Pupil Access to Risky Areas of School Buildings and Grounds

(Reviewer: Caty Jacques, June 2026)
Approved by SMT June 2026

1. Policy Statement

The school is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all pupils by restricting access to areas of the site that present heightened risk unless appropriately supervised. This policy outlines how the school identifies, manages, and controls pupil access to these areas while balancing safety with educational use where appropriate.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All pupils (including EYFS where applicable)
- All staff and volunteers responsible for pupil supervision
- All school buildings, grounds, and off-site school-controlled areas

3. Definition of Risky Areas

Risky areas are locations where there is an increased likelihood of injury without appropriate controls. These may include:

Internal Areas

- Maintenance and plant rooms (boilers, electrical cupboards)
- Design & Technology workshops
- Kitchens and catering areas
- Roof access points
- Storage areas with hazardous substances
- Swimming pool plant rooms / unsupervised pool access
- Theatre Stage and backstage areas

External Areas

- Car parks and vehicle access routes
- Delivery zones
- Groundskeeping sheds and equipment storage
- Sports pitches when under maintenance
- Construction or maintenance zones

4. Principles

- Pupil safety is prioritised at all times.
- Access is restricted unless:
    - Supervision is in place, and
    - Appropriate safety measures are implemented.
- Pupils are educated about risks in an age-appropriate way.

5. Control Measures

Physical Controls

- Locked doors, gates, and barriers
- Key or fob-controlled access systems
- Secure fencing and signage (as required)
- Clearly marked road crossings
- Alarm systems where appropriate

Supervision

- Age appropriate staff supervision of pupils
- Specialist staff (e.g., lab technicians, PE staff) must oversee relevant environments

Risk Assessments

- Refer to the Risk Assessment policy

6. Pupil Responsibilities

Pupils are expected to:

- Follow staff instructions regarding risky areas
- Respect signage, barriers, and safety instructions
- Report any hazards or unsafe behaviour
- Not enter restricted areas without permission

7. Staff Responsibilities

Staff must:

- Enforce restrictions consistently
- Ensure pupils are adequately supervised
- Challenge unauthorised access immediately
- Report breaches, hazards, or near misses
- Ensure doors/gates are secured after use

8. Educational Use of Risky Areas

Certain areas may be used for learning purposes under controlled conditions:

- Science labs and workshops during timetabled lessons
- Sports facilities under staff supervision
- Outdoor learning environments with risk assessments in place

Risk-taking for learning (e.g., in Woodland School or PE) should be:

- Planned
- Supervised
- Proportionate and developmentally appropriate

9. Signage

- Clear, visible warning signs posted where deemed necessary
- Consistent symbols and language appropriate to pupil age
- Temporary signage used during maintenance or hazards

8. Related Policies

- Health & Safety Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Risk Assessment Policy