

# Health & Safety Policy



Adapted from the WSCC Model Policy

Reviewed: July 2020

Ratified by Management Committee: October 2020

Date of next Review: July 2021

## **Statement of Intent**

The Management Committee acknowledges West Sussex County Council's (WSCC) Corporate Health and Safety Policy, acting as Local Education Authority and employer, and provides the following additional statement of intent to cover all school buildings, activities and undertakings for which it is responsible.

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Management Committee accepts that it has the responsibility to take all reasonably practicable steps to secure the health and safety of staff, pupils and others visiting and using the school premises.

The Management Committee believes that the prevention of accidents, injury or loss is essential to the efficient operation of the school and is part of the good education of its pupils. It will be the governors' policy to encourage, where practicable, the co-operation of all users of the establishment by monitoring, review, discussion and consultation to promote and develop measures which ensure health and safety at work.

Chair of Governors

## **THE ORGANISATION FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **Health and safety responsibilities**

The Management committee has strategic responsibility for health and safety within all areas of the schools undertakings and is answerable to the LEA for its actions, on behalf of whom it makes decisions. The Management Committee is responsible for ensuring that advice from competent health and safety advisers is available on health and safety matters in order to comply with regulatory controls.

The Head Teacher has responsibility for the day-to-day operation of health and safety and welfare policies and practices, as delegated by the Management Committee, within all areas of the school's undertakings. The Head Teacher is responsible for ensuring that advice from competent health and safety advisers is sought on health and safety matters in order to comply with regulatory controls.

The Business Manager (SBM) is responsible for ensuring that safe working conditions are maintained for all pupils, employees, visitors, members of the public and, where applicable, contractors throughout their individual work areas, as delegated by the Head Teacher or Management Committee and detailed in the organisation section of the policy. Department heads are responsible for ensuring that advice from competent curriculum and health &

safety advisers is sought on health and safety matters in order to comply with regulatory controls.

## **ARRANGEMENTS FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **Accident and Incident Reporting**

All accidents and incidents, to staff, visitors and contractors are reported to WSCC using the online accident reporting system. Minor incidents to pupils are recorded locally major injuries and direct visits to hospital are also reported to WSCC using the online system. The Head Teacher is responsible for reporting accidents.

The Head teacher will monitor accidents and incidents in order to identify trends and report to the Management Committee.

### **Administering medicines**

The school's Managing Medicines Policy details the procedures followed by the school and is based on WSCC policy and procedures. The lead for the administration of medicines is the Medicines Leader. A copy of the policy is available from the school office.

### **Asbestos**

The school holds an asbestos register and follows the WSCC Code of Practice regarding monitoring and record keeping. All contractors working on the building are made aware of the location of asbestos and sign the register. Staff are made aware of the location of asbestos and the procedures to follow if discovering disturbed asbestos. The Premises Manger is responsible for asbestos management

### **Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)**

All hazardous substances stored and used within the school are to be risk assessed and the precautions identified by the risk assessment shall be communicated to staff and implemented. These assessments will be held in the school's COSHH risk assessment file, along with the relevant data sheets and made available to all employees who are required to use these substances in their work.

The Premises Manager is the designated person for ensuring that the COSHH risk assessment file is kept up to date and communicated to relevant staff.

### **Contractors**

Maintenance and servicing contractors receive an induction to the school site (including asbestos), its facilities and emergency arrangements. Contractors undertaking large scale building work receive all of above and an induction pack which includes relevant school policies, procedures and risk assessments. The school adheres to WSCC self-managed process and uses only WSCC approved contractors. Contractors are continuously monitored whilst on site.

The SBM is responsible for the management of contractors

## **Curriculum Safety**

The governors recognise that some curriculum areas represent an increase in risk; these departments hold department specific health and safety arrangements, which are regularly reviewed and communicated to the relevant staff.

## **Display Screen Equipment (DSE)**

Every DSE user will have a risk assessment completed to make sure they know how to adjust and set up the workstation correctly. It is the responsibility of the SBM to ensure assessments are completed by relevant staff. The risk assessment can be carried out by the workstation user through the e-Learning programme and assessment checklist. This is available on Health and Safety A-Z pages of the WSSfS.

DSE user risk assessments will be reviewed periodically by the SBM, at least annually, or if there have been any significant changes to the workstation. A review of the original assessment must be undertaken as soon as practicable by the line manager when an employee complains of musculoskeletal or other health issues that could be attributed to, or aggravated by, working with DSE

## **Electricity**

All portable electrical equipment within the school is to be tested bi-annually and records of these tests will be held at the school.

Private portable electrical equipment must not be brought into the establishment and used without the appropriate checks.

A 5 yearly check of the fixed electrical installation is completed and records kept. Electrical safety is managed by the SBM.

## **Emergency Provision/Business Continuity**

The Emergency Plan details procedures and arrangements to be used in the event of an emergency. This includes liaison with WSCC and the emergency services, provision for the continuation of school business and arrangements to contact interested parties i.e. parents and the press. All staff are trained in the procedures contained within the emergency plan and are able to take the appropriate action if required. The emergency plan is regularly monitored and reviewed by the SBM.

## **Fire Safety**

The Premises Manger is the designated person for fire safety within the establishment. The designated person will ensure that:

- The school's fire risk assessment is kept up-to-date by annual review or in response to significant changes to premises or work arrangements.
- There is reasonable fire-fighting equipment in the school, it is maintained and maintenance records are kept.
- The fire safety equipment, e.g. fire alarm, emergency lighting, etc. is regularly checked, maintained and records are kept.

- There are no general fire hazards around the building, particularly near escape routes, escape routes are unobstructed and that there is access for fire fighters.
- Staff and pupils are practised in evacuating the premises by performing termly drills, monitoring their effectiveness and keeping records.
- Develop personal emergency evacuation plans (PEEP) for those staff and/or pupils who require additional assistance to evacuate the premises.

They will also ensure that the establishment has in place an up to date **Emergency Fire Plan**, which details the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire. The plan must be prepared to ensure that people within the establishment know the action to take if there is a fire, and to ensure the establishment can be safely evacuated.

Where necessary, the Emergency Fire Plan will include the following features:

- Action on discovering a fire and calling the fire service (these notices will also be displayed throughout the establishment)
- The location of the assembly point for roll call
- Liaison with emergency services
- Identification of key escape routes
- The type and location of fire-fighting equipment provided
- Specific responsibilities in the event of fire
- Training (in house fire safety awareness training is carried out annually for all staff).
- Any need to co-operate or co-ordinate with other responsible persons that will be operating within the premises.

### **First Aid**

The lead First Aiders are Nicky Hawkins & Zoe Ridpath. A list of staff that have First Aid Training is displayed in the medical room and staff room. The Medical Lead monitors first aid training to ensure certification remains in date.

A first aid risk assessment has been completed and provision is in place, following the findings of the risk assessment. Suitable and appropriate first aid cover is provided at all times during the working day and after hours to cover breakfast and after school clubs and all staff members are aware of the arrangements in place.

The Lead First Aiders are the designated person for ensuring the first aid kits are kept fully stocked and items are within date, checks of first aid kits are recorded as completed.

### **Food Safety**

The lead for Food Safety is the Cook. The Food Safety lead will ensure that there are arrangements for safely and hygienically receiving food from suppliers and preparing it for serving to pupils. The kitchen, servery and dining area are to be cleaned daily and after each use.

A risk assessment is in place for lunchtime meals (hot and cold). Midday Meals Supervisors must cordoned off a spillage, cleared up immediately and the floor surface left clean and dry.

All incidents are to be reported to the SBM.

### **Glazing**

The school holds an up to date Glazing Survey and regularly monitors glazing as part of the premises inspection. The Premises Manger is responsible for glazing management.

### **Gas Safety**

The school ensures that the gas boilers and other gas appliances are serviced and maintained regularly. The SBM is responsible for gas safety.

### **Induction**

All new employees are informed of the school's health and safety arrangements and procedures using the induction checklist available within the Health and Safety A-Z on the WSSfS. Staff will also complete the eLearning 'Your Own and Others' and records will be kept. The SBM and Senior Management Team is responsible for the induction of staff.

### **Lone Working**

Lone working is discouraged, however where employees are required to work alone, the risks should be assessed and adequate controls put in place.

The SBM is responsible for risk assessing and producing lone working procedures.

### **Play equipment**

External and internal play and physical education (P.E.) equipment is serviced by Universal Services. P.E. equipment is checked prior to every use by the teaching staff any defects are reported immediately to the Head teacher. The Premises Manager regularly monitors external play equipment and defects are reported immediately to the SBM. Faulty equipment is immediately decommissioned.

### **Premises Maintenance**

The internal and external premises will be inspected at regular intervals by the Premises Manager, the inspections are recorded and resulting issues reported to the SBM. The school is to be kept clean, tidy and free from hazardous obstacles. Staff must report any defective equipment, furniture or premises issues to the Premises Manager via our online portal Parago. The Premises manager will complete the necessary actions.

### **Monitoring, audit and review**

The Management Committee shall receive termly reports on Health and Safety and will regularly inspect and monitor the premises. Regular review of procedure shall be undertaken in the light of operational practice, new laws and new policy/directives of the Local Authority. The operational practice and procedure shall be constantly monitored by the head/local safety officer. The Management Committee shall prepare an annual action plan to address deficiencies in health and safety arising from the Head teachers' annual report.

## **Moving and Handling of Customers and the Manual Handling of Inanimate Loads**

Manual handling is defined as the transporting or supporting of a load (including the lifting, putting down, pushing, pulling, carrying or moving thereof) by hand or bodily force. Consequently, the Manual Handling Operations Regulations apply to a wide range of operations; in this context it applies to both the moving of inanimate loads (manual handling) and the moving and handling of children where they are unable to do this unaided (moving and handling).

Where manual handling or moving and handling tasks are undertaken, The Management Committee will designate suitably competent staff to undertake risk assessments of the activities, and ensure staff working in these areas receive the necessary training and instruction. Clare Weare & Karen Carter are responsible for developing and reviewing moving and manual handling risk assessment.

## **New and Expectant Mothers**

Any staff member who becomes pregnant is to inform the Head Teacher/SBM of this and an appropriate risk assessment is to be undertaken following the guidance contained within the Health and Safety A-Z on the WSSfS. The school recognises the changing nature of pregnancy and will regularly review risk assessments to ensure that working at the school will not pose any risk to their health and safety and that of their unborn child.

## **Off site activities**

All off site activities are risk assessed using the WSCC system. The schools systems are audited by WSCC Outdoor Education Advisor. The SBM is the schools Educational Visit Co-ordinator (EVC)

## **Risk Assessments**

Risk assessments are a legal requirement under health and safety law and the Head Teacher will assess all risks arising out of the curriculum and associated work which the school undertakes. In accordance with corporate guidance risk assessments will be recorded in writing and reviewed annually or following a significant accident and or incident.

## **Staff Welfare/Stress**

The Management Committee considers staff welfare of paramount importance, and seeks to promote a work/life balance amongst their staff. The Head teacher is constantly monitoring staff workload and every effort is made to make effective changes if staff are experiencing stress either at home or work. The school also utilizes the services of School Advisory Services, Health Assured, and Occupational Health.

## **Swimming pool**

The Premises Manager/Swim Coach is responsible for the maintenance and servicing of the swimming pool and associated plant. The Premises Manager/Swim Coach attends pool maintenance training provided by the WSCC Caretaking service every 3 years. The school follows WSCC guidance on maintenance, record keeping, class supervision and life-saving

provision available within the Health and Safety A-Z and Caretaking pages of the West Sussex Services for Schools.

### **Training**

The school ensures that all staff are provided with adequate information, instruction and training to perform their roles. Training requirements are discussed during induction, professional development reviews and one to one supervision. Training records are kept and reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team.

### **Transport**

The school's minibus is checked daily by the Premises Manager and records are kept. It is maintained and serviced in accordance with the law and records kept. Only staff that have completed minibus training are permitted to drive the mini bus and are made aware of WSCC driving policy. Procedures are in place in the event of an emergency involving the minibus which are regularly reviewed, updated and communicated to staff.

### **Water quality**

The Premises Manager is responsible for monitoring and recording water temperatures at the school to ensure water quality is maintained. A bi-annual water quality risk assessment is produced and reviewed by 3C.

### **Working at height**

Staff should avoid if possible working at height to put up displays in classrooms and corridors. The Premises Manager has been ladder trained and will erect displays on behalf of the staff if ladders are required. Ladders and other access equipment are kept on a ladder register and regularly inspected and maintained.

## APPENDIX 1

Please refer to the Covid 19 Risk Assessment