HEALTH & SAFETY

Model Policy Guidelines

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Model Policy Guidelines

**3 - June 2002**

## SCHOOL HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Each school should adopt its own Health and Safety Policy Statement, outlining the intent to meet all requirements under Health and Safety Legislation and to ensure that both the school environment and school activities are managed in a way that will safeguard the Health and Safety of pupils, employees and members of the public such as parents or contractors.

By having a local policy statement the school can demonstrate commitment to meeting any requirements under Health and Safety legislation and commitment towards implementing arrangements[[1]](#footnote-1) provided by the LA or arrangements that are equally, if not more effective.

The key to an effective Health and Safety Policy is being clear in who has responsibility for what. In the Corporate policy, for example, the role of managers is very clear. Schools should be aiming to adopt a similar style to their own policy statement ensuring that key roles are identified including those of school governors, the Head teacher, the health and safety representative (where appointed), PE Co-ordinator, Educational Visits Co-ordinator, Head of Science, the caretaker, Fire Risk Assessor etc.

Communication is essential. The policy statement should reflect how the school community are to be informed of the health and safety management system. A useful tool is to have health and safety as a standing item on the agenda for staff meetings. Minutes of these meetings can then form part of the audit trail in that they evidence what was discussed and who was present.

It is also good practice to nominate a school Health and Safety representative to act as the initial contact for any concerns. The Health and Safety representative can also work alongside the Head teacher on carrying out risk assessments.

The policy statement should also be clear in a commitment to identifying and providing specific health and safety instruction and training. This may range from cascading information from the LA to relevant colleagues or by arranging for specialist training for D&T teachers and technicians around the safe use of woodworking machinery.

Below is a model Health and Safety Policy Statement. Schools are advised to adopt a similar style.

**Model Health and Safety Policy Statement**

*ABC School* is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for the school community. The school will ensure that:

* all legal requirements are met under both health and safety and fire legislation
* All advice and guidance provided by the LA in relation to health, safety and welfare is implemented or that systems equally or if not more effective are in place.
* The school is proactive in identifying hazards and managing risks relating to the pupils, employees, parents, contractors, members of the public, premises, equipment and both curriculum and extra-curriculum activities.

To establish a robust system for managing health, safety and welfare in school, the following responsibilities will have been allocated:

Please note: In schools, the employer is ultimately responsible for health, safety and welfare.

In community and voluntary-controlled schools, the employer is the Local Authority. In voluntary aided and foundation schools, academies and independent schools the Governing Body/Trustees is the employer.

### Governors

* + The Governing Body will ensure that the school implements a health and safety management system based upon the advice and guidance provided by the LA or a competent[[2]](#footnote-2) health and safety practitioner.
  + In their decision-making capacity, governors will show due diligence by ensuring that where significant health and safety concerns arise, appropriate resources (human, financial, time) will be made available.
  + The Governing Body will be kept informed of:
* Adopt Health and Safety policies;
* Health and safety related advice and guidance provided by the LEA;
* The findings and actions arising from premises, fire, stress, occupational and curriculum-related risk assessments;
* Any hazards identified outside of the risk assessment process;
* Significant accidents and their causes and any actions taken or recommended to prevent future incidents;
* The findings of the LEA health and safety review and any recommendations translated into a school action plan;
* Health and safety issues[[3]](#footnote-3) arising from the annual maintenance review carried out by Property Services.

**Head teacher:**

The Head teacher has responsibility for the daily management of health and safety:

* + - There are relevant Policies meeting the requirements of Health and Safety legislation;
    - As required by the Management of Health, Safety and Welfare at Work Regulations, 1999, ensuring that all categories of risk assessment[[4]](#footnote-4) are carried out at recommended intervals;
    - Ensuring that any actions arising from risk assessments are put into a time-bound action plan;
    - Monitoring the implementation of action plans arising from both risk assessments and the health and safety review process;
    - Delegating clear roles and responsibilities for health and safety functions;
* Identifying and supporting the provision of relevant health and safety training for school employees;
* Attending any training for Head teachers that is recommended by the LA;
* Ensuring that contractors have sight of the school’s asbestos register before commencing work;
* Providing a safe working and learning environment;
* Ensuring that all activities are carried out safely;
* Communicating health and safety information;
* Investigating and recording accidents;
* Managing fire safety and safe escape routes; and
* Providing health and safety information to new employees upon induction

**Local Authority**

The LA is responsible for:

* Providing model Health and Safety Policies in meeting the requirements of Health and Safety legislation;
* Providing advice and guidance to support schools in meeting the requirements of Health and Safety legislation;
* Providing support in the investigation of significant accidents;
* Ensuring that schools are provided with up to date information on legislative changes;
* Providing Health and Safety training and where necessary identifying specialist course providers; and
* Monitoring the implementation of the LA guidance.

**Heads of Departments**

Departmental Heads are responsible for ensuring that:

* Activities within their curriculum area are carried out safely;
* Any significant risks are identified and adequately controlled;
* Where appropriate, specialist guidance is followed e.g. BAALPE for Physical Education and CLEAPSS for science and design and technology;
* All staff in the department are aware of safe practices and procedures;
* Systems are in place for the department to monitor Health and Safety performance;
* Thorough accident investigations are carried out for all curriculum related accidents; and
* Accidents are reported according to the requirements of the LA

**All Employees**

Employees are responsible for:

* Are responsible for their own health and safety and that of pupils, colleagues and any others who may be affected by their work;
* Have a duty to report any identified hazards;
* Should co-operate with the employer by following the Health and Safety Guidance
* In order to protect their own and the safety of others, take ‘immediate corrective action’ where any dangerous or harmful situations arise or are identified; and
* Should be familiar with relevant sections of the Health and Safety Guidance provided by either the LA or the school’s “competent advisor”

**Consultation and Communication**

The Head teacher and governing body will ensure that there is a two-way communication system for all health and safety matters by having health and safety as a standing item on the agenda of staff and departmental meetings. Trade Union representatives and employees are invited to take an active role in the management of health and safety in school.

The governors will also be informed of health and safety issues as required by the LA during the meeting of the full governing body.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY ARRANGEMENTS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Overall and final accountability for health and safety within the school is: | [Head teacher] |

| STATEMENT OF GENERAL POLICY | NAMES | ACTION/ARRANGEMENTS |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Appropriate staff are given health and safety responsibilities | Named person/s in charge: | 1. Areas including,   Science  DT  Sports   1. Educational Visits Coordinator & Deputy 2. Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs (Named Person) 3. Buildings, building maintenance and management of building contractors 4. Equipment and equipment maintenance |
| To prevent accidents and cases of work-related ill health and provide adequate control of health and safety risks arising from work activities. | Named person/s in charge of risk assessments: | Relevant risk assessments completed where necessary and actions arising out of those assessments implemented. The risk assessments will include:   1. Occupational for staff including,   Teachers/Teaching Assistants  Midday assistants  Manual staff  Office staff  Cleaning staff  Manual Handling  First Aid Needs  Stress  COSHH  Violence and aggression   1. Building and Environments including,   Fire  Premises  Classroom  Security  Driving within School Grounds  School Kitchen  Playgrounds  Legionella  Passenger Lifts  sun  Ladder Safety Checklist   1. Others arising from individual risks,   Workstations (DSE)  Sun  SEN  Lone Working  Mini Bus  Pregnancy  COSHH   1. Activities   Sports  Educational Visits  Keeping Animals  These are reviewed every year, or earlier if working conditions change. |
| To provide adequate training to ensure employees are competent to do their work. | Named person/s who organizes training and maintains records: | All staff given necessary health and safety induction with signed records.  As identified or recommended, provided with appropriate training including,   1. General health and safety 2. Risk Assessment 3. Fire (general) 4. Medical & Administration of Medication 5. First Aid 6. Work at heights 7. Manual Handling 8. Team Teach 9. COSHH 10. Science & DT 11. Managing Conflict 12. Visit Leader 13. Others as identified   Records will be maintained of the training to ensure that they are reviewed and refreshed when required. |
| To communicate, engage and consult with staff on health and safety conditions | Named person responsible for communications: | Systems for ensuring that health and safety information is communicated to staff include:  ………………………………………………………………………………………………  Staff are routinely consulted on health and safety matters as they arise but also formally consulted at staff meetings  The Governing Body have been made aware of health and safety matters formally at Governing Meetings |
| To provide advice and support on occupational health issues | Named provider: | Provision of an Occupational Health provider |
| To implement emergency procedures – evacuation in case of fire or other significant incident. | Named person/s in charge : | Evacuation plans including fire, bomb, critical incidents are,   * prepared, * communicated to staff, * tested from time to time (including termly fire drills); and * updated as necessary.   Escape routes well signed and kept clear at all times. |
| To maintain safe and healthy working conditions, provide and maintain plant, equipment and machinery, and ensure safe storage/use of substances. | Named person/s in charge : | Toilets, washing facilities and drinking water provided.  System in place for routine inspections and testing of equipment and machinery and for ensuring that action is promptly taken to address any defects.  Staff trained in safe handling/use of substances |
| To record and investigate accidents / incidents | Named First Aiders:  Named person who reports under RIDDOR: | In the event of accidents / incidents; to ensure that initial actions are taken and they are subsequently recorded and investigated.  To ensure that, if required, they are reported to the HSE as required under RIDDOR, |

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signed\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chair of Governors Head teacher­­ ­­­­­

Date Date

# Version Control and Change History

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Version**  **Control** | **Date Released** | **Amendment** |
| 1 |  | Documented created |
| 2 | Unknown | Unknown |
| 3 | Unknown | Unknown |
| 4 | Feb-2014 | Unknown |
| 5 | July 2019 | Document reviewed. |

1. Arrangements – any policies, guidance or training provided by the LA [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “competent” requires Corporate Membership of the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (MIOSH) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. health and safety issues in the annual maintenance reports are identified by the yellow hazard triangle and require prompt attention [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. risk assessments are required for: The premises, fire, occupational, stress, educational visits, curriculum activities e.g. Science – refer to Section 2 of Health and Safety Guidance for Schools [↑](#footnote-ref-4)