



Lanesend Primary School

Pond Safety Policy School Premises Policy

Signed: **Date:**
(Headteacher)

Signed: **Date:**
(Chair of Governors)

Review Date: May 2019 (Yearly)

Reviewed By: Geography and Science Coordinators, Site Manager, Teaching and Learning Group

Lanesend Primary Pond Safety Policy

A pond is proposed as part of a wildlife area next to the garage in the playground. The area will be fenced with a lockable gate. Children will only have access to the pond with a member of Team Lanesend. Small group work will consist of the following:

- 1 adult for every 4 children in Reception with a maximum of 8 children;
- 1 adult for every 6 children in school years 1 to 3 with a maximum of 12 children;
- 1 adult for every 8 children in school years 4 to 6 with a maximum of 16 children;

Whole class teaching, teachers must complete a Risk Assessment and ensure that the needs of all the children are supported and can access the areas safely.

Children with 1:1 support must be accompanied by their supporting adult at all times including small group work activities.

Design

- The pond will be designed so that the edges of the pond do not exceed 1 in 3 gradient from the shallow to the deepest zone. The deepest part of the pond is in the centre.
- The depth of the water will be kept as shallow as possible and will not exceed the following depth for Primary Schools of 1000mm.
- The edge of the pond is overlapped by decking and flagstones so that children can kneel to study the pond. Children must be supervised and must not climb up the bank to approach the pond.
- Staff must ensure that any tripping hazards have been eliminated before children access the pond area.
- A suitable and safe means of access will be provided through a locked gate and along a path.
- Portable electrical equipment will not be used near the pond.
- Ponds in school must be fenced to prevent accidental approach. The fencing may be around an area containing the pond or directly around the pond if necessary. If the fencing has slats those must be vertical not horizontal with no gaps large enough for a child to pass through. The fence must be a minimum of one metre in height. A lockable gate must be provided to deter unsupervised entry. The fence around our school pond area will be 1.2 metres high and the area will be accessed through a lockable gate.
- Excessive plant growth deposits of silt or mud should be removed on a regular basis – Darren Attrill and Jack Cooper to be responsible for pond maintenance.
- Appropriate warning signs must be posted warning of the presence of a pond and detailing safety rules for use. Signs must be used in addition to, not instead of, other control measures.
- The school must carry out risk assessments in relation to the pond and activities involving the pond. The risk assessment will be reviewed annually, alongside

this policy, or when appropriate e.g. any changes to the area. All relevant information (i.e. the findings of the assessment and the control measures) will be relayed to staff and other people who may carry out activities involving the pond.

- The classes or groups using the pond must be supervised at all times, see above for staff:child ratios and maximum group sizes.
- The pond must be regularly maintained to ensure that the perimeter does not deteriorate.

Monitoring and review

It is the responsibility of the Geography and Science Coordinators to monitor the standards and impact on children's learning in the outdoor classroom environment.

Appropriate Health and Safety measures must be adhered to at all times.