




## WHERE STARS SHINE

# POND SAFETY POLICY

**Policy Lead Committee:** Local Academy Committee **In consultation with:** Senior Leadership Team

**Approved by:**  **Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**Policy Date:** Autumn 2023

**Review Date:** Autumn 2025

**Review Frequency:** 2 Years



## **1. Aims & Purpose**

Severnbanks Primary School aims to offer our pupils as rich a learning environment as possible in order to enhance the curriculum and support our children to become caring, curious and confident learners. We have worked hard to ensure that the school grounds are an attractive area for children to play in and have developed the school pond area.

We wish to ensure that they have access to this environment, in a safe and controlled way. We aim to allow children to use the pond as a "hands on" resource to enhance the curriculum as a whole.

## **2. Guidelines**

- Children and adults must be kept safe at all times
- The caretaker will check the pond regularly to ensure that the area is safe ➤ Staff will check the area prior to use
- Children must be accompanied by an adult at ALL times
- During the activity try to ensure that those children with cuts on their hands cover them with waterproof plasters or wear suitable gloves, avoid ingestion of water and ensure that all children wash their hands after the activity especially before eating.
- Staff and pupils will wear suitable footwear when working around the pond
- In case of emergency, the alarm must be raised with the school office
- All teaching staff and some non-teaching staff are trained in First Aiders.

## **3. Management**

The school has a risk assessment in relation to the pond and suitable activities. All staff have knowledge of the risk assessment. Classes or groups using the pond must be supervised at all times. The ratio of pupils to staff must allow full control. Children are informed that the pond area is out of bounds unless accompanied by an adult.

The pond must be regularly maintained to ensure that the perimeter does not become obscured and that the area around the pond does not deteriorate. Edges that are open for access for pond dipping should be gently sloping, or flat and well defined. The edges of the pond must be clearly visible. The school has an emergency action plan in place for incidents associated with the pond. (See Appendix A).

This covers:

- How to rescue a person who has fallen in
- Resuscitation and first aid
- How to call for assistance

Severn Federation Academy Trust (Co. No. 13034661)



- What to do with other pupils during an emergency situation

Adequate instruction must be issued to pupils as to the risks associated with the pond and activities in the pond area.

#### **4. Security**

The problems of children falling into a pond are perhaps greatest not with pupils during school hours but with youngsters during out-of-school time, weekends, holidays etc. With infants however, the risk of a child straying into the pond area may be present during school hours too. To prevent this, the pond has an enclosed perimeter railed fence and locked gate. There is controlled access at all times. The pond is a whole-school resource and security and general supervision are easier to achieve if all staff are aware of their responsibilities.

#### **5. Links with other policies**

- Health & Safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy

This policy is available on the school website:  
[www.severnbanksprimaryschool.co.uk/website/policies/257152](http://www.severnbanksprimaryschool.co.uk/website/policies/257152). Paper copies are available on request from the School Office.

*(Appendices overleaf)*





## APPENDIX A

### **Emergency Action Plan for incidents associated with the pond.**

All staff must be familiar with the pond emergency action. It is there to provide a safe environment. Before any activities are started staff must assure themselves that the pond appears safe and operational and that the paths are not obstructed.

Staff must be alert at all times.

In the event of a child falling into the pond resulting in injury or near drowning follow the steps below:

- Due to the size of the pond an adult can reach the casualty
- If adult is unable to do this then use something like a brush or long branch to throw and reach the casualty
- Send someone to summon other help and the emergency services — use red card
- All other children will be escorted back to the school building by a member of staff.

A minor incident is considered to be a child slipping feet first into the water.

A major incident is considered to be life threatening for any and all individuals including suspected drowning.

### **Emergency Services:**

- Ring 999
- School telephone number is 01594 842789
- The address is: Naas Lane, Lydney, Glos, GL155SE
- Give details of the incident to the operator