

Home-Grown in Malvern – Policy for Outdoor Play 2 (Steps and Decking Area)

We aim to use the outdoor areas all year round but we are aware that there are specific risks that need to be guarded against. The new steps down to the bottom area of the garden and the wooden deck need special consideration because there is a risk of falling from a height.

In order to ensure that these areas are used safely, all staff must observe the following procedures:

1. The wooden gate at the top of the garden stairs must remain closed and bolted at all times.
2. No pre-school children are to be allowed access to the areas beyond the block paving unless accompanied by an adult. The adult must remain with the children at all times.
3. The garden deck is an area to be used for quiet activities only – any children unable to use the area in this way must not be allowed on it.
4. Children and adults should sit on the floor (using blankets and/or cushions) If chairs are used on the deck, they must be removed at the end of the session.
5. Adults must remain aware that objects and furniture that can be climbed upon will increase the risk of children harming themselves and safety must be their consideration first and foremost and at all times.
6. The ramp remains the safest way for younger children to access the garden but if the steps are to be used, there must be an adult holding the hand and/or guiding the child safely. Please be aware that it is possible to access the stairs from the middle grassed area near the greenhouse.
7. Older, school age children may access the entire lower garden areas (apart from the fenced area containing the large shed) as long as they are aware of the safety 'rules' and an adult is within sight.

Signed

Date Reviewed: