

# Viking Academy Trust



## Outdoor Play Equipment Policy Upton Junior School

The VIKING ACADEMY TRUST 'Outdoor Play Equipment Policy for Upton Junior School' has been written after consultation with staff and following DfE guidance.

**Approved by the Trust: Term 2 2017**

**Reviewed annually: Term 2**

**Last review date: November 2018**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Roby', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

**Signed:**

**Chair of Trust**

# Outdoor Play Equipment Policy

## The Viking Academy Trust

### Upton Junior School

#### **Schools in the Viking Academy Trust (VAT)**

These are:

Chilton Primary School

Ramsgate Arts Primary School

Upton Junior School

This **Outdoor Play Equipment** Policy is specific to Upton Junior School.

#### Policy of use for Outdoor Playground Equipment

##### 1. INTRODUCTION

The school playground provides opportunities for children to engage in active play in addition to experiencing quiet and environmental areas.

Opportunities for balancing, climbing, hanging and swinging are planned both within the physical education curriculum and during play breaks outside.

## **2. SAFE USE OF EQUIPMENT**

### **2.1 Supervision**

Children are supervised at all times whilst using the outdoor play equipment. Our risk assessment, which takes into account observation points, line of sight and judges the risk of serious injury, has determined that the appropriate number of people required to supervise a class of 34 children using 'HMS Upton' is one. This adult must be situated on the top level of the ship, as this is where the associated risk to a child is greatest from falling/jumping. On the ground floor of the ship the risk is greatly reduced. Guidance should be sought from the site manager, SLT or risk assessment coordinator.

Supervising staff are familiar with the equipment, the rules for use and the ability of the children.

### **2.2 General guidelines**

- All pupils are educated about the use of climbing equipment through a whole school assembly and continual reiteration of the rules while the equipment is in use.
- Staff/supervisors on duty ensure that outdoor play equipment is visible and can be appropriately supervised when they are on duty
- Staff/supervisors on duty have a responsibility to report any defects they notice as soon as is reasonably possible to the site team
- School has a rota for use, which takes into consideration the age and number of children using it at any one time.
- Staff/supervisors have a responsibility to ensure appropriate behaviour.

- Consideration is given to weather conditions. HMS Upton has anti-slip flooring in place to ensure it is appropriate for all seasons. If extreme weather or icy surfaces occur then the site manager or SLT will make any decision regarding the use of the outdoor play equipment.
- Apparatus will only be used at appropriate times when supervised. Parents have been informed that the apparatus is for Upton school children only and that the school cannot be responsible for any other use. A sign displaying this information is prominent at the front of the play area.

### **2.3 Clothing**

Suitable clothing should be worn. Hazards can arise from - unfastened coats, woollen gloves, scarves etc.

### **2.4 Zoning of Activities**

Consideration is also given to the range of activities occurring within the playground area: children should not play ball games within the climbing area.

## **3 PLAY EQUIPMENT STANDARDS**

3.1 All outdoor play equipment has been designed, constructed, installed and maintained in accordance with European standards.

3.2 These European standards are not retrospective or a legal requirement but represent good practice in the event of an accident claim.

3.3 An independent competent person carries out an annual inspection and maintenance, and advises whether any alterations need to be made.

3.35 All safety surfacing has been tested for Head Injury Criteria (HIC).

3.4 Scrambling and climbing elements do not exceed 3 Metres, and for Children below 5 the height is a maximum of 1.6M.

3.6 Height is not be the dominant feature on any item of equipment. Interest challenge and enjoyment are the most important factors.

## **4.0 SAFETY SURFACES**

4.1 All of our outdoor play equipment meets the appropriate Safety Standards. Fixed climbing equipment is on an impact-absorbing surface.

4.2 Although impact absorbing surfaces cannot prevent accidents they may reduce the level of injury.

## **5.0 INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE**

5.1 BS EN 1176 recommends that all outdoor play equipment be inspected and maintained on a regular basis. Such inspection and maintenance is at 3 levels.

**5.2.1 Level 1 checks** - Daily / pre use checks by staff (these do not require formal recording)

Concentrating on the following points

- No evidence of obvious wear / damage.
- Area safe from health hazards e.g. needles, glass, faeces etc.
- Impact absorbing surfaces no cuts, tears, wear or unstuck areas.
- All fastening tightly secured.
- No broken chains, stretched links or loose or twisted shackles.
- Uprights unbroken and firm in the ground.

Where any defects / hazards are identified appropriate steps must be taken to prevent use until problems have been satisfactorily resolved.

### **5.2.2 Level 2 checks - termly inspection in house**

A more thorough check of the equipment to be conducted termly by the site supervisor and these records are kept on site.

### **5.2.3 Level 3 checks - annual inspection**

A detailed certified inspection by an independent competent person capable of inspecting to BS EN 1176 and 1177 these checks are formally recorded and records kept on site.

Such checks ensure safety and identifies any improvements required in terms of the European standards.

