HAYNES LOWER SCHOOL AND NURSERY

Toy & Play Equipment Policy

Policy Review:

This Policy will be reviewed every 3 years.

Reviewed	**June 2026**
Next Review	**June 2029**

Toys and play equipment should be a source of fun and learning for every child in the Nursery setting. However, poorly designed toys, toys that are inappropriate for the child's age and ability, used incorrectly or in bad repair can lead to injury. Where toys are frequently shared between children, they may also become a source of infection.

All toys and equipment within the nursery must carry a BS, BSI or CE kite mark, if not visible then they should be checked by the Manager; see information on safety standards for toys and equipment.

Always check the age guidance instructions on packaging. If a toy is marked "Not suitable for children under 3 years" or carries a pictogram, then it should not be given to children under this age because, for example, it may contain parts that a child could choke on.

Avoid toys that have:

- Sharp points, jagged edges or rough surfaces.
- Small detachable or insecure parts, that could be swallowed or become lodged in the throat, nose or ears. Children can choke on latex balloons.
- Sharp spikes or pins that could be exposed if a child pulls the toy apart.
- Long cords or strings. If the toy has a cord more than 12 inches long, cut it shorter.

Check all toys and equipment on a daily basis, if you think that a toy is unsafe, or it is found to be damaged it should be removed immediately and taken to the Manager/Caretaker for disposal or repair.

Cleaning

- Ensure that all toys and equipment are suitable for cleaning, if not then they must be discarded.
- Regularly remove dust from toys, equipment and all other surfaces. Dust harbours germs and can also induce asthma attacks.
- Clean toys and equipment as frequently as practicable, when visibly soiled, during an outbreak of illness and immediately upon contamination by bodily fluids, (i.e. blood, nasal and eye discharge, saliva, urine, vomit and faeces).
- Clean hard/plastic toys and equipment by washing them with water and a suitable detergent (see instructions for details), followed by thorough rinsing and drying.
- Disinfect hard/plastic toys and equipment that cannot be washed, rinsed and dried thoroughly, using a chemical disinfectant. This process should also be applied to toys and equipment contaminated with bodily fluids listed above.
- Launder dirty soft toys in a washing machine, following the manufacturer's washing instructions. Destroy any contaminated soft toys that cannot go into a washing machine.
- Always wash hands thoroughly after handling contaminated toys and equipment. Ensure that all cleaning products are stored in suitable containers away from the access of children.

Storage

- Store toys in a clean container or cupboard. Always wipe shelves down before replacing clean toys.
- Drain, clean with detergent and dry receptacles used for water play, after each use.
- Cover all sandpits both indoors and outdoors to prevent contamination, and make sure the sand is sieved regularly for foreign objects. The sand pit must be emptied immediately and the sand

disposed of appropriately if it becomes contaminated with bodily fluids (including animals!). The sand pit should then be disinfected with a suitable sterilising solution.

- Toys and equipment should be stored inside wherever possible as rain, snow and dew cause rust, rot and damage that increase the risk of accidents. Plastic play equipment can become brittle, and may subsequently begin to crack.

Good Practice

- Carry out a thorough inspection of the outdoor toys and equipment before the start of each session. Any problems should be reported to the Manager/Caretaker as appropriate, before allowing the children access to the outdoor play area.
- Ensure that children wash their hands after water play, sand play, outdoor play and after contact with the School dog.
- Replace soft modelling materials and doughs regularly.
- Discourage children from putting shared toys in their mouths.
- Do not allow children to take toys into the toilet area.

Toys From Home

Parents/carers and children should be discouraged from bringing toys from home into the Nursery. Any toys from outside the setting should be risk assessed and removed immediately if deemed unsafe. These should be returned to the parent/carer at the end of the session.

If a toy is brought in as a comfort, this should be clearly named. If the toy goes missing during the session, Nursery staff will do their utmost to return it to the child at their next session, or as soon as pos