



## Pond Policy



Reviewed: March 2023  
Review: March 2025

## Aim:

At Penpol the children's experiences of the outdoors and understanding of nature in order to protect our environment, is an important part of the curriculum. Using the outdoors forms a large part of their provision and accessing the pond allows children to see science and nature in action.

This policy outlines the principles for safe practice in the use of the pond and surrounding environment.

## Risk assessment:

We have ultimate responsibility to ensure the health and safety of children and adults on and around the site.

The pond is located in the wild life area and is surrounded by a fence on three sides with a lockable gate and one side comprises of a natural tree border. There are large stones around the edge of the pond to create a natural barrier, a wooden jetty with safety rail for children to access the pond and a toe board on the jetty to stop slipping.

The key is kept in the office in the key safe and no-one can access the pond without adult supervision.

The pond will be checked regularly by the Site Manager who will ensure:

- all edges of the pond are visible.
- decking boards and edges are safe, not slippery or damaged.
- there is not a build up of silt, overhanging branches or pond weed.
- The toe board on the decking boards are safely attached.

Maintenance will be undertaken as required to ensure the pond is safe.

## Communication:

Any actions that have arisen from checks need to be communicated to staff so they are aware not to use the area until further notice.

No child is allowed in the area unsupervised. Children are given a safety talk and clear rules when first arriving at the pond.

A risk assessment has been carried out for children and adults to use the pond and has been seen by all staff planning activities.

When planning a pond based activity, staff must visit and check the safety of the area before hand.

### Supervision:

It is the duty of the teacher to inform support staff/volunteers of any safety measures and this policy.

The class teacher must consider levels of supervision and correct ratios to make the activity safe ie - if children are pond dipping.

The class teacher must be aware of any specific needs of individual children and the how many children the space will allow safely - including any additional adults.

### Control measures:

- Children must not put anything near their mouth.
- Children and adults must wash their hands after any pond based activity.
- Children and adults must wear appropriate footwear.
- Children must receive a safety talk before the activity and reminded how to keep safe close to the water.

### Pond Emergency Plan:

**A minor incident** is considered to be a child slipping feet first in the water with no obvious danger to life.

In this case follow the steps below:

- An adult to help the child get out of the gate as quickly and safely as possible
- Another member of staff to remove the other children to safety.
- Accompany the child back into school to wash and dry, change clothes and check if any water has been digested or cuts sustained

**A major incident** is considered to be life threatening, including suspected drowning.

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

- Summon help immediately by using the radio to alert office staff to call emergency services
- If it is safe to do so, an adult could walk into the water to aid the victim. The pond is approximately 50cm deep at its deepest part.
- Other adult to remove the other children to safety and away from the area.

All incidents involving a fall into the pond should be reported to the Headteacher and recorded using the accident reoccur book. Parents of any children involved to be contacted, regardless of any injury sustained.

