

# Health & Safety Schools Newsletter

**From:** Doug Brady - Health & Safety Advisor

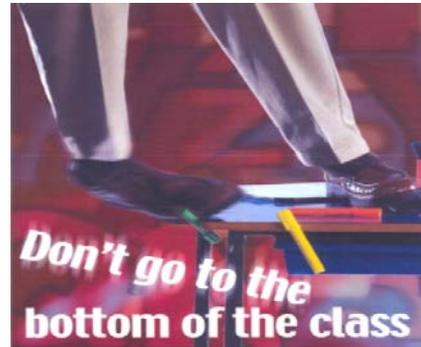
**To:** All schools

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## FALLS FROM HEIGHT

Even after the much publicised “Working at Height Regulations” that came into effect on 6 April 2005, some school employees are still putting themselves at unnecessary risk by standing on chairs or tables to secure and to get to out of reach objects.

Under the Regulations all work at height is covered regardless of what height it is performed, there is no longer a 2 metre exception rule.

A risk assessment must be carried out to determine whether precautions are needed and in what form, precautions will be required for all working at height activities.

Guidance on the safe use of ladders can be found in section 3 (10) of the Health, Safety and Welfare Manual of Guidance.

See the link below.

[Safe use of ladders](#)



## SCHOOL LOCKERS

If you are planning to purchase new lockers please look at the specification to ensure that they are going to be fit for purpose and are guaranteed for a reasonable amount of time.

You will need to **secure** freestanding lockers to a solid wall and a reputable manufacturer/supplier should be providing you with the necessary fixing equipment that will suit the type of walls that you have in your school.

As part of the selection process you will want to ensure that especially with metal lockers there are no exposed sharp edges and that with all locker types that there are no “finger trap” opportunities between the open door and the locker body



## FINGER PROTECTION

A gust of wind, a thoughtless moment, a playtime prank – whatever the cause we are still receiving reports of finger trap incidents.

Obviously, nobody would want a child in your care or visiting your premises to suffer such an accident. Under current Health and Safety legislation it is possible for your premises to be fined if practical measures were not taken to prevent such accidents. Victims may also pursue a legal claim for damages. The dangers associated with finger entrapment affect not just young children in schools and nurseries, the elderly and disabled are also particularly vulnerable. Furthermore, any person in a public or commercial place could potentially be a victim of door related accidents.



## PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION POLICY

We have received a few insurance claims relating to playground incidents. Parents/carers have claimed that there was insufficient Adult supervision during play time activities. It's advised that you review your playground supervision arrangements and document them in a formal policy that could be used to defend a claim against your school. Please get in touch if you require any assistance with this.



## SPRINGBOARD OR TRAMPETTE

Springboards or trampettes are classed as rebound tumbling apparatus and are not recommended for use within primary schools. However they could possibly be used in a gymnastics club scenario under qualified supervision but they should not be used during a normal class gymnastics PE lesson during curricular time and when they are used it should only be under the supervision of a suitably qualified person.

Qualified supervision in this instance would be someone who has a British Gymnastics Level 2 coaching qualification or a British Gymnastics Trampoline Coach Award or a qualified teacher of PE all of whom have had training in the use of rebound tumbling apparatus included within their training programme.

When in use the particular apparatus must have constant supervision and therefore if both are in use there must be two qualified persons present one supervising each piece and there must also be a suitable landing surface in place.



## UNATTENDED CHILDREN

Due to a couple of near miss incidents it has been highlighted that there was a health and safety issue with parents dropping their children at school from as early as 8.10am and leaving them unattended in the school playground or close to car park areas. We suggest you review your public access time in the morning to help prevent children from being left unattended.

Will also suggest signage at school gates:

Info will be something similar to: 'School gates will be unlocked 8.35 am.

"Children should not be left unattended before this time"