

Health & Safety Schools Newsletter

From: Doug Brady - Health & Safety Advisor

To: All schools

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OPEN WINDOWS

Now that the good weather has finally arrived you may want to open classroom windows. When open, windows should not project into an area where people are likely to collide with them they should ideally be fitted with opening restrictor. A short term solution to windows without restrictors is to put outside furniture or large plant pots in the area of the open window to prevent anyone from bumping into them

Consider and install safety glass (British Standard) in all areas of glazing where a pupil or adult could be vulnerable.

Window glass should be replaced if it is cracked in any way



EMERGENCY LIGHTING

Many of your buildings will now find themselves on an annual serving contract for emergency lighting that will include the testing of the batteries.

To ensure compliance with “2005 Regulatory Reform Act (Fire Safety)Order” in house documented testing will be required to be carried out, any faults found should then be dealt with by your service provider.as soon as possible

**ADULT
SUPERVISION
REQUIRED**

PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION

Following a liability claim where a pupil was injured during a lunch break it was identified that not all schools had a written policy in place for supervision levels.

Staff v Pupil Sport Fixtures

The Association for Physical Education does not recommend any sports matches between staff and pupils. This is due to the risk of injury to pupils. Matching of pupil strength, experience, previous experience and confidence is a pre-requisite of good practice. Case Law indicates that if a pupil is injured as a result of adults participating competitively in lessons or in matches; liability claims against schools have been successful.

FOOD HYGIENE RATINGS



The Food Hygiene Ratings Scheme allows anyone to look at how good a school kitchen is in relation to food hygiene. The website is at <http://ratings.food.gov.uk/>, you can filter down to Council area or even in relation to the type of premises - just follow the link, and choose a 'Business Type' of 'School/college/university', then select Bracknell Forest Council. You should be able to find both the main kitchen operation and also any school clubs or groups that receive an inspection for food hygiene. This is a public website so anyone with an interest in your school can access this information easily.

The ratings a school receives is reliant upon a strong cooperative relationship with those running your school kitchen and if you see anything that doesn't seem right it's really worth rectifying it as soon as possible rather than waiting for the next food hygiene inspection. It's also important that any additional operations or activities (e.g. a nursery group or clubs) that provide any food to pupils also play their part.

If you're not sure if your site or any organisation should have an entry on the ratings site but isn't listed, contact environmental.health@bracknell-forest.gov.uk or telephone 01344 352506 to ask to speak to someone. You can also contact for any general food hygiene advice or if you want to raise any query about the rating or food inspection undertaken.