

# PE Health and Safety Policy



**SEPTEMBER 2025**

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## **Physical Education**

Gravenhurst Academy is committed to safe practices in Physical Education and recognises that the teaching staff and those in positions of responsibility have a duty of care for those in their charge to ensure that planning and implementation include recognition of safety as an important element.

Young people should learn about the principles of safety as applied to themselves and to the care and wellbeing of others. This should be a planned and intentional aspect of the curriculum.

## **Implementation**

The Principal is responsible for ensuring this policy is brought to the attention of all staff within the school and for ensuring that it is complied with.

## **Staff Competence**

Teachers with the responsibility for the planning and delivery of a PE programme should be competent in the safe use of any equipment. If they do not feel they are able to fulfil this responsibility they should seek support and potential training.

## **Manual Handling and Storage of equipment**

Where possible manual handling tasks should be avoided or the risk of injury minimised by appropriate task design or the use of handling aids (trolleys). The layout of the storage areas should minimise the need to stretch, reach, bend or twist the body excessively to reach frequently used or heavy items. This can be enhanced by ensuring the storage areas are kept tidy and well organised. When moving heavier equipment two members of staff should work together to reduce the risk of individual injury.

## **Apparatus and Equipment handling by pupils**

It is an integral part of the subject to involve pupils in apparatus handling. This must be carried out in such a way as to reduce risk to pupils as far as is reasonably practicable. The staff will ensure the pupils learn to handle equipment safely and appropriate to their age and strength.

## Inspection of Equipment/Activity Area

All equipment will be checked regularly, faulty or damaged equipment will be removed, repaired or replaced.

It is the responsibility of all staff to check the equipment used for each lesson, removing any equipment that is no longer safe and then notifying the PE coordinator so that replacements can be ordered or repairs organised.

Outside equipment, Trim Trail, Netball posts, Gymnastic Mats are all inspected annually by SportSafe Ltd. Any concerns with these pieces of equipment must be raised with the office staff who can arrange for repairs to be made safely. Large equipment waiting for repair will be removed where possible or secured with security tape until it is suitable for use.

It is the responsibility of the teacher/session leader to make a visual sweep of the activity area and to remove any hazardous items. If the items cannot be removed they must inform the pupils of the hazard and the steps they will take to avoid the area, for example coned off if safe to do so.

Risk assessments are carried out to ensure areas of the school are safe. They are regularly reviewed and updated.

It is the responsibility of the teacher/session leader to consider the weather when planning outside PE. The safety of outside PE should be considered when encountering extreme weather conditions, like low or high temperatures, strong winds, thunder, and ice.

## PE Kit and Conduct of pupils

All teachers and visitors should make themselves aware of the health and safety arrangements for the school and the areas of activity that they are teaching. School health and safety documents can be retrieved from the staff room, school office and from the health and safety designated person.

Appropriate clothing should be worn by all participants. Hair should be tied back.

Jewelry should be removed. If there is a reason that jewelry cannot be removed (for example, for religious reasons), a written note to the school should be provided. Other items such as watches and earrings should be removed before the lesson.

### Indoor PE kits should consist of:

- Plain navy or black shorts.
- A t-shirt that represents their house team.

### Outdoor PE kits should consist of:

- Plain navy or black shorts.
- A t-shirt that represents their house team.
- A pair of navy or black jogging bottoms (for cold weather).
- A navy or black jumper (for cold weather).
- A raincoat/mac.
- Trainers.

If a child does not have their P.E. kit they are still required to participate in the theory side of the lesson. A PE kit reminder will be sent home. If pupils continually do not bring their P.E. kit they will be sent to the Principal. Parents will be informed.

All pupils must be taught how to handle equipment and apparatus appropriately. They should be taught how to recognise hazards, assess the possible risks and take steps to control the risks to themselves and others. Pupils are expected to use equipment safely so to reduce risk of harm to themselves and their peers. Any pupil found to be using equipment in a dangerous way will be removed from the lesson, either temporarily through the use of a timeout or for the duration of the lesson and this will be at the teacher's discretion.

See Positive Behaviour Policy for further information on sanctions.

## **Implementation and Review**

This policy will be made known to all staff, parents/carers and governors. Copies are also available upon request from the academy office. This policy will be reviewed every three years or as required.

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