

RISK ASSESMENT

Risk Assessment for:	Battery Safety & Battery Recycling Bin	Prepared by:	H & S Co-ordinator – S.L & V.D
		Assessed by SLT:	
Location:	ROSEWOOD FREE SCHOOL, SO16 5NA	Date of Assessment	June 2026
		Review Date:	June 2027

Hazard	Who might be harmed?	Hazards Identified which may cause harm – consequence	Existing level of Risk	Control Measure and Precautions Taken	Additional Control Measures or Further Action Required	Remaining level of Risk
<p>Hearing aid battery is ingested or inserted into nose / ear.</p> <p>Both new and used batteries pose a serious risk</p> <p>See below guidelines</p>	Learner, mobile sibling	Contact with hearing aid battery can cause a fatality or serious irreparable damage to oesophagus, intestines, and internal tissue.	High - 30	<p>All hearing aid users to have secure battery compartments on their aids (learners and staff). In the interim unsecure compartments to be taped shut.</p> <p>If hearing aids are removed from the learners (e.g. for hydro), the aids should be placed in a box or bag with a secure closure - as the battery compartment will then need to be open to prevent feedback.</p> <p>All toys with button batteries to have secure screw covers.</p> <p>In the interim unsecure compartments to be taped shut.</p> <p>Care with storage of spare hearing aid / button batteries – ensure blister pack is closed and stored secured and out of reach.</p> <p>Extreme care when changing batteries that none are dropped.</p> <p>Used batteries to be stored out of reach in safe container (e.g. lidded tin) where there is no danger of batteries being lost.</p>	First aid advice below risk assessment	Med - 10

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Use of battery recycling bin	Staff, learners & third party	Discarded batteries present a very small risk of fire and source of ignition.	Med - 16	<p>All batteries to be disposed of at a recycling point.</p> <p>Insulate the terminals on batteries that can easily short circuit (e.g. 9V batteries) - when 9V batteries deplete a plastic insulation strip need to be replaced back on the battery before putting into the recycling bin.</p> <p>Containers must house no more than 2% Lithium, (IT manager to advise your account manager if you believe the volume is greater).</p> <p>Remove any bare trailing wires.</p> <p>Keep batteries dry and away from sources of heat.</p> <p>Do not put damaged batteries in the container.</p> <p>Store away from combustible or flammable materials.</p> <p>Do not put any items other than batteries in the container.</p>	System in place in IT manager's office for 9V batteries.	Med - 8
Recycling of batteries	Staff, learners & third party	Batteries not being discarding appropriately causing fire ignition or first aid measures needed.	Med - 16	<p>Recycling battery bin provided to recycle batteries – all staff to ensure the recycling bin is being used and old batteries are being recycled safely.</p> <p>Batteries kept dry.</p> <p>Do not put damaged batteries in the recycling bin.</p> <p>IT manager in charge of contacting Portable Battery Collection to arrange collection & dropping off of recycle bin.</p>	enquiries@batteryback.org - used for support	Med - 8

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Recycling of larger power pack batteries (Acheeva, plinth)	Staff, learners & third party	Batteries not being discarded appropriately causing fire ignition or first aid measures needed.	Med - 16	Power pack batteries should be re-cycled and removed from the building at the first opportunity and not be bulk stored. Large power pack batteries can not be recycled in the battery bin.		Med - 8
High likelihood of risk – Likely to occur immediately or in the near future Medium likelihood of risk – will occur in time if no preventative action is taken Low likelihood of risk – Remote or unlikely to occur						

In case of battery ingestion or being poked into ear / nose: THIS MUST BE TREATED AS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY

NHS Guidance Dec 2019 (risk to children from batteries in hearing aids)

Dec 2014 (risk of death and serious harm from delays in recognising and treating ingestion of button batteries)

The danger is from both live and flat batteries.

The danger is not caused by leakage but by the electrical current discharged by the battery causing a build-up of caustic soda leading to tissue burns.

The learner or person who swallowed the battery must be taken to hospital, even if the battery is removed (this may not prevent further damage).

Patients require expert input, and careful monitoring and follow up.

Symptoms can manifest up to 28 days after battery ingestion.

Date Reviewed	Comments
Feb 2020	Initial assessment
April 2021	Annual update
June 2021	Amended – new information
June 2022	Annual update

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Date Reviewed	Comments
June 2024	Annual update
June 2026	General update