



Health and Safety Policy

Reviewed: Summer 21
Next review date: Summer 23

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Chair of Governors

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Date

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Headteacher

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Date

Hertfordshire County Council

Children's Services

Model Policies for Schools

Model Health and Safety Policy for Schools

Department:	Health and Safety Team
Author:	James Ottery
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Reference:	CSF0035

MODEL HEALTH AND SAFETY STATEMENT FOR SCHOOLS

Introduction

1. This document provides a customisable template to assist schools in producing a written health and safety policy.
2. The model policy is based upon Hertfordshire County Council's criteria for schools where it is the employer, it's for the Governing Body / Board of Trustees of Foundation, VA and Academy¹ schools to determine whether to adopt such arrangements.
3. Schools should ensure the policy is customised to fit their individual circumstances. Some areas requiring customisation are highlighted in red, in order to help to meet the requirements of different schools some alternative wording is suggested and such alternatives are separated by / within square brackets [].
Significant customisation will be required for those schools where the Local Authority (LA) is not the employer (VA, Foundation, Academy etc.).

Writing a Policy Statement

4. Under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, it is the duty of an employer to have an up to date written statement of health and safety, this general policy must be complemented by a school policy statement.
5. Adapting the model policy is the best way of complying with the LA's Health and Safety Policy, demonstrating compliance with statutory duties could be difficult in the absence of a school policy.
6. The safety policy should be signed and dated by the head teacher / chair of governors.²
7. The main points required in a Health and Safety Policy Statement are:

Part 1 Statement of Intent

Outlining your commitment to providing a healthy and safe environment for all users of the establishment: - staff, pupils, visitors and contractors.

Part 2 Organisation (roles and responsibilities)

The organisation section should describe the roles and responsibilities of key personnel, for example:

- Governors
- Headteacher
- Those with responsibility for specific areas or activities which may have been delegated to them e.g. Heads of Department, Deputy Heads, School Business Managers, Site Managers, Caretakers etc.
- Other employees (both teaching and non teaching) and any volunteers

The procedures for joint management / employee consultation should be detailed. It should be decided whether you require a safety committee (this is unlikely to be the case in small establishments and primary schools) where such a committee exists, then briefly describe its constitution and functions within the policy.

¹ References to academies should be taken to include free and studio schools.

² References to governors should be taken to mean whoever is responsible for fulfilling governance functions

It is recommended that Health and Safety is included as a standing agenda item at relevant staff/team meetings. This enables you to demonstrate communication lines are in place enabling staff to participate in health and safety.

Part 3 Arrangements

The arrangements section details the school's local procedures for controlling significant risks and makes clear any specific roles and responsibilities in managing these.

The model policy details as appendices some of the key areas for which local arrangements may be required, depending on the nature of the risks not all may be relevant.

[DfE Health and Safety: advice for schools](#) provides further information on areas for inclusion in a school health and safety policy.

Arrangements for policy review

8. Governors are required to take steps to ensure that they are kept informed of the County Council's advice and guidance on health and safety matters.
9. It is recommended that Health and Safety is a regular item on the agenda of either a full meeting of the governing/senior management body or an appropriate sub-committee of governors (e.g. Premises, Resources etc).
10. Establishments will need to review and amend where necessary their Health and Safety policy from time to time. It is recommended that a review be carried out annually. (The legislation requires this is done no longer than every 2 years)
11. Once completed the policy should be communicated to all staff (teaching and support staff) and be linked to the induction of all new staff.

Further Information

12. For further information and guidance contact: the Health and Safety Team
Tel: 01992 556478 healthandsafety@hertfordshire.gov.uk
13. A summary of changes from the previous version of the model policy (V7 October 2019) is provided below.

UPDATES

Page number	Section	Details of change
March 2021 update		
P33	Addendum to H&S policy for COVID-19	Overarching statement on management of COVID risks updated in line with the revised DfE guidance from March 8 th 2021
September 2020 update		
P24	COSHH	Updated link to CLEAPSS document L93 Managing radioactive sources in schools Nov 2019
P31	School Swimming	Links to Swim England and PWTAG inserted
P33	Addendum to H&S policy for COVID-19	Overarching statement added as addendum to model policy in recognition of current circumstances due to COVID -19
Previous updates to main policy from V6 V6a May 2017		
	Risk assessment	Links to CLEAPSS sites (DT, Science and Primary) added; NSEAD as a source of model assessments deleted.
	Off site visits	Link to the Outdoor Education Advisors' Panel (OEAP) guidance added; Reference to local learning areas added. HCC recommendations regarding EVC refresher training 3-5 yearly added.
	Fire	Link to national fire risk assessment document added; Minor change to wording in emergency procedure section.
	Emergency equipment	Minor changes to emergency lighting text to highlight the need to document the monthly tests and that the annual test is for the full duration of the battery
	First aid / Medication	AED (Defibrillator) text amended to include need to check these on a cyclical basis for functionality
		Emergency auto adrenaline injectors (AAI) section added to reflect these can now be held by schools if required
	Accident reporting	Amended text to include: Retention times for accident forms That the Headteacher is responsible for ensuring all RIDDOR reportable incidents are reported. Link to the HSE document 'incident reporting in schools' added
	Consultation	Reference to Staff meetings and Health and Safety is a standing agenda item.
	Training	Minor text change to reflect heads are responsible for ensuring staff are competent to undertake their duties.
	Premises	Line added on premises defects; Line added that Records of fixed wire tests / inspections and certification will be maintained and remedial works arising acted upon in a timely manner; Link added to DfE doc Good Estate Management for schools Link to termly outdoor play equipment checklist added
	COSHH	Updated link to CLEAPSS document L93 Managing radioactive sources in schools
	Asbestos	Additional bullet point on refurbishment / demolition surveys
	Work at height	Added line that any defective equipment taken out of use until repaired / replaced
	Vehicle segregation	Ensure that the school adds in details of any specific local arrangements for managing this; A risk assessment to be in place for pedestrian / vehicle segregation.

	Legionella	Minor changes to reflect that all records relating to the management of Legionella must be kept for 5 years. The requirement for a 6 monthly temperature check of stored water (e.g. cold water storage tanks) has been changed to 12 monthly.
	School Swimming	NOP / EAP references changed to PSOP (standard operating procedures)

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Featherstone Wood Primary School

PART 1. STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Governing Body of Featherstone Wood Primary School will strive to achieve the highest standards of health, safety and welfare consistent with their responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and other statutory and common law duties.

This statement sets out how these duties will be conducted and includes a description of the school's organisation and arrangements for dealing with different areas of risk. Details of how these areas of risk will be addressed are given in the arrangements section.

This policy will be brought to the attention of, and/or issued to, all members of staff (a copy is available on the school website and in the staff room folder)

This policy statement and the accompanying organisation and arrangements will be reviewed on every two years.

This policy statement supplements:

Hertfordshire County Council's (HCC) Health and Safety Policy.

Educational visits policy and procedures

Supporting pupils with medical needs policy

Positive behaviour policy

Physical intervention policy

Signed:

Signed:

Jason Caplen, **Chair of Governors**

Louise Shuttleworth, **Headteacher**

Date:

Date:

PART 2. ORGANISATION

As the employer the Local Authority has overall responsibility for Health and Safety in Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools.

At a school level duties and responsibilities have been assigned to staff and governors as detailed below.

Responsibilities of the Governing Body

The Governing Body are responsible for ensuring health and safety management systems are in place and effective. They fulfil a strategic role in health and safety and are not expected to be involved in day to day management of the school.

As a minimum these management systems should adhere to the LA's health and safety policy, procedures and standards as detailed in the [Education Health and Safety Manual](#).

A Health & Safety Governor Jason Caplen has been appointed to receive relevant information, monitor the implementation of policies and procedures and to feedback health and safety issues and identified actions to the Governing Body.

The Governing body will receive regular reports from the Headteacher in order to enable them to provide and prioritise resources for health and safety issues.

Where required the Governing body will seek specialist advice on health and safety which the establishment may not feel competent to deal with.

HCC's Health and Safety Team, Tel: 01992 556478
healthandsafety@hertfordshire.gov.uk provide competent health and safety advice for Community, Community Special and VC schools.

Responsibilities of the Headteacher

Overall responsibility for the day to day management of health and safety in accordance with the LA's health and safety policy and procedures rests with the Headteacher.

The Headteacher has responsibility for:

- Co-operating with the LA and Governing Body to enable health and safety policy and procedures to be implemented and complied with.
- Communicating the policy and other appropriate health and safety information to all relevant people including contractors.
- Ensuring effective arrangements are in place to pro-actively manage health and safety by conducting and reviewing inspections and risk assessments and implementing required actions.
- Reporting to the Governing body on health and safety performance and any safety concerns/ issues which may need to be addressed by the allocation of funds.

- Ensuring that the premises, plant and equipment are maintained in a safe and serviceable condition.
- Reporting to the LA any significant risks which cannot be rectified within the establishment's budget.
- Ensuring all staff are competent to carry out their roles and are provided with adequate information, instruction and training.
- Ensuring consultation arrangements are in place for staff and their trade union representatives (where appointed) and recognising the right of trade unions in the workplace to require a health and safety committee to be set up.
- Monitoring purchasing and contracting procedures to ensure health and safety is included in specifications & contract conditions.

Whilst overall responsibility for health and safety cannot be delegated the Headteacher may choose to delegate certain tasks to other members of staff.

The task of overseeing health and safety on the site has been delegated by the head to the site manager or relevant subject leader for science, DT and PE.

Responsibilities of other staff holding posts of special responsibility

Itemise any functions and areas of responsibility delegated to staff from the head teacher that are appropriate in the circumstances of the school. E.g.

The site manager, PE and curriculum leads will:

- Apply the school's health and safety policy to their own department or area of work.
- Ensure staff under their control are aware of and follow relevant published health and safety guidance (from sources such as CLEAPSS, AfPE etc.)
- Ensure health and safety risk assessments are undertaken for the activities for which they are responsible and that identified control measures are implemented.
- Ensure that appropriate safe working procedures are brought to the attention of all staff under their control.
- Take appropriate action on health, safety and welfare issues referred to them, informing the head of any problems they are unable to resolve within the resources available to them.
- Carry out regular inspections of their areas of responsibility and report / record these inspections.
- Ensure the provision of sufficient information, instruction, training and supervision to enable staff and pupils to avoid hazards and contribute positively to their own health and safety.
- Ensure that all accidents (including near misses) occurring within their area of responsibility are promptly reported and investigated.

Responsibilities of employees

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act etc. 1974 all employees have general health and safety responsibilities. All employees are obliged to take care of their own health and safety whilst at work along with that of others who may be affected by their actions.

All employees have responsibility to:

- Take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and others in undertaking their work.
- Comply with the school's health and safety policy and procedures at all times.
- Report all accidents and incidents in line with the reporting procedure.
- Co-operate with school management on all matters relating to health and safety.
- Not to intentionally interfere with or misuse any equipment or fittings provided in the interests of health safety and welfare.
- Report all defects in condition of premises or equipment and any health and safety concerns immediately to their line manager.
- Ensure that they only use equipment or machinery that they are competent / have been trained to use.
- Make use of all necessary control measures and personal protective equipment provided for safety or health reasons.

Bunnies and Shephall FC are responsible for carrying out the required risk assessments and first aid provision within their space. The manager of the individual organisations will develop their own local health and safety arrangements to supplement those of the school. They are responsible for reporting any H&S issues to the school and ensuring repairs are completed appropriately and in the correct time frame.

PART 3. LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS

Detailed information on the LA's expectations are provided in the [Education Health and Safety Manual](#).

- Appendix 1 - Risk Assessments
- Appendix 2 - Offsite visits
- Appendix 3 - Health and Safety Monitoring and Inspections
- Appendix 4 - Fire Evacuation and other Emergency Arrangements
- Appendix 5 - Fire Prevention, Testing of Equipment
- Appendix 6 - First Aid and Medication
- Appendix 7 - Accident Reporting Procedures
- Appendix 8 - Health and Safety Information and Training

- Appendix 9 - Personal safety / lone Working
- Appendix 10 - Premises Work Equipment
- Appendix 11 - Flammable and Hazardous Substances
- Appendix 12 - Asbestos
- Appendix 13 - Contractors
- Appendix 14 - Work at Height
- Appendix 15 - Moving and Handling
- Appendix 16 - Display Screen Equipment
- Appendix 17 - Vehicles
- Appendix 18 - Lettings
- Appendix 19 - Stress
- Appendix 20 - Legionella
- Appendix 21 - School Swimming and pools
- Appendix 22 - Work Experience

Addendum - COVID-19 risks

APPENDIX 1

RISK ASSESSMENTS

General Risk Assessments

The school conducts and documents risk assessments for all activities presenting a significant risk. These are co-ordinated by the Headteacher following guidance contained in the [Education Health and Safety Manual](#) and are approved by the Headteacher.

Risk assessments are available for all staff to view and are held centrally in the Heads office, these assessments will be reviewed on an annual basis or when the work activity changes, whichever is the soonest. Staff will be made aware of any changes to risk assessments relating to their work.

Individual Risk Assessments

Specific assessments relating to staff member(s) or pupil(s) are held on that individual's file and will be undertaken by the Headteacher.

Such risk assessments will be reviewed on a regular basis.

It is the responsibility of all staff to inform their line manager of any medical conditions (including pregnancy) which may impact upon their work.

Curriculum Activities

Risk assessments for curriculum activities will be carried out by Subject leaders using the relevant codes of practice and model risk assessments detailed below.

Whenever a new course is adopted or developed all activities are checked against these and significant findings incorporated into texts in daily use scheme of work and lesson planning.

All LA schools have a subscription to [CLEAPSS](#) and their publications are used as sources of model risk assessment within Science, Art and DT.

See

- CLEAPSS technology site <http://dt.cleapss.org.uk/>;
- CLEAPSS science site <http://science.cleapss.org.uk/>
- CLEAPSS primary school's site <http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/>

In addition the following publications are used within the school as sources of model risk assessments:

- Be Safe! Health and Safety in primary science and technology, 4th Edition ASE ISBN ISBN 978-0-86357-426-9]
- Safe Practice in Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity 2016' Association of PE 'AfPE' <http://www.afpe.org.uk/>
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OFFSITE VISITS

HCC has adopted the Outdoor Education Advisory Panel's (OEAP) [national guidance](#) for learning outside the classroom and offsite visits and all offsite visits will be planned following this guidance available via <https://oeapng.info/>

Responsibilities of key roles are outlined by the OEAP here:

[Visit leader](#)

[EVC](#)

[Headteacher](#)

HCC's policy for the management of Learning outside the classroom and offsite visits is available here <https://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/healthandsafety/visits/manual.shtml>

The LA's Offsite Visits Advisor must be notified of all level 3 trips, which include self-led adventurous activities, fieldwork trips to open or "wild" country, and all trips overseas. This will be done via the use of Evolve, the online notification and approvals system.

Evolve is used for the planning and approval of offsite visits. Relevant risk assessments, participant's names etc. will be attached electronically as required

The member of staff planning the trip (visit leader) will submit all relevant paperwork and risk assessments relating to the trip to the school's Educational Visits Co-ordinator, Louise Shuttleworth, who will check the documentation and planning of the trip.

HCC recommends that the EVC should attend training and refresher training every 3 -5 years.

HEALTH AND SAFETY MONITORING AND INSPECTION

A formal inspection of the site will be conducted on a monthly basis and be undertaken / coordinated by Louise Shuttleworth, Headteacher.

A named governor, Jason Caplen, will be involved in monitoring the school's health and safety management systems on at least an annual basis and report back to both the relevant sub-committee and full governing body meetings.

Advice and pro forma inspection checklists to assist the monitoring process can be found in the [Education Health and Safety Manual](#).

Inspections will be conducted jointly with the establishment's health and safety representative(s) if possible.

FIRE EVACUATION AND OTHER EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring the school's fire risk assessment is undertaken and implemented following guidance contained in '[Fire safety risk assessment; Educational premises](#)' and the [Education Health and Safety Manual](#).

The fire risk assessment is located in the Heads office and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Emergency Procedures

Fire and emergency evacuation procedures are detailed in staff handbook and schools emergency response plan and a summary posted in each classroom and throughout the school. These procedures will be reviewed at least annually and are made available to all staff as part of the school's induction process. This training is supported by regular termly drills.

Evacuation procedures are also made available to all other users of the building (contractors / visitors/ hirers etc.).

Emergency exits, fire alarm call points, assembly points etc. are clearly identified by safety signs and notices.

Emergency contact and key holder details are maintained as part of the school's emergency response plan by Headteacher and updated to the LA via Solero.

Fire Drills

- Fire drills will be undertaken termly and results recorded in the fire log book.

Fire Fighting

- Staff must ensure the alarm is raised BEFORE attempting to tackle a fire.
- The safe evacuation of persons is an absolute priority. Staff may only attempt to deal with small fires, **if it is safe to do so without putting themselves at risk**, using portable fire fighting equipment.
- Staff are made aware of the type and location of portable fire fighting equipment and receive basic instruction in its correct use at induction.

Details of service isolation points (i.e. gas, water, electricity) are kept in the site manager's office

Details of chemicals and flammable substances on site.

An inventory of these will be kept by the headteacher and the office as appropriate, for consultation.

<p>INSPECTION /MAINTENANCE OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT</p>
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Louise Shuttleworth is responsible for ensuring that the school's fire log is kept up to date and that the following inspection / maintenance is undertaken and recorded in the fire log book located in the school office.

FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

Fire alarm call points will be tested weekly in rotation. This test will occur on a Monday morning

Any defects on the system will be reported immediately to the alarm contractor / electrical engineer Chubb Fire 0844 879 1666.

A fire alarm maintenance contract is in place with Chubb Fire and the system tested quarterly by them.

FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT

Weekly in-house checks are undertaken to ensure that all firefighting equipment remains available for use and operational.

Chubb undertakes an annual maintenance service of all firefighting equipment.

Defective equipment or extinguishers that need recharging should be taken out of service and reported direct to the school office.

EMERGENCY LIGHTING SYSTEMS

There is no emergency lighting within the school.

MEANS OF ESCAPE

Daily checks are undertaken for any obstructions on exit routes and ensures all final exit doors are operational and available for use.

FIRST AID AND MEDICATION

The school has assessed the need for first aid provision and identified the following staff to provide first aid (both on site and where required for trips/visits and extra curricular activities).

TRAINED TO EYFS STANDARD (PAEDIATRIC FIRST AID, 2 days/ 12 hrs):

Sarah Smith
 Lisa Flounders
 Tracey Hares
 Sasha Doggett

TRAINED TO EMERGENCY FIRST AID AT WORK (1 day / 6 hrs):

Gill Ballard
 Janine Bonner
 Sam Driver
 Sandra Jackson
 Sam Rose
 Sasha Doggett
 Aly Larnar
 Sarah Livermore
 Jan Pemberton
 Shaheeda Begum
 Roxanne Storey

First aid qualifications remain valid for 3 years. Office manager will ensure that refresher training is organised to maintain competence and that new persons are trained should first aiders leave.

FIRST AID BOXES ARE LOCATED AT THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

Medical room, office, year 1 and 2, KS2, early years, the gym and dining room.

No pupil's medication or any other medication will be stored in any First Aid boxes.

The office manager is responsible for regularly checking (termly) that the contents of first aid boxes including travel kits/ those in vehicles are complete and replenished as necessary.

[AEDs(automated external defibrillators) ARE LOCATED AT THE FOLLOWING POINTS³:

Medical Room

Transport to hospital: Where a first aider considers it necessary, the injured person will be sent directly to hospital (normally by ambulance). Parents / carers will be notified immediately of all major injuries to pupils.

³ There is no mandatory requirement for schools to purchase a defibrillator it continues to be dependent on your own risk / needs assessment.

No casualty will be allowed to travel to hospital unaccompanied and an accompanying adult will be designated in situations where the parents/carers cannot be contacted in time.

Where there is any doubt about the appropriate course of action, the first aider will consult with the Health Service helpline (NHS Direct 0845 4647) and, in the case of pupil with the parents/carers.

Administration of medicines

All medication will be administered to pupils in accordance with the DfE document [Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions](#). Detailed arrangements are provided in a separate school policy.

No member of staff will administer **any** medication (prescribed or non-prescribed) to children under 16 without a parent's written consent except in exceptional circumstances.

The office manager is responsible for accepting medication and checking all relevant information has been provided by parents / carers prior to administering. Records of administration will be kept by the office

All non-emergency medication kept in school is securely stored e.g. lockable cupboard in school office, refrigerated meds kept in clearly labelled container within fridge in the school office with access strictly controlled. All pupils know how to access their medication. Under no circumstances will medication be stored in first aid boxes.

Emergency medication and devices such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing meters and adrenaline pens are always readily available to children and not locked away. These are kept in classroom cupboards, and clearly labelled.

Individual Health Care Plans (IHCP)

Parents / carers are responsible for providing the school with up to date information regarding their child's health care needs and providing appropriate medication.

IHCPs are in place for those pupils with significant medical needs e.g. chronic or ongoing medical conditions such as diabetes, epilepsy, anaphylaxis etc.

The IHCP is developed with the pupil (where appropriate), parent/carer, designated named member of school staff, specialist nurse (where appropriate) and relevant healthcare services. These plans will be completed at the beginning of the school year / when child enrolls / on diagnosis being communicated to the school and will be reviewed annually by Sarah Haynes, SENCo

All staff are made aware of any relevant health care needs and copies of health care plans are available

Staff will receive appropriate training related to health conditions of pupils and the administration of medicines by a health professional as appropriate.

ACCIDENT REPORTING PROCEDURES

Accidents to employees

Employees must report all accidents, violent incidents and near misses.

Where HCC is the employer then **all** employee incidents must be reported to HCC using the online accident/incident reporting system hosted on Solero.

Employee accident / incident forms are to be retained for a minimum of 3 years.

Accidents to pupils and other non-employees (members of public / visitors to site etc.)

A local accident book, the school office, Early Years and the First aid Room is used to record all minor incidents to non-employees, more significant incidents as detailed below must also be reported to HCC using the online accident reporting system hosted on Solero.

- Major injuries.
- Accidents where significant first aid treatment has been provided.
- Accidents which result in the injured person being taken from the scene of the accident directly to hospital.
- Accidents arising from premises / equipment defects.

Parents / carers will be notified immediately of all major injuries.

Pupil / student accident forms are to be retained for a minimum of 3 years after their 18th Birthday.

All Accidents

All major incidents will be reported to the Headteacher and the Governing Body/ Health and Safety Governor.

Accidents will be monitored for trends and a report made to the Governing Body as necessary.

The Headteacher, or their nominee, will investigate accidents and take remedial steps to avoid similar instances recurring. Faulty equipment, systems of work etc. must be reported and attended to as soon as possible. Any relevant learning points will be communicated to relevant staff and pupils / students.

Reporting to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring all RIDDOR reportable incidents are reported.

Incidents involving a fatality or major injury will be reported immediately to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on 0345 300 9923 and the Education Health and Safety team on 01992 556478.

Incidents resulting in the following outcomes must be reported to the HSE via their online reporting system <http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/> within 15 days of the incident occurring.

- A pupil or other non-employee being taken directly to hospital for treatment and the accident arising as the result of the condition of the premises / equipment, due to the way equipment or substances were used or due to a lack of supervision / organisation etc.

- Employee absence or inability to carry out their normal duties as the result of a work related accident, for periods of 7 days or more (including W/E's and holidays).

See the HSE information sheet ['Incident reporting in schools'](#) EDIS1 REV 3

For VC and Community schools any incident notified to the HSE must also be reported to the LA's Health and Safety Team.

HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION & TRAINING

Consultation

The schools health and safety committees consist of the Head and H&S Governor. It carries out annual and termly inspections, monitoring the implementation of all processes and procedures.

The Finance and Resources committee and full governing body meets half termly to discuss health, safety and welfare issues affecting staff, pupils or visitors. Action points from meetings are brought forward for review by school management.

Staff meetings are held weekly and Health and Safety is a standing agenda item under AOB.

Communication of Information

Information and guidance on how to comply with the LA's health and safety policy is given in the [Education Health and Safety Manual](#), which is available for reference via the Grid.

The Health and Safety Law poster is displayed in the school office.

The Education Health and Safety Team, Tel: 01992 556478 provide competent health and safety advice for Community, Community Special and VC schools.

Health and Safety Training

All employees will be provided with:

- a copy of and induction training in the requirements of this policy;
- update training in response to any significant change;
- training in specific skills needed for certain activities, (e.g. use of hazardous substances, work at height etc.) and
- refresher training where required.

Any new instructions or restrictions will be communicated to all staff in writing, and in staff meetings and recorded in minutes and highlighted as part of the standard cycle of policy review.

Training records will be kept in the office and by the Deputy Head, Sarah Haynes. Sarah Haynes, SENCo is responsible for co-ordinating health and safety training needs and for including details in the training and development plan. This includes a system for ensuring that refresher training is undertaken within the prescribed time limits.

The Headteacher will be responsible for assessing the effectiveness of training received and ensuring staff are competent to undertake their duties.

Each member of staff is also responsible for drawing the Headteacher's / line managers attention to their own personal needs for training and for not undertaking duties unless they are confident that they have the necessary competence.

PERSONAL SAFETY / LONE WORKING

The school believes that staff should not be expected to put themselves in danger and will not tolerate violent / threatening behaviour to its staff.

Staff will report any such incidents to the Headteacher. The school will work in partnership with the LA and police where inappropriate behaviour/ individual conduct compromises the school's aims in providing an environment in which the pupils and staff feel safe.

Lone working

Staff are encouraged not to work alone in school. Work carried out unaccompanied or without immediate access to assistance should be risk assessed to determine if the activity is necessary.

Work involving potentially significant risks (for example work at height) must not be undertaken whilst working alone.

Staff working outside of normal school hours must obtain permission of the Headteacher or senior member of staff and sign in and out of the school premises.

Where lone working cannot be avoided staff should ensure they have means to summon help in an emergency e.g. access to a telephone or mobile phone etc.

School staff responding to call outs

Nominated key holders attending empty premises where there has been an alarm activation should do so with a colleague if possible. They should not enter the premises unless they are sure it is safe to do so.

PREMISES AND WORK EQUIPMENT

All staff are required to report to the Headteacher any problems found with the premises or plant/equipment. Defective equipment will be clearly marked and taken out of service by storing in a secure location pending repair / disposal.

Where premises defects are identified a dynamic assessment is conducted to determine if the area should be isolated / cordoned off whilst awaiting repair.

The Headteacher is responsible for identifying all plant and equipment in an equipment register and ensuring that any specific training or instruction needs, personal protective equipment requirements are identified and relevant risk assessments conducted where required.

Equipment restricted to those users who are authorised / have received specific training are the ladders and they are labelled accordingly.

Planned maintenance / inspection

Regular inspection and testing of school plant and equipment is conducted to legislative requirements by competent contractors. Records of such monitoring will be kept in the Site Managers office, overseen by Louise Shuttleworth while there is no site manager. (Key areas for compliance are outlined in 'Maintenance and inspection requirements on the [Grid](#) and the DfE's [Good Estate Management for schools](#))

Curriculum Areas

Subject Leaders are responsible for ensuring maintenance requirements for equipment in their areas are identified and implemented.

Electrical Safety

All staff will conduct a basic visual inspection of plugs, cables and electrical equipment prior to use. Defective equipment will be reported to Louise Shuttleworth, Headteacher.

All portable items of electrical equipment will be subject to formal inspection and testing (Portable Appliance Testing (PAT)) on an identified cycle (dependant upon the type of equipment and the environment it is used in).

All earthed equipment (class 1) and cables attached to such equipment will be tested annually. This inspection and testing will be conducted by Elecspec.

The office is responsible for keeping an up-to-date inventory of all relevant electrical appliances and for ensuring that all equipment is available for testing

Personal items of equipment (electrical or mechanical) should not be brought into the school without prior authorisation and must be subjected to the same tests as school equipment.

A fixed electrical installation test (fixed wire test) will be conducted by Electrical Safety Services Ltd on a 5 year cycle and 20% physical test of wiring will be undertaken in order to provide a full set of results over a 5 year period.

Records of these inspections and certification will be maintained and remedial works arising acted upon in a timely manner.

External play equipment

External play equipment will only be used when appropriately supervised.

This equipment will be checked daily before use for any apparent defects, and

The site manager will conduct and record a formal termly inspection of the equipment.

PE and Play equipment is also subject to an annual inspection by John Greenhill

FLAMMABLE AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

Every attempt will be made to avoid, or choose the least harmful of, substances which fall under the “**Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002**” (COSHH Regulations).

Within curriculum areas (in particular science and DT) subject leads are responsible for COSHH and ensuring that an up to date inventory and model risk assessments contained in the relevant national publications are in place. (CLEAPSS, Association for Science Education's "Topics in Safety" etc.)

In all other areas the establishments nominated person(s) responsible for substances hazardous to health is the Headteacher.

They shall ensure:

- an inventory of all hazardous substances used on site is compiled and regularly reviewed.
- material safety data sheets are obtained from the relevant supplier for all such materials.
- If required, full COSHH risk assessments are conducted and communicated to staff exposed to the product/substance.
- all substances are appropriately and securely stored out of the reach of children.
- all substances are kept in their original packaging and labelled (no decanting into unmarked containers).
- suitable personal protective equipment (PPE) has been identified and available for use. PPE is to be provided free of charge where the need is identified as part of the risk assessment.

Where persons may be affected by their use on site, Louise Shuttleworth, Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that COSHH assessments are available from contractors (*this applies to both regular contracts such as cleaners and caterers and from builders, decorators, flooring specialists, etc*).

An asbestos survey and management plan is in place for the school in accordance with HCC's asbestos policy. The school's most recent asbestos management survey was conducted on 3.8.2012

The school's asbestos log (including school plans, asbestos survey data and site specific management plan) is held the school office.

The Headteacher will ensure that **all** school staff (and others such as catering and cleaning staff who may not be employed directly by the school) are made aware of the location of asbestos containing materials (ACM) within their work areas.

Under no circumstances must staff undertake any work which could disturb the fabric of the building or fixed equipment, e.g. affixing anything to walls without first obtaining approval from an Asbestos Authorising Officer. (Even stapling / pushing a drawing pin into ACM may result in the release of fibres into the air.)

In the event of any damage occurring to materials known or suspected to contain asbestos this will be reported to one of the school's asbestos authorising officers and the area immediately evacuated and closed / locked off.

Professional advice will be sought and details of the incident reported to HCC's asbestos team asbestos@hertfordshire.gov.uk.

The school's asbestos authorising officers are Aly Larner, Paula Franklin and Louise Shuttleworth and refresher training is required 3 yearly.

Prior to **any** work commencing on the fabric of the building or fixed equipment (e.g. boilers, kilns etc.), either by contractors or school staff, one of the asbestos authorising officers **must** check the asbestos log and establish whether permission to work can be given.

The Headteacher / asbestos authorising officers shall ensure:

- That the asbestos log is consulted at the earliest possible opportunity and that **all** work affecting the fabric of the building or fixed equipment is entered in the permission to work log and signed by those undertaking the work.
- A visual inspection of asbestos containing materials remaining on site is conducted and recorded (legal requirement to do so annually as a minimum).
- The limitations of the management survey and areas of the building that have **not** been surveyed are understood and considered as part of the permission to work process e.g. areas above 3m in height, within ceiling voids (where panels / tiles are fixed), floor voids and ducts etc.
- All records pertaining to asbestos are effectively maintained and retained (legal requirement to do so for a period of 40 years).
- The school's asbestos management plan is kept up to date and that any asbestos works (removal, new project specific surveys etc.) are notified to the LA via asbestos@hertfordshire.gov.uk.
- Where more invasive works and / or works which go beyond the limitations of the management survey are planned, a refurbishment / demolition survey will be commissioned to obtain a comprehensive assessment of all ACMs that could be affected prior to the works commencing.

CONTRACTORS

All contractors used by the school shall ensure compliance with relevant health and safety legislation, guidance and good practice.

All contractors must report to the school office where they will be asked to sign the visitors book and wear an identification badge. Contractors will be issued with guidance on emergency procedures, relevant risks, and local management arrangements.

The site manager is responsible for monitoring areas where the contractor's work may directly affect staff and pupils and checking whether expected controls are in place and working effectively.

School managed projects

The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015⁴ applies to all building, demolition, repair and maintenance or refurbishment work.

Where the school undertakes projects direct the governing body are considered the 'client' and therefore have additional statutory obligations. These projects are managed Kier on the school's behalf who will ensure landlords consent has been obtained and, where applicable, all statutory approvals, such as planning permission and building regulations have been sought.

To ensure contractor competency the school uses a property framework contractor as a method of procuring works. These contractors have satisfied the County Council that they understand and abide by health and safety regulations. Details can be found at <http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/premises/property.shtml>

When considering the appointment of contractors outside of Hertfordshire frameworks the Office Manager will undertake appropriate competency checks prior to engaging a contractor i.e. they have sufficient skills, knowledge and experience) to do the job safely, the degree of competence required will depend on the work to be done.

Contractors will be required to provide a construction phase plan, risk assessments and method statements detailing the safe systems of work to be used prior to works commencing on site.

Risk assessments and method statements shall be specific to the site and all aspects of the works to be undertaken. The school, contractors and any subcontractors involved will exchange relevant information regarding the work activities and agree the risk assessments.

⁴ Such projects are notifiable to the HSE where the work exceeds 30 days or involves more than 500 person days of work. In such instances and/ or if there will be more than 1 contractor on site at the same time (in which case a principal designer and principal contractor must be appointed in writing by the client) it is recommended that an agent be used to work on the schools behalf.

WORK AT HEIGHT

Working at height can present a significant risk, where such activities cannot be avoided a task specific risk assessment will be conducted to ensure such risks are adequately controlled. A copy of this assessment will be provided to employees authorised to work at height.

Storage above head height is minimised as far as possible, where this cannot be avoided only light-weight and rarely-used items are stored there.

When working at height (including accessing storage or putting up displays) appropriate stepladders or kick stools are to be used. Staff must not climb onto chairs etc.

Only those persons who have been trained to use ladders safely may use them.

Basic instruction is provided to all staff who use ladders / stepladders, see

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg455.htm>.

Formal training on work at height, use of ladders, mobile tower scaffolds etc. will be provided where a significant risk is identified as part of an individuals role e.g. site staff.

The establishments nominated person(s) responsible for work at height is the Site Manager.

The nominated person(s) shall ensure:

- all work at height is properly planned and organised;
- the use of access equipment is restricted to authorised users;
- all those involved in work at height are trained and competent to do so;
- the risks from working at height are assessed and appropriate equipment selected;
- a register of access equipment is maintained, all equipment is regularly inspected and maintained with any defective equipment taken out of use until repaired / replaced
- any risks from fragile surfaces is properly controlled.

LIFTING AND HANDLING

Generic risk assessments for regular manual handling operations are undertaken and staff provided with information on safe moving and handling techniques.

Staff should ensure they are not lifting heavy items and equipment unless they have received training and/or equipment in order to do so safely.

Those manual handling activities which present a significant risk to the health and safety of staff, will be reported to the Headteacher and where such activities cannot be avoided a risk assessment will be conducted to ensure such risks are adequately controlled. A copy of this assessment will be provided to employees who must follow the instruction given when carrying out the task.

Paediatric Moving and Handling

All staff who move and handle pupils have received appropriate training (both in general moving and handling people techniques and specific training on any lifting equipment, hoists, slings etc. they are required to use).

All moving and handling of pupils has been risk assessed and recorded by a competent member of staff.

Equipment for moving and handling people (hoists, slings etc.) is subject to inspection on a 6 monthly basis by a competent contractor.

APPENDIX 16

DISPLAY SCREEN EQUIPMENT (DSE)

All staff who use computers daily, as a significant part of their normal work (*significant is taken to be continuous / near continuous spells of an hour or more at a time*) e.g. admin / office staff shall have a DSE assessment carried out.

Staff identified as DSE users are entitled to an eyesight test for DSE use every 2 years by a qualified optician (and corrective glasses if required specifically for DSE use).

Advice on the use of DSE is available in the [Education Health and Safety Manual](#)

APPENDIX 17

VEHICLES ON SITE

Vehicular access to the school is restricted to school staff and visitors only and not for general use by parents / guardians when bringing children to school or collecting them.

Access to the school must be kept clear for emergency vehicles.

Separate pedestrian and vehicle gates are provided.

A risk assessment is in place for pedestrian / vehicle segregation

APPENDIX 18

LETTINGS / SHARED USE OF PREMISES

Lettings are managed by Office Manager following HCC guidance. They adhere to the schools requirements around safeguarding, first aid provision, fire and emergency arrangements, emergency lighting, public entertainment license etc. Any restrictions on use of equipment or spaces is specifically detailed in the agreement.

APPENDIX 19

STRESS / WELLBEING

The school and governing body are committed to promoting high levels of health and wellbeing and recognise the importance of identifying and reducing workplace stressors through risk assessment, in line with the HSE's management standards.

The school holds termly Performance Management meetings with staff, mentoring is organised when appropriate, personal development plans are used when required and membership of an Employee Assistance Programme or Schools Advisory Service is provided for all staff. The school provides tea/coffee/milk for staff and buys into the Herts reward scheme.

APPENDIX 20

LEGIONELLA

A water risk assessment of the school has been completed on 7.7.16 by J Hawkesworth for Nemco Utilities. The Site Manager is responsible for ensuring that the identified operational controls are being conducted and recorded in the school's water log book.

This risk assessment will be reviewed where significant changes have occurred to the water system and/ or building footprint.

The risks from legionella are mitigated by basic operational controls and thus the following checks are undertaken and recorded.

- Water is heated and stored to 60 deg C at calorifiers (any vessel that generates heat within a mass of stored water);

- Weekly flushing of seldom used outlets and all showers (with all outlets flushed after school holiday periods);
- Monthly temperature checks on sentinel outlets (those nearest and furthest away from calorifiers);
- Quarterly disinfection / descaling of showers;
- Stored cold water tanks are inspected for compliance and safety on an annual basis by the Site Manager and tank water temperature recorded.

All records relating to the management of Legionella must be kept for 5 years.

If water sampling for bacteria levels is undertaken provide details of frequency.

APPENDIX 21

SCHOOL SWIMMING

Primary school swimming in public / secondary schools

These will be planned as an offsite visit in line with the schools policy.

The school will obtain a copy of the pool's standard operating procedure (PSOP) (sometimes referred to as a normal operating procedure (NOP) and emergency action plan (EAP)) which identify the safety arrangements for the host pool.

In addition the school will obtain assurance over:

- The level of training of the swimming teacher(s);
- Pupil / swimming teacher ratios;
- Rescue / lifeguard provision provided;
- Changing provision / arrangements
-

APPENDIX 22

WORK RELATED LEARNING

Secondary level only

Addendum to H&S policy

In recognition of the current circumstances due to COVID-19, this addendum to the school's H&S policy sets out the arrangements in relation to the return to full-time school from September 2020.

In line with the school's wider responsibilities under Health and safety legislation detailed in the main H&S policy, the school has produced a COVID-19 risk assessment detailing the control measures in place to mitigate risks of transmission, this is based on the national guidance for schools produced by the DfE.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

Our risk assessment has been consulted on with all staff and will be regularly reviewed to any reflect changes in national guidance as well as local operational issues.

The Headteacher will:

Have overall responsibility for the development and implementation of the wider H&S policy, COVID-19 risk assessment and action plan.

Consult with all staff as part of the planning and risk assessment process.

Ensure all documentation is regularly reviewed to meet current need and any updated guidance from the Government or Local Authority.

Ensure that all staff, including temporary staff, peripatetic and supply teachers, visiting coaches etc. are briefed on the required controls for managing risk.

Put in place a monitoring process to review how staff and students adapt and adopt to the controls put in place, reviewing the risk assessment to reflect any additional controls or risks which become apparent as operational activities and curriculum are delivered.

Ensure that individual risk assessments (for both staff and pupils) are conducted where required.

All staff will:

Carry out all work in accordance with the policy, risk assessment and action plan, including additional tasks as part of the response to COVID-19.

Take the opportunity to contribute to the risk assessment and action planning process.

Ensure appropriate controls and procedures are brought to the attention of all staff under their control.

Be responsible for reporting any Health and Safety risks related to COVID-19 to the Headteacher.

The COVID-19 risk assessment ensures compliance with the Governments guidance on managing the risk of COVID-19 namely to:

- minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school;
- wear face coverings where recommended;
- ensure enhanced cleaning, handwashing and hygiene procedures are in place and in line with national guidance;

- minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible;
- ensure staff wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) in circumstances where this is required.
- keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
- promote and engage asymptomatic testing, where available.

In the event of any infection the school will:

- engage with the NHS Test and Trace process;
- manage confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) amongst the school community;
- contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice.
- Report confirmed cases

Relevant Health and Safety information and the school plans for management of COVID-19 risks has been communicated to all staff and the wider school community.