

Physical Education Policy

Introduction

L.E.A.D. Academy Trust supports the development of physical education and sport through its PE, Sport and Physical Activity strategy. In so doing, the Trust recognises that there are inherent risks and hazards associated with many of the activities likely to form part of an appropriate curriculum. This document sets out the Trust's policies relating to such activities.

All persons involved in the administration and supervision of such activities must:

- be aware of the potential hazards associated with the activities undertaken under their control;
- take appropriate precautions to identify risks likely to cause harm or injury to participants or others;
- teach participants to approach activities with understanding and self-control, so minimizing risks to themselves and others;
- ensure that activities undertaken are appropriate to the experience and qualifications of the person in charge and to the age and capability of the participants.

Accordingly this Policy Document is addressed to:

- Head Teachers;
- Teachers, Tutors, Youth Workers and Coaches.

The Trust adopts the guidance and advice of the 'Association for Physical Education' in their book '**SAFE PRACTICE IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION**' (2012 ISBN 978-1-905540-94-5)

All appropriate Child Settings should have a reference copy of this document. This is a nationally recognised document and is the text to which reference would be made in a court of law as 'common and approved practice'.

For guidance on Off-site visits staff should follow the Trust's Policy for Off-site Visits, this guidance takes precedence over the section on 'Adventurous Activities' (Section 5.1) in 'Safe Practice in Physical Education and Sport'.

Risk Assessment

Risk assessments are a legal requirement and are seen as an essential method of identifying and eliminating any foreseeable risks. The Head Teacher must be satisfied that all teachers who are required to teach P.E. are able to do so in a safe environment with an understanding of the needs and stages of development of all the children in their classes.

It is advisable that all games lessons should be preceded with a visual sweep of the playing area before the lesson commences. All dangerous objects should be removed e.g. broken glass, tins and rubbish deposited on the site.

An annual inspection of all P.E. equipment should be undertaken by competent contractors and a record kept on site. It is the responsibility of the school to ensure that all equipment is inspected and that any identified defects are dealt with

Inspection Of Equipment, Site And Premises

It is essential that all equipment, the site and other premises used for physical education and sport are safe and fit for the intended activities.

All equipment should be purchased, and where necessary, installed by a reputable, specialist manufacturer whose design specifications match those required by the British Standards Institute and/or the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN).

All establishments must ensure that a specialist company carries out an annual inspection of apparatus. Any equipment that is condemned or is deemed temporarily unusable must be marked as such and stored where it cannot be inadvertently used.

Each establishment must have a system for checking playing fields, playgrounds, apparatus and other equipment between annual inspections. A formal inspection should be conducted at regular intervals depending on the amount of use of each facility. As a minimum this inspection should be conducted each half term.

Establishments should have a known procedure for reporting defects found between inspections.

Professional Qualifications

Everyone involved in teaching or coaching physical education or sport must be appropriately qualified.

Teaching or coaching children under the age of 18 requires a teaching qualification or a coaching qualification with appropriate screening. Coaches employed on a paid or voluntary basis with children must have:

- Child protection register clearance;
- An appropriate and current National Governing Body qualification;
- Appropriate insurance cover;
- Appropriate experience to work with the age group concerned;
- Confidential character references;
- A current basic first-aid qualification

Further advice on adults working in school sports can be found in 'Adults Other Than Teachers' produced by the Association for PE and published by Coachwise Ltd (0113 231 9606).

Those involved in teaching physical education or sport must be physically fit to do so.

Clothing

Each establishment must have a stated policy for clothing and jewelry. In schools, all children must change for physical education into suitable and safe clothing. Jewelry should not be worn. Earrings must be removed for all activities where contact with other people is possible. When this is not possible, studs should be covered with appropriate medical tape.

For school gymnastics and dance pupils should work in bare feet. If medical reasons preclude this, appropriate indoor footwear with a soft sole may be worn.

Clear guidance on clothing and skincare during the summer should be given to ensure that children are protected from prolonged exposure to the sun.

Emergency Procedures

All establishments must have clear emergency procedures and these must be made known to any users of the site. This includes:

- Emergency exits and registering procedures;
- Access to and location of emergency phones;
- Access to first-aid equipment;
- Procedures for reporting accidents and incidents.

Reference

- ['Safe Practice in Physical Education and School Sport'](#) issued by The Association of Physical Education (AfPE)