



Policy Document

Policy Area: Managing Risk

Date: June 2018

Reviewed: Sept 2018, Sept 2019, Sept 2020, Sept 2021, Sept 2022, by E Izzidien. (no changes)

Next Review: Sept 2023

Statement

Cardiff Montessori School (CMS) and nursery believes that children should have the opportunity to engage in play that is exhilarating, creative and unpredictable. For children this often means challenging themselves physically or emotionally and taking risks. In testing their limits they are able to develop new skills and grow in confidence. From their direct experiences children also learn about the consequences of their actions and develop an awareness of many of the risks that they will encounter in everyday life. By experiencing risk, children can learn how to assess and respond appropriately to keep themselves safe.

At CMS the safety of the children in our care is paramount. In any human activity there is an element of risk and therefore a possibility of injury. The aim of risk assessment and management is not to eliminate all risks but to determine whether the level of risk posed is acceptable. When making this assessment the following will be considered:

- The likelihood of coming to harm
- The severity of potential harm
- The benefits or outcome of the activity

A risk assessment should balance the danger of harm against the benefit to the child of risk taking. Staff at CMS are well placed to make this judgment, drawing on their knowledge of the child(ren) and the circumstances of their play. In any situation where staff are in doubt they will take measures in favour of caution. We aim to:

- Provide opportunities for children to encounter and create risk and unpredictability in their play.
- Ensure that no child in our care will ever be forced or encouraged to explore a risk that they are uncomfortable with.
- Remove any unnecessary risks that do not contribute to the play and/or are unforeseeable by the child.
- Use our knowledge of the child(ren) and their play to make judgements about when controls are required to reduce the level of risk posed.



- Wherever possible, involve the child(ren) in risk assessing by discussing the possible hazards and how these risks can be eliminated or reduced.
- Communicate identified risks and the controls put in place to reduce them with children, staff and where appropriate, parents.
- Introduce controls that are reflective of the level of risk posed and do not place unnecessary restrictions on the child(ren)'s freedom.
- Allow children to be creative in their use of materials as long as this does not pose an unacceptable risk to their safety.

In the event that an injury is sustained, the accident will be recorded and the parent/carer will be informed in accordance with CMS Accidents and First Aid Policy. If it is deemed that an accident could have been prevented, control action will be taken to reduce the risk posed and avoid future occurrences.