

Slips, trips and falls are the most common cause of injuries in workplaces and the second highest cause of over 3 day injuries. They occasionally cause fatalities and the financial costs of slip and trip incidents are considerable. The majority of people in schools are not employees but pupils. Education employers also have responsibilities to protect them from slips and trips. Slip and trip incidents can be controlled and the measures needed are often simple, but will bring significant reductions both in human suffering and costs. Developing and implementing a successful policy to control slip and trip risks will require the support of everyone at the school.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed by the Health and Safety Officers and the School Advisory Board. They will ensure that the policy is up to date and relevant to current practice. In addition, they will check that it reflects current legislation.

External steps, paths and external areas

- Suitable lighting - replace, repair or clean lights before levels become too low to be safe
- Ensure paving slabs are secure and tarmac paths in good condition to give a flat, even surface
- Provide handrails where appropriate and maintain in good condition
- Put in place effective procedures to deal with snow or ice

Playground

- Ensure surface is flat and well maintained to avoid surface water
- Remove accumulations of mud and water
- Ensure children wear the appropriate footwear for the surface

Building entrances and exits

- Provide nonslip, water absorbing mats at entrances that are large enough to dry shoes
- Maintain mats in good condition and change when saturated
- Ensure that temporary matting does not curl and so pose a trip risk
- Display signs warning of risk of slipping when appropriate

Swimming Pool

- Avoid contamination of the floor surface with mud or water from children entering by providing shoe cleaning brushes/scrapers and suitable entrance mats
- Ensure 'no running' signs are in place

Classroom areas

- Avoid trailing cables from equipment and tools
- Provide storage lockers for pupils' bags
- Provide coat hooks/racks for wet coats
- Avoid overcrowding of rooms
- Control the entry and exit of children from classes

- Provide a clear walkway around each room
- Don't let displayed art work, practical work etc obstruct the walkways
- Clear away toys in early years classes so they do not obstruct the walkways
- Remove warning signs as soon as hazard has been removed
- Clean floors only when pupils/students have left the area
- Use the right cleaning product for the floor and for contamination removal
- Prevent anyone from walking on wet floors

Agreed and approved by the School Advisory Board

Date: 1 February 2017

Review Date: February 2018