

Health & Safety Safeguarding Hazard and Risk Assessment Report

1. Site Information

School Name	Peel Brow Primary School
Address	Fir St, Ramsbottom, Bury BL0 0BJ
Date of Inspection	26 October 2025
Surveyor / Author	J. Martin BSc (Hons) MRICS
Element Inspected	Perimeter Fencing

2. Executive Summary

This report provides an independent assessment of the health and safety and safeguarding risks associated with the school's existing perimeter fencing, gates and boundary security measures. Its purpose is to evaluate the severity, immediacy and impact of safeguarding hazards affecting pupils, staff and visitors, separate to and distinct from the technical condition report.

The inspection has identified several high-severity risks including breaches and gaps in the boundary line, unstable and corroded fencing, non-functional gate mechanisms, and areas where the boundary fails to prevent unauthorised access or pupil egress. These deficiencies present a direct safeguarding concern, compromising the school's ability to maintain a secure site in accordance with Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) and the Education (School Premises) Regulations.

The defects observed pose an immediate risk to pupil welfare, operational control, and statutory compliance. Several sections of the boundary are no longer structurally reliable, with movement and distortion evident under minimal force. In certain locations, the boundary does not provide a sufficient physical barrier to prevent intrusion from the public realm or prevent pupils from leaving the site unnoticed.



3. Identified Hazards and Risk Severity

The following table summarises key hazards, their severity, affected areas, and references to supporting evidence.

Location	Hazard Description	Risk Type	Severity (L/M/H)	Occupants Affected	Photo Ref
East boundary fence (adjacent to public foot path)	Significant corrosion and deformation of fence panels; gaps large enough for pupil egress	Safeguarding / Absconding / Unauthorised Access	H	All pupils, particularly vulnerable pupils	01
South/ west perimeter adjacent to neighbouring properties	Fence leaning and unstable; posts loose in ground and movement under light pressure	Boundary breach / Physical injury	H	Pupils, staff, public	02
North boundary	Overgrown vegetation creating blind spots; concealment risk and reduced natural surveillance	Safeguarding / Visibility / Anti-social behaviour	H	Pupils, staff	03

4. Risk Classification Matrix

Hazards have been classified using standard severity and likelihood ratings to prioritise urgent interventions.

Severity	Likelihood	Risk Level
High	Likely / Certain	Immediate action required
Medium	Possible	Action required within short timeframe
Low	Unlikely	Monitor and manage



5. Statutory and Compliance Risks

Based on the identified safeguarding hazards, the following statutory and regulatory duties are at risk of breach:

- **Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974** - failure to maintain a safe physical environment where pupils and staff are protected from foreseeable harm arising from defective or insecure boundaries.
- **Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999** - inadequate assessment and control of safeguarding risks associated with boundary breaches, insecure gates, and unsafe external areas.
- **Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999** - failure to provide a secure site boundary that prevents unauthorised access and protects pupils from leaving the premises unsupervised.
- **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2025** - breach of statutory safeguarding expectations requiring schools to ensure that the physical environment does not expose pupils to avoidable risk, including intruder access, absconding and inadequate control of external spaces.
- **Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992** - failure to maintain external areas and access routes in a condition that is safe, secure and free from structural hazards.
- **Occupiers' Liability Act 1957/1984** - increased liability arising from insecure boundaries enabling unauthorised entry from the public realm, posing potential harm to intruders and site occupants.
- **Secured by Design (SBD) Principles** - although not statutory, the current boundary condition falls significantly below recognised best practice for perimeter security and access control in educational settings.

6. Recommended Actions

Hazard / Location	Immediate Action	Interim Control Measures	Permanent Solution	Priority
Breachable perimeter fencing (rear boundary)	Restrict pupil access to affected area; increase staff presence	Temporary fencing panels; monitored access routes	Temporary fencing panels; monitored access routes	High
Low fencing adjacent to public footpath	Stop pupil use of nearby external areas	Temporary height extension panels	Installation of full-height safeguarding-rated perimeter fencing	High
Blind spots and concealed	Restrict unsupervised	Increased supervision;	Installation of passive	High



areas around outbuildings	access	temporary CCTV deployment	surveillance measures	
Potential self-exit (absconding) risk	Immediate supervision of area	Temporary fencing and controlled access	Installation of secure SEN-appropriate enclosed boundary system	High

7. Risk Summary Table

Risk Category	Number of Hazards	Severity	Urgency of Action
High	3	High severity with immediate occupancy risk	Immediate
Medium	0	Moderate severity	Short-term action required
Low	0	N/A	Monitor only

8. Sign-off

Prepared by	J. Martin MRICS
Reviewed by	Darren Cosgrove – Chief Finance Officer
Date	15 October 2025

Note: This document highlights health and safety risks only and should be used alongside the technical condition report. It is designed to support CIF applications by demonstrating the severity and urgency of risks to building users.



Appendix A - Photographs

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

