
Entrapment causing suffocation	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	SEE ABOVE	Children taught to use items appropriately during play assembly: <i>Bags must be used on field or playgorund, not in garden or bushes area to ensure supervision</i> <i>Bags used to transport or as covering for shelter.</i> <i>Bags can be sat in</i> <i>Pupil heads must not be wrapped or covered in bags.</i> Children taught how to question if they and others are playing safely	


Godinton Primary School	H/Teacher:-	J TALBOT		Topic:-	Ropes and skipping ropes
	Assessor:-	J TALBOT	Review in 12 months	Assessment Date:-	
HAZARD	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED	RISK (after existing controls)	RISK BENEFITS	EXISTING CONTROLS	PROPOSED ACTION / ACTION RECORD
Body parts, including necks caught/tied in rope causing injury or strangulation	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	MEDIUM	Ropes can be used for making rope swings, crafts, tying things together, pulling each other around, skipping, tug-of-war, jumping over all kinds of objects and imaginative play	Use of thicker rope is preferred to thin rope. Ropes not to be taken into bushes / hidden areas It should not be assumed that reception and special needs children can self-regulate the risks of rope play. They will need direct supervision. Use of rope safely in play shared during assembly: <i>Ropes can be used to tie items together to help build structures.</i> <i>Ropes can be used to pull items along</i> <i>Rope must no be placed around necks, hands or feet or used to tie people together.</i> <i>Ropes should not be tied at height on fixed play equipment.</i> <i>Looped ropes are not allowed.</i>	
Tripping	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	SEE ABOVE	When using rope participants will be taught to avoid placing them where people can trip over them. Participants taught how to store and carry rope. Exoess rope to be secured.	
Rope Burn	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	SEE ABOVE	Children made aw are of how rope burn is caused Children encouraged to wear gloves, if they wish when pulling items with rope.	


Godinton Primary School	H/Teacher:-	J TALBOT		Topic:-	Cable drums Spools
	Assessor:-	J TALBOT	Review in 12 months	Assessment Date:-	12/02/2025
HAZARD	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED	RISK (after existing controls)	RISK BENEFITS	EXISTING CONTROLS	PROPOSED ACTION / ACTION RECORD
Splinters, scratches, cuts and bruises from rolling or falling from cable drums / spools	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	Enjoyment for children. Opportunity to develop health, well-being and confidence. Upper body strength development. Coordination development. Creative development to decide how to use as a 'building material'	Cable drums inspected by Site manager upon arrival on site to ensure of good quality. Any repairs completed prior to entering play site. Items checked weekly by K Carr and by Play Team when supervising area. Agreed play rules: Items should be rolled under control to location then lifted. Children made aware that items are wooden and can cause splinters Children test stability and brace further if needed Use peers for support when standing/ walking on cable spool until confidence grows.	
Back injury from lifting spools	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	SEE ABOVE	Encourage safe holding, moving and stacking. "Ready, steady, lift" – bent knees and straight back. Children reminded of 'Ready, steady, lift in play assemblies. Spools lifted by at least 2 children. Children to test and assess whether 2 children can lift.	


Godinton Primary School	H/Teacher:-	J TALBOT		Topic:-	Road barriers
	Assessor:-	J TALBOT	Review in 12 months	Assessment Date:-	07/03/2025
HAZARD	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED	RISK (after existing controls)	RISK BENEFITS	EXISTING CONTROLS	PROPOSED ACTION / ACTION RECORD
Bumps, bruises, scratches and cuts from crushed fingers/toes or from rough/sharp edges	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	<p>Enjoyment for children.</p> <p>Opportunity to develop health, well-being and confidence.</p> <p>Upper body strength development.</p> <p>Coordination development.</p> <p>Creative development to decide how to use as a 'building material'</p> <p>Opportunity to design own scooter tracks</p>	<p>Road barriers inspected by Site manager upon arrival on site to ensure of good quality. Any repairs completed prior to entering play site.</p> <p>Items checked weekly by K Carr and by Play Team when supervising area.</p> <p>Agreed play rules:</p> <p>Children can push road barriers into position. Two children should lift the road barriers where necessary.</p> <p>Children reminded about safe movement of items and to be aware of fingers and toes when moving.</p>	
Injuries from lifting road barriers	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	SEE ABOVE	<p>Encourage safe holding, moving and stacking. "Ready, steady, lift" – bent knees and straight back. Children reminded of 'Ready, steady, lift in play assemblies.</p> <p>Road barriers to be lifted by at least 2 children. Children to test and assess whether 2 children can lift.</p>	

Godinton Primary School	H/Teacher:-	J TALBOT		Topic:-	WATER PLAY
	Assessor:-	J TALBOT	Review in 12 months	Assessment Date:-	
HAZARD	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED	RISK (after existing controls)	RISK BENEFITS	EXISTING CONTROLS	PROPOSED ACTION / ACTION RECORD
Dirty water injected	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	Enjoyment for children. Opportunity to develop health, well-being and confidence. Upper body strength development. Coordination development. Creative development to decide how to use as a 'building material'	Clean water each week. Water butts to be emptied every Friday and refilled on a Monday. Children taught play rules in assembly as follows: The water is for playing with, not drinking. We need to take care when pouring / transferring the water. We need to keep ourselves and others as dry as possible. No deliberate soaking of ourselves and others. Water is for pipes, buckets and containers – not for splashing each other. Only use the water provided. We can only use the water play area at lunch, not morning break.	
Eye infections from dirty water	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	Enjoyment for children. Opportunity to develop health, well-being and confidence. Upper body strength development. Coordination development. Creative development to decide how to use as a 'building material'	Clean water each week. Water butts to be emptied every Friday and refilled on a Monday. Children taught play rules in assembly as follows: The water is for playing with, not drinking. We need to take care when pouring / transferring the water. We need to keep ourselves and others as dry as possible. No deliberate soaking of ourselves and others. Water is for pipes, buckets and containers – not for splashing each other. Only use the water provided. We can only use the water play area at lunch, not morning break.	

Godinton Primary School	H/Teacher:-	J TALBOT		Topic:-	Scooters
	Assessor:-	J TALBOT	Review in 12 months	Assessment Date:-	23/04/2025
HAZARD	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED	RISK (after existing controls)	RISK BENEFITS	EXISTING CONTROLS	PROPOSED ACTION / ACTION RECORD
Injury sustained to head or limbs (fractures, bumps, cuts and grazes) from falling from scooter.	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	Enjoyment for children. Opportunity to develop health, well-being and confidence. Lower body strength development and Coordination development.	Scooter track designed to reduce speed. One way scooter track set up to reduce risk of collision. Cycle helmets do not need to be worn as speed has been reduced and it is likely that cycle helmets would not be fitted correctly by each individual child. Plastic road barriers used to identify clear scooter pathway. A maximum of 8 children in the track at any one time to reduce the risk of collision. Children taught to consider speed carefully to reduce collision risk. Range of scooters available to cater for different ages and abilities	
Injury sustained to head or limbs (fractures, bumps, cuts and grazes) from damaged / broken scooters.	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	AS ABOVE	All scooters checked for safety by Play Co-ordinator prior to entering play area. Weekly checks completed by play co-ordinator on condition of scooters. All scooter handles must have the rubber closed ends to ensure that fingers cannot get caught in them. Children taught to report damaged/ broken scooter to a member of play team. Item to be removed from play area until repaired. Disposed of if item is beyond repair. Play assembly held to discuss and outline how to stay safe using the scooter track.	
Collision between scooter rider and non scooter rider causing injury	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	AS ABOVE	Only scooter riders allowed inside the track. Scooters must not be ridden outside of the track. If an adult needs to enter the track to assist a pupil who is injured then all scooter riding must stop.	

Godinton Primary School	H/Teacher:-	J TALBOT		Topic:-	SANDPIT
	Assessor:-	J TALBOT	Review in 12 months	Assessment Date:-	16/05/2025
HAZARD	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED	RISK (after existing controls)	RISK BENEFITS	EXISTING CONTROLS	PROPOSED ACTION / ACTION RECORD
Sand in eyes/ears	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	Enjoyment for children. Opportunity to develop health, well-being and confidence. Creative development	Play sand has been purchased which is non toxic and the recommended material for children. Children taught through play assembly that sand must be kept in the sand pit. Not to be thrown or put in mouths.	
Illness through bacteria	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	AS ABOVE	Play sand is covered when not in use by the children to reduce risk of animal droppings. However, sandpit needs to be uncovered each week day to allow it to have light and breathe which will keep the sand fresh and healthy. Sand pit to be raked over regularly to ensure it doesn't become packed down. When it is packed down, it is not as healthy. Sand pit to be played in all year round to keep the sand	
Illness through exposure to wild excrement	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	AS ABOVE	Sand pit is covered when not in use Inspected daily by PlayTeam member when uncovered In the event there is excrement in the sand pit, this is to be removed along with approximately 6 inches of sand around and depth of the area. Children taught through play assembly to inform a member of the play team if they notice anything in the sandpit that shouldn't be there.	
Injury sustained to hand from sand pit tools	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	AS ABOVE	Plastic play equipment only Children to remain outside of sandpit to provide more space to see and keep feet out of the way. Children reminded to be aware of space when playing in the sandpit	

Godinton Primary School	H/Teacher:-	J TALBOT		Topic:-	CD Player
	Assessor:-	J TALBOT	Review in 12 months	Assessment Date:-	16/05/2025
HAZARD	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED	RISK (after existing controls)	RISK BENEFITS	EXISTING CONTROLS	PROPOSED ACTION / ACTION RECORD
Damage to CD player	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	Creative development for children Physical movement promoted	CD player is currently battery operated and will only go out on dry days. In the event that it starts raining during lunch play, CD player will be put away for the duration of lunch.	Risk Assessment to be updated when external plug socket is in place.

Godinton Primary School	H/Teacher:-	J TALBOT		Topic:-	Small woodland area on bank
	Assessor:-	J TALBOT	Review in 12 months	Assessment Date:-	16/05/2025
HAZARD	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED	RISK (after existing controls)	RISK BENEFITS	EXISTING CONTROLS	PROPOSED ACTION / ACTION RECORD
Scratches to legs, arms and eyes from twigs and thorns	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	Enjoyment for children. Opportunity to develop health, well-being and confidence. Creative development	Pathway cleared to enable children to weave through woodland area. Regular checks by Site Manager and Play Co-ordinator to ensure area does not become overgrown / protruding branches. Regular trimming of any branches / thorn bushes. Children taught to inform Play Team member if there are any branches or thorns that can cause scratches.	
Bumps and Bruise from tripping over	Staff Pupils Parents Visitors	LOW	AS ABOVE	Pathway cleared to enable children to weave through woodland area. Regular checks by Site Manager and Play Co-ordinator to ensure area does not become overgrown / protruding branches. Regular trimming of any branches / thorn bushes. Children taught to inform Play Team member if there are any branches or thorns that can cause scratches.	