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**Local Code of Practice**  
**Slips, Trips and Falls in Education**  
**Section 37**  
**(Version 1.00 – March 2019)**

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**STATEMENT:**

In order to comply with legislation and fulfil statutory responsibility, the Council must make sure that:

- All surfaces and equipment are maintained, inspected and tested.
- Suitable and sufficient risk assessments are carried out towards reducing the risk of slips, trips and falls, so far as is reasonably practicable.

**SCOPE:**

This Local Code of Practice (LCoP) applies to:

- All managers including head teachers referred to as managers herein in LBB maintained schools.
- All employees of Barnet Borough Council.
- All contractors, agency staff, volunteers and temporary workers working on behalf of the Council
- All visitors to council premises (members of public, pupils etc.)

## Issue Control

This Local Code of Practice is issued and managed by the Safety, Health and Wellbeing team.

Issue		Revision		
Number	Date	Number	Date	Amendments
Version 1.00	March 2012			
Version 2.00	March 2019			
<b>Review Schedule</b>				
<b>Review Conducted</b>		<b>Next Review Date</b>		

This LCoP should be read in conjunction with the London Borough of Barnet (LBB) Policies listed below in relation to LBB employees.

- Part C – Section 1 – Management of Health and Safety
- Part C – Section 4 – Accident Reporting
- Part C – Section 18 – Health and Safety in Offices

These can be found by clicking on this link <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/www/working-children-barnet/information-schools/health-and-safety-schools/health-and-safety>

**Note, these policies are for the exclusive user of London Borough of Barnet employees only**

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## **1 Introduction**

Slips and trips resulting in falls are the most common cause of injuries in UK workplaces. Employers have a responsibility to ensure that their employees and anyone else who could be affected by their work (such as pupils and visitors, etc.) are kept safe from harm and that their health and safety is not affected. This means slip and trip risks must be identified and controlled to ensure that people do not slip, trip and fall. This policy concentrates on environmental risks of slips and trips.

Over the last three years schools have reported a significant number of slipping and tripping accidents, many of which could have been prevented if more consideration had been given to the hazards and risks.

Slip and trip incidents can be controlled and the measures needed are often simple and low cost, but will bring significant reductions both in human suffering and costs.

## **2 Aims**

This guidance outlines schools requirement to assess the risks to employees and others who may be affected by their work, e.g. staff, pupils and visitors associated with slips and trips on its premises and to make provision for suitable controls designed to remove or reduce the risk of harm occurring.

Schools should ensure they take all reasonable steps towards preventing or minimising the risk of slips and trips to staff, pupils and visitors who visit or use School premises by:

- Providing a safe working environment which, as far as is reasonably practicable, is free from hazards that contribute to slips and trips.
- Ensuring any slip and trip hazards in the workplace are identified, reported and rectified.
- Ensuring, where deficiencies are identified, appropriate risk assessments and risk reduction action plans are in place to reduce risks and ensure the best practice principles are applied
- Ensuring hazard awareness training is provided as part of mandatory health and safety training to all staff.

2.1 Schools have responsibilities under Health & Safety legislation and should recognise the importance of providing a working environment that is safe and healthy for all employees, pupils, contractors, visitors and members of the public.

2.2 School need to endeavour to protect staff and other persons, to whom it has third party liability at law, from the effects of slip and trip hazards, by good management and risk assessment.

### **3 Responsibilities**

#### **3.1 The Board of Governors and Head Teacher**

The Board of Governors and Head Teacher are responsible for ensuring:

1. The health and safety at work of all employees, staff, pupils, contractors, visitors and others.
2. Risk assessments are carried out for the management of risks from slips and trips in their School and that this is recorded and reviewed (see risk assessment).
3. The risk assessment includes suitable control measures to eliminate or minimise the risk of slips and trips. This would include:
  - checking surfaces are in good condition
  - reducing floor contamination
  - defining an appropriate footwear policy where necessary (e.g. laboratories, kitchens and where external work is carried out)
  - checking that lighting is adequate.
  - housekeeping is in order
  - cable management is in place
4. All relevant staff are made aware of the risk assessment and what is expected of them.
5. A winter maintenance plan is designed and implemented when severe weather warnings are forecast for ice and snow, which includes gritting of high usage areas first and in extended adverse weather conditions ensure gritting is extended to other areas of lower risk.
6. Areas that they control are inspected for slip and trip hazards at least termly, e.g. as part of workplace inspections, and that corrective action is taken where necessary.
7. Any incidents involving slips or trips or near misses are reported and investigated.
8. They lead by example by following policies and good practice, challenging inappropriate behaviour and dealing with issues regarding slips and trips.

### **3.2 All staff**

1. Take responsibility 'See it - Sort it – Report it' - small spills on smooth floors are slip hazards don't just leave it, clean it up to leave floor dry.
2. Report any premises problems straight away to the head teacher e.g. potholes, uneven flooring, carpet edges, bad lighting,
3. Attend to any slip or trip risks immediately, e.g. water spills, pupil accidents, leaks, etc.
4. Wear the right shoes - you are less likely to have a slip or trip accident if you wear sensible shoes
5. Use designated walkways - don't use shortcuts e.g. through the kitchen or hall.
6. Carry hot drinks safely – clean up any spills promptly.
7. Store bags and work equipment safely - all deliveries must be attended to as soon as possible. Boxes that have been emptied must also be disposed of promptly - these should not be deposited outside classrooms.
8. Avoid trailing cables when undertaking activities such as IT lessons.
9. Encourage pupils to follow same procedures and talk to them about safe practices in relation to accidents including safe movement around the school and slips and trips

### **3.3 Midday Supervisors in the Hall and Playground**

1. Report any concerns about slip and trip hazards on the playground area and address as necessary
2. Prevent contamination from getting onto the floor in the lunch hall
3. Clean up spills straight away - for small spills spot clean with self-absorbent paper
4. Stop pupils and adults from walking on smooth wet floors where there have been spills
5. Dry the floor after cleaning to reduce drying time
6. Barrier off or close off the wet area
7. Wear the right shoes - the right non slip footwear can significantly lower the risk of slips in kitchens

### **3.4 Cleaners & Maintenance staff**

1. Follow your floor-cleaning and floor equipment instructions
2. Clean up spills straight away - for small spills spot clean with some absorbent paper - use a cone / sign to highlight the spill until it is removed.
3. Deep clean at the end of each day - use the right cleaning method for the floor and the right cleaning product in the right quantity.
4. Stop people from walking on smooth wet floors - dry the floor after cleaning to reduce drying time, warn and barrier off or close off the wet area. Don't forget to remove cones as soon as the floor is dry.
5. Don't create new hazards when you clean - trailing cables from vacuum cleaners and bin bags in walkways are a trip hazard.
6. Report maintenance issues – floors and cleaning equipment.

### **3.5 Pupils**

1. are expected to pick up coats, bags and other belongings so that they are not a trip hazard
2. are reminded to stand back for other children in crowded areas to avoid congestion and falls
3. are told not to run in school as this can cause themselves or others to trip
4. are reminded not to play near doors
5. are asked to point out any spills that may cause someone to slip

## **4 Reporting Slip and Trip Accidents**

Without exception, all employees are required to report work-related accidents/incidents to their respective supervisors or other responsible persons as soon as possible.

For maintained schools (and schools who subscribe to SHaW traded Service), this should be done through the online Accident/Incident Reporting System (HSMS).

All other schools should have a suitable method in place for the recording and reviewing of incidents.

Schools must ensure that they carry out an investigation of the circumstances surrounding any accident/incident, a copy of which should be filed with the accident report.

The investigation may be supplemented by an additional investigation by Health & Safety depending on the circumstances.

### **4.1 RIDDOR**

The Reporting Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) place a statutory duty on employers, the self-employed and people in control of work premises (the Responsible Person) to report certain serious workplace accidents, occupational diseases and specified dangerous occurrences (near misses).

Information specific to how the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) apply to schools is available on HSE. It gives practical advice to schools about what they need to report and how to do it. Most incidents in schools or on school trips do not need to be reported to HSE.

## **5 Risk Assessment**

All head teachers and managers must take the following control measures to effectively control slip and trip risks:

1. identify the hazards (use accident records, talk to staff, observe people moving around the premises);
2. decide who may be harmed (staff members, visitors, pupils, cleaners, catering staff, evening class pupils etc.) and how;
3. consider the risks and decide if precautions already being taken are enough or if more needs to be done;
4. record the findings;
5. review the assessment regularly and revise if necessary.

Appendix A provides a sample risk assessment  
Appendix B provides practical measure to control slips and trips.

### **Further information and Guidance**

A slip and trip checklist is available <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/ck4.pdf> and further  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/reportable-incidents.htm>  
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/services/education/slips-in-education.htm>

Appendix A

<b>Activity: Slips and Trips</b>			<b>Date of Assessment:</b>	
<b>Establishment / School:</b>		<b>SECTION/TEAM</b>		
<b>Who might be harmed?</b> Employees, Pupils, Visitors			<b>How many are effected?</b>	
<b>Hazards</b> (including inadequate / lack of arrangements)	<u>List existing control measures</u>	<b>✓ if in place</b> <b>* if not</b>	<b>If 'x' state the action to be taken with timescales or indicate any additional control measures:</b>	<u>Residual risk rating:</u> High, Medium , Low
<b>Cleaning Procedures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the cleaning practice effective in removing contaminants and does not create a slip risk?</li> <li>• Can cleaning be undertaken with no or minimal pedestrian traffic in the area?</li> <li>• Is it dry before pedestrians can walk on it?</li> <li>• Are 'Wet Floor' signs used where floors remain wet after cleaning or other cause?</li> <li>• Are warning signs removed as soon as the hazard has gone?</li> <li>• Are clean up procedures effective in promptly managing spills and keeping floors and paths clear from waste material?</li> <li>• Is the correct cleaning method and products used for the type of floor and contamination?</li> <li>• Are cables for vacuums and buffers managed?</li> </ul>			
<b>Shower and Toilet areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the floor surface have enough slip resistance to protect against slipping with expected contaminants?</li> <li>• Are floors even with no sudden changes of height?</li> </ul>			

Hazards (including inadequate / lack of arrangements)	<u>List existing control measures</u>	✓ if in place ✗ if not	If '✗' state the action to be taken with timescales or indicate any additional control measures:	<u>Residual risk rating:</u> High, Medium , Low
<b>Canteen/ Dining Hall</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are small spillages cleaned and spilt food picked up immediately?</li> <li>• Are floors fully cleaned when pupils/pupils have left the area?</li> <li>• Are people prevented from walking on the wet floor? e.g. use segregation barriers, lock doors, etc.</li> </ul>			
<b>Classrooms, D&amp;T, etc.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the floor surface have enough slip resistance to protect against slipping with expected contaminants?</li> <li>• Are all walkways around machines/equipment/cables kept clear of potential tripping objects as far as is reasonably practicable?</li> </ul>			
<b>Reception</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the floor surface have enough slip resistance to protect against slipping with expected contaminants?</li> <li>• Is the reception fitted with a carpet/door mat? Is it maintained in good condition and changed when required?</li> </ul>			
<b>Corridors &amp; Stairs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the floor surface have enough slip resistance to protect against slipping with expected contaminants?</li> <li>• Are all corridors/stairs kept clear of potential tripping objects as far as is reasonably practicable?</li> <li>• Are hand rails fitted to the full length of the stairs</li> <li>• Are stairs that are carpeted/vinyl (delete one) fitted with suitable nosing's?</li> </ul>			
<b>External areas – car parks, footpaths, etc.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are car parks and footpaths safe and free from potholes and tripping hazards?</li> <li>• Are safe routes cleared during winter conditions? See separate 'Snow and Ice' risk assessment.</li> </ul>			

<b>Hazards</b> (including inadequate / lack of arrangements)	<u>List existing control measures</u>	✓ if in place ✗ if not	If '✗' state the action to be taken with timescales or indicate any additional control measures:	<u>Residual risk rating:</u> High, Medium, Low
<b>Lighting, maintenance &amp; inspection.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do all the floor surfaces have enough slip resistance to protect against slipping with expected contaminants in all of the areas?</li> <li>Are adequate lighting levels maintained – internal and external?</li> <li>Are defects reported to the Caretaker/Asset Management?</li> <li>Is there a regular documented inspection regime in place?</li> </ul>			
Are there any other foreseeable hazards associated with Slips, Trips & Falls?  Please circle YES / NO	<u>List any additional control measures:</u>			
<b>ASSESSED BY (Print name)</b>			<b>SIGNED</b>	<b>DATE</b>
<b>LINE MANAGER</b>			<b>SIGNED</b>	<b>REVIEW DATE</b>

## Managing the Risk of Slips and Trips

There are many simple measures that can be taken to reduce or eliminate slip, trip or fall risks. The following table gives some suggestions.

Area	Practical measures for slips risk control
External steps, paths and parking areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitable lighting – replace, repair or clean lights</li> <li>• Ensure steps and paths are suitable for the volume of pedestrian traffic</li> <li>• Ensure paving slabs are secure and tarmac paths in good condition to give a flat, even surface</li> <li>• Maintain parking area free of potholes</li> <li>• Mark nosing's of steps using anti slip coating</li> <li>• Provide handrails where appropriate and maintain</li> <li>• Discourage short cuts across grassed / muddy areas</li> <li>• Clean leaves / mud from surfaces</li> <li>• Remove algal growth</li> <li>• Put in place effective procedures to deal with snow and ice</li> </ul>
Playgrounds and all weather sport surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure well maintained and flat to avoid surface water</li> <li>• Remove accumulations of mud / water</li> <li>• Remove algal growth</li> <li>• Ensure users wear appropriate footwear</li> </ul>
Building entrances / exits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Properly positioned door canopies of good size can prevent rain and dirty water from entering the building and getting onto the floor, so preventing slip risks</li> <li>• Non slip water absorbing mats at entrances that are large enough to dry shoes</li> <li>• Maintain mats in good condition and change when saturated</li> <li>• Ensure temporary matting does not curl and so pose a trip risk</li> <li>• Display signs warning of hidden steps / changes in level</li> <li>• Display signs warning of slipping risk where appropriate</li> <li>• Site door catches and door stops safely</li> </ul>
Sports halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitable footwear worn</li> <li>• Maintain floor mats in good condition and ensure they remain flat</li> <li>• Keep smooth floors clean and completely free of wet or dust contamination</li> <li>• Don't make smooth sports hall floors smoother by polishing and buffing</li> </ul>
Changing rooms/ swimming pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid contamination of the floor surface with mud/water from pupils:</li> <li>• Provide shoe cleaning brushes / scrapers</li> <li>• Provide suitable entrance matting</li> <li>• Provide non-slip flooring</li> <li>• Provide non slip surfaces in shower areas</li> <li>• Provide handholds for people with disabilities</li> <li>• Display no running signage</li> </ul>

Internal stairs and corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure a staggered release of pupils onto heavily used traffic routes</li> <li>• Put in place measures for traffic streaming and flow management up / down stairs and corridors</li> <li>• Mark nosings of stairs using anti-slip coating.</li> <li>• Handrails provided at suitable level</li> <li>• Lighting- replace / repair or clean lights before levels become too low</li> <li>• Apply anti-slip coatings to areas of smooth flooring which may become wet</li> </ul>
Classroom areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid trailing cables</li> <li>• Provide storage racks for pupils bags and coat hooks for drying wet clothing- consider siting such areas on specialist anti-slip flooring</li> <li>• Provide anti-slip flooring in wet areas</li> <li>• Avoid overcrowding of rooms</li> <li>• Control the entry and exit of people from classes</li> <li>• Provide a clear walkway around the room</li> </ul>
Preparation rooms, technician areas and storage rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide suitable storage</li> <li>• Containers of bulk liquids to be kept in bunded areas</li> <li>• Keep clear area around machines, kilns etc.</li> <li>• Use slip resistant flooring around machines</li> <li>• Remove all floor contamination quickly and effectively</li> </ul>
Kitchens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide equipment to avoid spillages (from cooking, washing etc.)</li> <li>• Provide edged work surfaces to contain spillages</li> <li>• Ensure good ventilation to avoid steam and condensation</li> <li>• Ensure staff wear suitable footwear</li> <li>• Spot clean small spillages and pick up food contamination immediately</li> <li>• Ensure good housekeeping around bins</li> <li>• Ensure floor surface is non slip</li> <li>• Clean floors with products appropriate for surface and contamination removal after work has finished</li> <li>• Prevent anyone from walking on wet floor e.g. use segregation barriers , lock doors</li> <li>• Only use cones / signage as a temporary warning device</li> </ul>
Canteen areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure staff wear suitable footwear</li> <li>• Spot clean small spillages and pick up food contamination immediately</li> <li>• Ensure floor surface is rough enough to cope with greasy contamination</li> <li>• Clean floors only when pupils have left area</li> <li>• Clean floors with products appropriate for surface and contamination removal after work has finished</li> <li>• Prevent anyone from walking on wet floor e.g. use segregation barriers , lock doors</li> <li>• Only use cones / signage as a temporary warning device</li> </ul>

Offices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide clear walkways</li><li>• Avoid trailing cables</li><li>• Provide adequate storage</li><li>• Do not store/leave materials in the walkways and around equipment</li><li>• Replace worn or damaged carpet tiles etc</li></ul>
Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure temporary cabling is routed safely and protected from damage</li><li>• Provide sufficient lighting</li></ul>
Educational visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assess location and anticipated weather</li><li>• Modify visit depending on local conditions when on site</li><li>• Wear suitable footwear</li><li>• Ensure effective management of the visit.</li></ul>