

SCHOOL SAFETY & OPERATION ADDENDUM

Purpose of This Document

This addendum outlines the specific safety, supervision, inspection, and operational responsibilities of schools using Monkey Bar Store climbing frames.

It must be read alongside the Assembly & Safety Manual.

Monkey Bar Store frames are engineered for children and adults, including movements such as climbing, swinging, gymnastics, calisthenics, and parkour-style skills. When installed and operated correctly, the equipment provides a high level of stability and performance.

1. PRODUCT DESIGN & STABILITY

Monkey Bar Store frames are freestanding steel structures. Stability is achieved through:

- Structural geometry
- Weight of the frame
- Full ground contact of all base plates
- Correct tightening of all connectors
- Ground pegs installed to minimise lateral sliding on grass

Important Stability Notes

The supplied ground pegs are not structural anchors; they reduce sliding on softer ground but do not fix the frame permanently into the earth.

As with any freestanding equipment, the frame cannot be guaranteed impossible to overturn under extreme or deliberate misuse.

Excessive lateral loading (e.g., coordinated swinging on one side, attempts to rock the frame, or heavy dynamic movements isolated to one point) can compromise stability if not supervised.

2. SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 Site Selection

The school is responsible for selecting a suitable installation location and ensuring:
Level or slightly sloping ground (slopes permitted if base plates remain fully grounded)

No subsidence, loose fill, or overly soft soil

A clear fall zone of 1.5–2 m minimum around elevated activities (schools may choose more depending on their own policies)

Safe distance from fences, sheds, buildings, play structures, windows, and overhead hazards

Schools should also check the site seasonally to ensure no significant ground movement or softening has occurred.

2.2 School Risk Assessment

Schools must complete and maintain a **site-specific risk assessment** before allowing pupils to use the equipment. The assessment should include:

- Supervision ratios based on pupil age and ability
- Approved use types (e.g., climbing, swinging, calisthenics, beginner gymnastics)
- Rules around advanced movements or high-impact skills
- Maximum number of simultaneous users
- Behaviour management expectations
- Surface conditions and whether mats are needed for certain activities
- Weather-related risks (wet grass, frost, mud, soft soil)

Monkey Bar Store can provide product dimensions, weights, and structural principles to support this assessment.

3. SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS

Safe use requires active and appropriate supervision.

The school must:

Ensure pupils are supervised **at all times** when using the equipment

Set clear behaviour guidelines, including:

- No rocking or sideways pushing of the frame
- No coordinated swinging designed to move the structure
- No climbing on structural elements not intended for standing

Enforce age-appropriate rules for more advanced activities such as gymnastics or parkour-style movements

Limit the number of children using the equipment simultaneously based on the school's risk assessment

Staff should intervene immediately if unsafe behaviour is observed.

4. INSPECTION & MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Routine Fixing Checks

Monkey Bar Store frames use high-strength steel connectors designed to remain secure once fully tightened.

Daily fixing checks are **not required**.

Recommended routine schedule:

Weekly fixing check (or twice weekly for high-use playgrounds)

Ensure all accessible grub screws and bolts remain tight

Confirm the frame remains square, level, and stable

4.2 Visual Stability Checks for High-Intensity Use

Before structured sessions involving gymnastics or parkour-style movements, staff should perform a quick visual check:

Is the frame stable?

Are the ground peg areas firm?

Any visible damage or wear?

This is a short safety check, not a full inspection.

4.3 Weather-Related Checks

After heavy rain, frost, or ground softening:

Confirm all base plates remain in full contact with the ground

Ensure ground pegs remain fully inserted

Check for visible leaning or movement

4.4 Termly Detailed Inspection

Every school term (approx. 10–14 weeks), a more detailed inspection should be performed by:
A competent member of staff, or a playground inspector / RoSPA-style inspector

The termly inspection should review:

- Surface and ground stability
- Structural condition
- Signs of damage, corrosion, or deformation
- Fixing integrity
- Any wear to components
- Continued suitability of the installation location

5. MISUSE, MODIFICATIONS & BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

The school must ensure pupils do NOT:

- Push, pull, or attempt to rock the frame
- Try to lift or tip the structure
- Overcrowd individual bars or stations
- Attempt movements beyond their ability or training
- Add ropes, swings, straps, or accessories not approved by Monkey Bar Store
- Climb on the very top of structural tubing not intended for that purpose
- Any modification of the frame — including attaching non-approved equipment — may compromise safety and void warranty.

6. LIABILITY POSITION

Monkey Bar Store designs and supplies this equipment using reasonable care and skill.

Nothing in this document limits liability for death or personal injury caused by negligence.

Subject to statutory obligations, Monkey Bar Store is not responsible for incidents arising from:

- Inadequate supervision
- Misuse or deliberate misuse
- Failure to carry out inspections
- Overloading or unsafe activity choices
- Unauthorised modifications or attachments

The school accepts responsibility for ensuring:

- The equipment is operated safely
- Pupils are adequately supervised
- Behaviour expectations are enforced
- Inspections and maintenance are completed
- The installation site remains suitable over time