



Health and Safety Policy – Ringle Rainbow Nursery

Reviewed and updated in line with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) effective 1 September 2026, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026, the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, relevant health and safety regulations and HSE guidance. Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026 is retained as supplementary safeguarding guidance.

1. Introduction

At Ringle Rainbow Nursery, we are committed to ensuring, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of children, staff, families, visitors and others who may be affected by our activities. We maintain premises, equipment, systems of work and care practices that are safe and suitable for young children, while supporting appropriate play, exploration and managed risk.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

The Proprietor and Nursery Manager have overall responsibility for ensuring appropriate health and safety arrangements are implemented and reviewed. All staff must take reasonable care of their own health and safety and that of others, follow nursery procedures and training, use equipment safely, and report hazards, defects, accidents, near misses or concerns promptly. Staff are consulted where appropriate about health and safety matters.

3. Risk Assessment and Daily Safety Checks

Suitable and sufficient risk assessments are maintained for the premises, indoor and outdoor environments, activities, equipment, outings and other significant hazards. Assessments identify who may be harmed, existing controls and any further action required. They are reviewed when circumstances change, following significant incidents or near misses, when new hazards are identified, and at planned intervals.

Daily visual checks are completed before or during use of areas and equipment. Individual needs are considered where relevant, including SEND, allergies, medical needs and mobility. Staff, apprentices, work-experience students, young workers, pregnant or new mothers and others who may be particularly vulnerable are considered within risk-management arrangements as appropriate.

4. Premises, Equipment and Maintenance

Premises and equipment are maintained in a safe condition, with appropriate heating, lighting, ventilation, hygiene, toilet and handwashing facilities. Hazards such as damaged equipment, unsafe surfaces, trailing cables, blocked exits or spillages are addressed promptly. Equipment is suitable for its intended use and children are supervised appropriately. Electrical, fire, water, building and other statutory or recommended checks are arranged by the responsible person or premises management as applicable.



5. Accidents, Incidents and Near Misses

Accidents and significant incidents are recorded promptly on BabysDays and parents/carers are informed in accordance with the nursery Accidents and First Aid Policy. The Manager reviews records to identify patterns and preventive action. Ofsted and/or the Health and Safety Executive will be notified where the legal reporting criteria are met, including RIDDOR where applicable. Near misses and hazards are also reviewed where they indicate a need to improve controls.

6. First Aid and Medical Emergencies

The nursery meets the EYFS paediatric first-aid requirements and ensures that at least one person with a current paediatric first-aid certificate is on the premises and available at all times when children are present and accompanies children on outings. First-aid equipment is appropriately located, checked and replenished. Staff follow individual healthcare, allergy and medication procedures and call emergency services without delay where required.

7. Fire and Emergency Safety

Fire safety arrangements are set out in the nursery Fire Safety Policy and fire risk assessment. Staff receive induction and refresher information, escape routes are kept clear and evacuation procedures are practised and recorded. Children requiring additional assistance have appropriate evacuation arrangements or PEEPs where necessary. Other emergency procedures, including lockdown and evacuation, are maintained and practised proportionately.

8. Infection Prevention, Illness and Hygiene

The nursery follows current UKHSA health-protection guidance and maintains effective infection-prevention practices including hand hygiene, cleaning, safe nappy changing, appropriate PPE and safe management of bodily fluids. Children with diarrhoea and/or vomiting are excluded for at least 48 hours after symptoms have stopped, unless current public-health advice requires a different approach. Other illnesses are managed according to current guidance and individual circumstances.

9. Food Safety, Allergies and Safe Eating

Food and drink are prepared, stored and served hygienically and in accordance with food-safety requirements and the nursery allergy procedures. Children are appropriately supervised while eating and drinking. Staff responsible for meals and snacks are aware of children's dietary requirements and allergies and take steps to prevent cross-contact and choking. Safer weaning and eating practices required by the EYFS are followed.

10. Safer Sleep

Where children sleep or rest at nursery, staff follow the safer-sleep requirements of the EYFS effective from 1 September 2026 and the nursery Sleep and Rest Policy. Sleep arrangements take account of each child's age and individual needs, sleeping children are appropriately supervised and checked, and staff remain alert to factors that may increase risk.



11. Security, Visitors and Collection

Access to the setting is controlled and visitors follow the nursery sign-in, identification and supervision procedures. Children are released only to authorised persons in accordance with the Arrivals and Departures Policy. Staff maintain appropriate supervision and remain vigilant to unauthorised access, unsafe collection arrangements and other safeguarding risks.

12. Banned Dog Breeds and Animals

In accordance with the EYFS requirements effective from 1 September 2026, registered childcare will not be provided from premises where a banned dog breed is kept or is present. Any contact with animals is risk assessed and managed with appropriate hygiene, supervision and consideration of allergies, infection and individual children's needs.

13. COSHH, Cleaning Products and Hazardous Substances

Cleaning products, chemicals and other hazardous substances are stored securely and used in accordance with manufacturer instructions and relevant Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) requirements. Risk assessments and safety information are maintained where required, and substances are kept inaccessible to children.

14. Manual Handling and Staff Health and Safety

Staff receive information, instruction and training appropriate to their duties, including safe lifting and moving practices where relevant. The nursery considers work-related health risks and makes appropriate adjustments or individual assessments where required. Staff must report work-related injuries, symptoms or hazards that may affect safe practice.

15. Outings and Forest School

Outings and off-site activities are planned and risk assessed in accordance with the EYFS and nursery procedures. Appropriate staffing, supervision, emergency contacts, first-aid provision and children's individual medical or allergy needs are considered. Dynamic risk assessment is used where conditions change, without replacing required written assessments.

16. Staff Training, Induction and Supervision

Health and safety responsibilities and relevant emergency procedures form part of staff induction. Refresher information and training are provided according to role, risk and changes in practice. Managers monitor that procedures are understood and applied in practice and use supervision, observations, meetings and incident reviews to address concerns and improve safety.

17. Digital Records and Confidentiality

Health and safety checks, risk assessments and relevant records may be maintained securely on BabysDays or other approved systems. Access is restricted to authorised persons and records are handled in accordance with UK GDPR, the Data Protection Act



2018, the nursery Data Protection and Confidentiality Policy and safeguarding information-sharing requirements.

18. Monitoring and Review

The Nursery Manager monitors health and safety arrangements and ensures identified actions are followed up. This policy and related risk assessments will be reviewed at least annually and sooner following a significant incident, change to the premises or service, or a relevant change in legislation, statutory guidance or risk.

Signed: P Reidy

Policy Date: 01/09/2026

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