



## Play Risk Assessment for Mud Kitchen September 2024

### Encouraging Outdoor Play and Learning

At Drybrook Primary School, we recognise the importance of outdoor play in promoting children's development. The mud kitchen allows children to engage in messy play, which supports sensory exploration, creativity, and cooperative learning. This type of play is crucial for developing problem-solving skills, social interaction, and an understanding of the natural environment.

#### Aims for Mud Kitchen Play

- Encourage imaginative and cooperative play.
- Support sensory exploration and creativity through messy play.
- Provide opportunities for children to explore natural materials and learn about the environment.

#### Identified Risks

Hazard	Controls
Slips and falls (mud, water)	- Ensure non-slip surfaces around the kitchen.
	- Clear any spillages promptly.
Ingestion of mud or unsafe materials	- Supervise children closely.
	- Educate children on safe play and not putting items in their mouths.
Use of heavy or sharp objects	- Provide only age-appropriate tools.
	- Regularly inspect tools for damage or hazards.
Hygiene (dirty hands, face)	- Ensure handwashing before and after play.
	- Provide access to handwashing facilities nearby.
Injury from falling structures (e.g., pots, pans)	- Secure all structures and ensure they are stable.
	- Supervise the use of larger items.

#### Review and Monitoring

- **Frequency:** Weekly checks of the mud kitchen.
- **Responsible Person:** Assigned staff member - caretaker
- **Record Keeping:** Weekly check document inspections and any incidents kept in the school office.

