



## **SUBJECT:** Fitted? Fixed & Fastened??

**RECIPIENTS:** All LCC services (including schools)

**ISSUE DATE:** October 2019    **REF:** HSB 152

Following a recent fatal accident where an unsecured changing room locker fell on a child, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has highlighted the need for premises to ensure that furniture and equipment such as shelving, display boards, cupboards and lockers are well-maintained and are secured to prevent them falling or toppling and causing injury.



While the HSE advice was initially aimed at schools, this can be extended to any premises that may have children present (Children's Centres, for example) or any other premises where the users may be unpredictable in their nature or behaviour (Care establishments, Residential and/or Secure units etc.).

When assessing whether the risks associated with furniture and equipment are suitably controlled, duty holders/managers should consider how the item is likely to be used and include foreseeable misuse (such as climbing up/onto cupboards).

Furniture requiring fixing should be secured in accordance with the relevant manufacturer's instructions so as to remain stable and capable of withstanding foreseeable (misuse) loading.

The condition of any fixings and fastenings should be monitored at appropriate intervals to ensure that they remain effective.

Arrangements and safeguards should be checked where rooms have been refurbished, where new equipment has been provided, or where furniture and equipment has been moved.

Additional consideration should be given in the school environment, to drama and sports facilities and specialist classrooms, including laboratories, technology facilities and pupil referral rooms.

The HSE has provided a [checklist](#) which, whilst aimed at the 'classroom' setting, can be used in all premises to provide reassurance to managers that the most common areas of risk on the premises, or in the rooms being used, are being adequately controlled and monitored.

**If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact:**

**Corporate Health & Safety Advisers (see George section: Corporate > Information for Working > Risk Management > H&S Advisers)**