



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL



School Health & Safety Policy

Approved by Full Governing Body on January 2023

To be reviewed on or before January 2024

Signed _____

Chair of Governors

Signed _____

Headteacher

Contents

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Health and Safety at Work etc, Act, 1974
- 1.2 General Statement

2.0 Organisation

- 2.1 Responsibilities
- 2.2 Health and Safety Communication
- 2.3 Emergency Contacts

3.0 Responsibilities

- 3.1 The Governors
- 3.2 The Headteacher
- 3.3 The School Health and Safety Co-ordinator
- 3.4 Heads of Department
- 3.5 All Employees
- 3.6 Pupils
- 3.7 Parents
- 3.8 Visitors
- 3.9 Volunteers

4.0 Arrangements

- 4.1 First Aid
- 4.2 Accident Reporting Procedures
- 4.3 Fire Safety
- 4.4 Electrical Safety
- 4.5 Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) as amended
- 4.6 Asbestos Containing Materials
- 4.7 Glass and Glazing
- 4.8 Pupils with Medical Needs
- 4.9 Outdoor Education Activities and School Trips
- 4.10 Fixed Play Equipment
- 4.11 Infection Control
- 4.12 Contractors
- 4.13 Work at height
- 4.14 Personal Safety / Lone Working

5.0 Curriculum Safety Matters

- 5.3 Physical Education
- 5.5 Work Experience/Placements

GENERAL STATEMENT OF INTENT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Health and Safety at Work etc, Act, 1974

The Health and Safety at Work etc, Act, 1974 places a duty on employers to safeguard so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of their employees and the health and safety of persons not employed but who may be affected by their work activities such as pupils and visitors.

1.2 General Statement of Health & Safety

This is a statement for St John Vianney Catholic Primary School. St John Vianney Catholic Primary School accepts its responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act, 1974, for providing a safe and healthy workplace and working environment for all its employees, pupils, visitors and other persons who may be affected by its activities.

The Headteacher and School Governors will take all reasonable steps to ensure that St. Helens Council's Health & Safety Policy and the accompanying Policies and Procedures are implemented and monitored throughout the School.

It is essential for the success of this Safety Policy that employees recognise their responsibilities under Section 7 of the Act in co-operating with management and taking care of them-selves and other persons whilst at work.

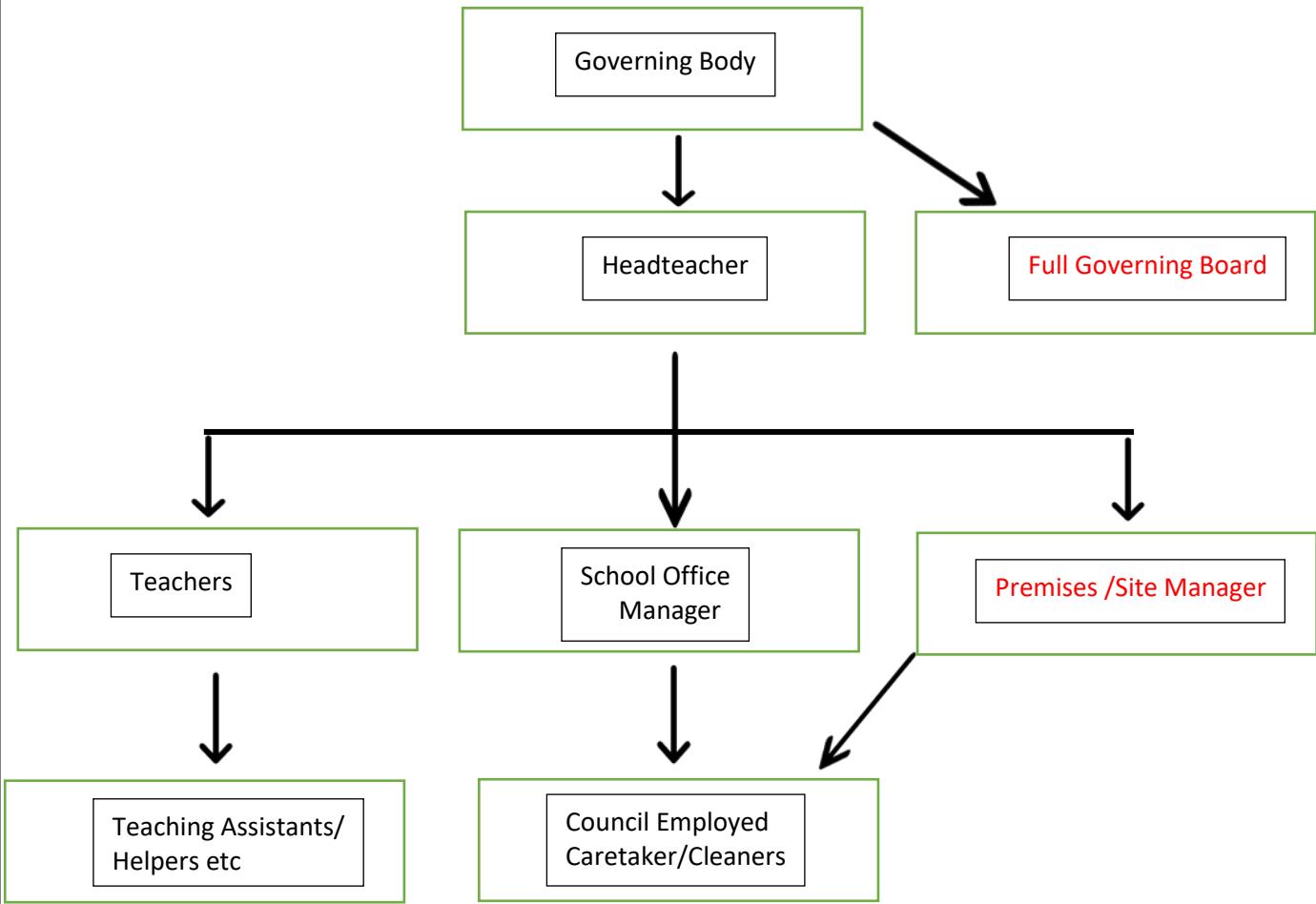
2.0 ORGANISATION

Responsibility for the day-to-day implementation and monitoring of this Policy lies with the Headteacher so far as is reasonably practicable.

However, the Governing Body recognises that some of these duties may be successfully allocated to other members of staff; such as a Site Safety Co-ordinator, Heads of Department or School Business Manager, under guidance from the Headteacher.

2.1 Responsibilities

These organisational arrangements for staff with health & safety responsibilities are represented diagrammatically for schools below:



At St John Vianney Catholic Primary School, the following person(s) have specific responsibilities for health and safety.

Mrs A Friar (HT) and Mrs J Percy (DHT) are responsible for the circulation of Safety Information, Guidance, Codes of Practice.

Mrs P Crosby is responsible for ensuring that accidents are investigated and recorded on the appropriate format.

Mrs S Brown (Caretaker) is responsible for the weekly test of the fire alarm.

Mrs A Friar (HT) is the Safety Co-ordinator for this site.

2.2 Health and Safety Communication

A successful Health and Safety Policy relies heavily on effective communication and in particular making sure that all staff are aware of their role and have all necessary information concerning the health, safety and welfare of all members of staff, pupils and visitors.

This School has identified the following meetings as being the most appropriate to both disseminate and receive matters on health and safety:-

SLT Meetings

Staff Meetings

TA Meetings

The School Health & Safety Policies and Procedures, copies of other Health and Safety Information, Guidance, Codes of Practice and associated literature are kept at the following location(s):

Headteacher's Office

2.3 Emergency Contacts

In the case of an emergency outside of School hours contact:

(i) Headteacher: Mrs A Friar

Telephone No: [REDACTED] stjohnvianney@sthelens.org.uk

(ii) Deputy Headteacher: Mrs J Percy

Telephone No: [REDACTED]

(iii) Caretaker: Mrs S Brown

Telephone No: [REDACTED]

Useful Numbers

Name	Telephone No.
Corporate Health & Safety Section	01744 671740/673231
Occupational Health Nurse	01744 677022
Security Service	01744 676728
School Nurse	01744 627566
Contact Cares/Front Door (Social Care)	01744 676767

Add useful telephone numbers to this list

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 The Governors

The Governing Body has a direct responsibility for health and safety in the School. They will ensure they are fulfilling their legal requirements and that persons using the premises are safe and without risk to health. All these responsibilities are, for the purpose of day-to-day management, delegated to the Headteacher.

Governors will, however, ensure that they;

- Approve the school Statement of Safety Policy (**this document**) and ensure that it is brought to the attention of all staff;
- Receive all reports on health and safety resulting from any inspection, audit or monitoring carried out by the School, the Local Authority (LA) or an enforcement agency such as the Health and Safety Executive;

Governors will be expected to make reports on health and safety matters to;

- The LA when requested to do so for the purpose of monitoring the LA's implementation of its own health and safety policy;
- Parents, through Governors' Minutes, Annual Reports, etc.

3.2 The Headteacher

The overall responsibility for the school's health and safety management system and implementation of the safety policy rests with the Headteacher, who shall;

- Set up arrangements in the school to cover all legal requirements for health, safety and welfare;
- Ensure that a programme of risk assessment, as required by the Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations has been carried out on behalf of the employer for all activities under their control.
- Ensure the Governing Body are kept up to date with any new legislation, regulation or provision relevant to health and safety in schools;
- Be available to any member of staff to discuss health and safety problems not solved at a lower level or through the established arrangements;
- Report to the Governing Body those instances in which the Head's executive authority does not allow the elimination or reduction of risk to a satisfactory level, but to take all necessary short-term measures to avoid danger pending rectification;
- Be available to any Trade Union appointed safety representatives and co-operate with them as far as is reasonable in their efforts to carry out their functions. To receive written reports from any such safety representatives and respond in writing within a reasonable time;
- Establish a safety committee within three months of receiving a written request from two Trade Union Safety Representatives of the staff at the school;

- Ensure that a system is in place for the reporting, recording and investigating of accidents and that all reasonable steps are taken to prevent recurrence;
- To review regularly i) the provision of first aid in the School;
ii) the emergency (fire) procedures;
- Monitor the dissemination of safety information throughout the School;
- Report to the Governors matters relating to health and safety;
- Ensure that all staff have received appropriate safety training and supervising Teachers have the appropriate qualifications/specialist training for the activities taught/equipment used.
- Co-operate with the LA Health and Safety Advisor.
- Ensure that suitable and sufficient welfare facilities are provided for the number of staff and pupils intending to use them.

3.3 The School Health and Safety Co-ordinator

In some cases schools may wish to appoint a school health & safety co-ordinator, in these cases a School Health and Safety Co-ordinator shall:

- Co-ordinate the whole School programme of Health and Safety by ensuring full consultation and participation of all staff, through appropriate meetings and consultation;
- Carry out inspections of the School at least once per term and inform the Headteacher of any problems/deficiencies and ensure that the appropriate action has been taken;
- Administer the system for reporting, recording and investigating accidents and take all reasonable steps to prevent recurrences. Report as necessary to the LA/appropriate office;
- Disseminate safety information within the School;
- Ensure that new employees are inducted with regards to health & safety arrangements and issued with a copy of the School's Health and Safety Policy (this document) and given the opportunity to read it;
- Ensure that employees promoted or given additional responsibilities, are briefed so they have a clear understanding of the role and the standards expected of them
- Ensure that effective arrangements are in force to facilitate safe evacuation of the buildings in case of fire or other emergency and that fire-fighting equipment is available and maintained;
- Arrange for contractors and visitors to be informed of any hazards on site of which they may be unaware and the emergency procedures;
- Ensure temporary employees are given sufficient information, training and supervision to enable them to be safe and without risk to health;
- Liaise with the LA's appointed Health and Safety Advisor when carrying out and updating risk assessments;
- Ensure that health surveillance for staff is provided when appropriate.

Should the school choose not to appoint a health & safety co-ordinator, these responsibilities shall revert to the Headteacher

3.4 Heads of Department

Heads of Department:-

- Have a general responsibility for the application of the LA's and School's Health & Safety Policy within their own department or area of work and are directly responsible to the Headteacher for the application of safety measures and procedures within their department;
- Shall, where necessary, establish and maintain safe working procedures including arrangements for ensuring, so far as reasonably practicable, safety and absence of risk to health in connection with the use, handling, storage and transport of articles and substances (e.g. chemicals, boiling water, guillotines);
- Shall deal with any health and safety problems referred to them by a member of staff and refer to the Headteacher if they cannot resolve any of these problems;
- Shall carry out a regular safety inspection of the activities for which they are responsible and, where necessary, submit a report to the School Health and Safety Co-ordinator with a copy to the Headteacher;
- Shall ensure as far as is reasonably practicable the provision of sufficient information instruction, training and supervision to enable other employees and pupils to avoid hazards and contribute positively to their own safety;
- Shall, where appropriate, seek advice and guidance from the relevant LA Advisor or Officer;
- Shall propose to the Headteacher or School Health and Safety Co-ordinator any requirements for safety equipment and welfare facilities;

3.5 All Employees

The Health and Safety at Work etc, Act, (1974) and Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999), require every employee whilst at work to take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and of any other persons, including pupils and visitors, who may be affected by their acts or omissions at work.

All employees are expected;

- To know the special safety measures and arrangements to be adopted in their own working areas and ensure they are applied;
- To inform the Headteacher, the School Health and Safety Co-ordinator or their Line Manager of any training they feel they need to carry out their responsibilities
- To report any health & safety concerns to the Headteacher, the School Health and Safety Co-ordinator or their Line Manager
- To use and not wilfully misuse, neglect or interfere with things provided for their own safety and/or the safety of others;

- To co-operate with other employees in promoting improved safety measures in their School;
- To co-operate with the appointed safety representatives and enforcement officers of the Health and Safety Executive or Environmental Health.
- To exercise effective supervision of the students, giving clear instructions and warnings as necessary and know the emergency procedures in respect of fire, bomb scare and first aid and to carry them out;
- To know the special safety measures to be adopted in their own teaching areas and to ensure that they are applied;
- To follow any instructions and warnings as required;
- To follow safe working procedures;
- To wear protective clothing when required;
- To make recommendations to their Head of Department e.g. on safety equipment and on additions or improvements to equipment or machinery;
- To regularly check all equipment, protective clothing, furniture and their environment (heating, lighting, etc.) and report any defects to the Schools Health and Safety Co-ordinator.

3.6 Pupils

The pupils are expected;

- To exercise personal responsibility for their own safety and other pupils;
- To observe standards of dress consistent with safety and/or hygiene (this includes items of 'jewellery');
- To observe all safety rules of the School and, in particular, the instructions of teaching staff given in an emergency;
- To use and not wilfully misuse, neglect or interfere with things provided for his/her safety.

3.7 Parents

Have a responsibility to;

- Make provision for full time education;
- Abide by/support the rules and regulations of the school;
- Comply with the School Safety Policy (**this document**);
- Act as a 'reasonable parent'.

3.8 Visitors

Regular visitors and other users of the premises should observe the safety rules of the School. In particular adult volunteers will be made aware of health and safety arrangements applicable to them by the teacher to whom they are assigned.

3.9 Volunteers

Headteachers must ensure that all volunteers are aware of the School's Health and Safety Policy and practical safety issues as part of their induction, prior to working in the school. Records of inductions will be retained by the Headteacher.

4.0 ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 First Aid

The Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations, 1981 cover all employees, teaching and non-teaching in Schools and education establishments. Pupils and students are not covered by the regulations, but these must still be considered.

Headteachers shall undertake a first aid needs assessment to determine the schools required provision, taking into consideration the circumstances of the site, the workforce and the hazards and risks that may be present.

The DfE recommend that schools have suitable first aid facilities and a sufficient number of trained persons, **normally 1 First Aider for every 50 employees**. In estimating additional provision sufficient to cover pupil numbers, **1 First Aider for every 150 pupils is normally held to be a reasonable ratio**.

Where a premises comes under the remit of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework (EYFS), there is a mandatory provision for schools and early years providers in Ofsted registered settings attended by young children (i.e. children from birth to the academic year in which a child has their fifth birthday), to provide at least **1 Paediatric First Aider**. In order to maintain cover these premises should ensure that they have a minimum of 2 Paediatric First Aiders.

Every School should have suitably equipped first aid boxes in easily accessible places.

Where Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) have been installed, it is recommended that the school have sufficient numbers of trained persons. Inspections of AED's will be undertaken by Mrs Philippa Crosby on a recorded basis.

Further detail with regards to First Aid provision can be found within the Corporate First Aid at Work Policy, accessible via St Helens Schools Portal

**The School's First Aiders and AED operators are listed below.
Contact details of first aiders are displayed in prominent locations around the school.**

Name of staff member & Location	Role	Qualification	Expiry Date
Philippa Crosby (Reception C'room)	Reception Teacher	First Aid at Work (CPR & De-fib) 'Heart Start' trained	19th February 2024
Helen Ryan (Reception C'room)	Level 2 TA (1:1)	Paediatric First Aid (De-fib awareness)	18 th January 2024
Lisa Milner (Nursery C'room)	Nursery Lead Practitioner	Paediatric First Aid	20 th October 2025
Jemma Hockenhull (Nursery C'room)	Level 2 TA	Paediatric First Aid	October 2025
Wendy Chesworth (Y1 Classroom)	Level 2 TA	Paediatric First Aid	13 th March 2023
Lesley Carr (Rec Classroom)	Level 2 TA	Paediatric First Aid	13 th March 2023
Amanda Cahill (Y2 classroom – from 9/2/23)	Level 2 TA	Paediatric First Aid	November 2023
Rebecca Owen-Hill (Y1 Classroom)	Level 2 TA	Paediatric First Aid	15 th November 2024
Gemma Pilling (Y4 Classroom)	Level 2 TA	Paediatric First Aid	15 th November 2024
Louisa Carlisle (Y5 Classroom)	Level 2 TA	Paediatric First Aid	20 th October 2025

Role of First Aiders

1. To ensure first aid boxes are stocked, regularly checked and refilled.
2. Ensure that records are kept of all first aid treatment.
3. To administer treatment in accordance with the first aid training they have received.

First Aid Kits

Adequately stocked (clearly marked) first aid kits shall be provided and all employees shall be made aware of their location. A suggested list of contents is contained within the First Aid at Work Policy.

Where tap water is not readily available for eye irrigation, sterile water or sterile normal saline in sealed disposable containers should be provided. Each container should hold at least 300 ml.

Additional materials such as: foil blankets, disposable aprons, individually wrapped moist wipes can be contained should the first aid needs assessment indicate their requirement.

It should be noted that first aid kits should contain only the items that a first aider has been trained to use and they should not contain medication of any kind.

4.2 Accident Reporting Procedures

Schools should ensure that they have a responsible person appointed to take charge of the safe keeping and management of all accident records for the site.

Schools have a duty to record -

- (i) any accident to any person occurring on school premises;
- (ii) any accident to a member of staff at any location whilst on school business;
- (iii) any accident to a pupil off-site whilst under the supervision of a member of staff e.g. school trips.

Completed Accident Support forms must be passed to the responsible person named in section 2.1. prior to inputted onto the electronic system.

Copies of the St. Helens Council Accident Support Forms are available via the St Helens Schools' Portal

Further detail Accident Reporting and Dangerous Occurrences Reporting Procedures are contained within the Health & Safety Policy and Procedures on the St Helens Schools Portal. Briefly they require:

Accidents involving Employees and Members of the Public

- (i) All personal injuries to be recorded on the St. Helens Council online Accident Reporting System.
- (ii) Any fatalities, specified injury accidents and dangerous occurrences must be notified immediately to the HSE by the quickest available means (normally by telephone).
- (iii) Personal injuries to employees resulting in over 7 days absence to be reported to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) via their online reporting system within **15 days of the occurrence**.

In the cases of (ii) & (iii) above, the Headteacher must be informed immediately, followed by the Corporate Health & Safety Section, who will, in consultation with the Headteacher, notify the Health & Safety Executive (HSE).

Pupil Accidents

- (i) All minor injuries will be entered into a suitable record book kept on site. An example sheet is appended to the Accident Reporting Procedure.
- (ii) Any fatalities, specified injury accidents and dangerous occurrences must be notified immediately to the HSE by the quickest available means (normally by telephone).

In the cases of (ii) above, the Headteacher must be informed immediately, followed by the Corporate Health & Safety Section, who will, in consultation with the Headteacher, notify the Health & Safety Executive (HSE).

4.3 Fire Safety

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RRO) requires a “**Responsible Person**” to be named, who will ensure that the premises comply with the Order. This has been determined to be the **Headteacher**.

The Responsible Person shall ensure that a Fire Risk Assessment has been completed for the site by a competent person and that it is kept under review by the school on an annual basis so that it remains valid. Where any structural or procedural changes occur the assessment shall be reviewed by a competent person.

The assessment should be accessible and available for inspection by the Fire Authority.

At St John Vianney Catholic Primary School, regular fire drills and walk through inspections will be carried out in order to ensure that basic fire prevention procedures are observed.

In addition, Building Bulletin 100 (BB100), Design for Fire Safety in Schools Produced by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), recommends that for each establishment a Fire Safety Manager is appointed. This need not be the Headteacher, but can be delegated to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

The named **Fire Safety Manager** is **Mrs Anne-Louise Friar**

The main duties of the Fire Safety Manager include:

- ✓ Managing the school to minimise the incidence of fire (fire prevention) e.g. good housekeeping and security;
- ✓ Producing an Emergency Fire Plan;
- ✓ Checking the adequacy of fire-fighting equipment and ensuring its regular maintenance;
- ✓ Ensuring fire escape routes and fire exit doors/passageways are kept unobstructed and doors operate correctly;
- ✓ Ensuring that fire detection and protection systems are maintained, tested and suitable records are kept;
- ✓ Ensuring any close down procedures are followed.
- ✓ Ensure that suitable arrangements are in place for out of hours activations of the fire alarm, either by the school staff or the security force acting on their behalf.
- ✓ Ensuring there are disability evacuation provisions within the emergency fire plan.

Schools are visited on a regular basis by Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service who will make recommendations in relation to means of escape, means for giving warning, the means for fighting fire and any particular hazards present on the premises.

Fire Awareness Training

The Headteacher shall ensure that all site-based staff undertake the Fire Awareness e-learning training course.

Fire Drills

A schedule of fire drills has been established on the basis of **one drill per term**.

Mrs Anne-Louise Friar has been nominated to organise the fire drills.

A record of the fire drills and fire alarm tests using the St Helens Council Fire Safety Logbook will be maintained. The Responsible Person shall audit the fire log book on a regular basis to ensure that all tests of fire-fighting equipment and fire safety critical systems within the premises are being undertaken at the recommended frequencies.

Fire Emergency Action

1. If a fire is discovered raise the alarm via the nearest fire alarm call point.
2. On hearing the fire alarm all staff, pupils and visitors, should leave the premises and make their way to the fire assembly point.
3. Where any person is unable to self-evacuate, they should follow their individual Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP) under the direction of their Teacher/Manager.
4. Doors and windows should be closed as classrooms and corridors are vacated.
5. All laboratory, experimental equipment and apparatus should be turned off.
6. The Headteacher or her Deputy will telephone for the Fire and Rescue Service or detail some other member of staff to do so.
7. When the pupils are assembled the roll will be called via the register. Should there be any absentees, an immediate search will be made by the Emergency Services.
8. Until the Fire and Rescue Service arrives, the staff should, after the pupils are safely evacuated and accounted for, remain at the fire assembly point until re-entry of the building is allowed by the Fire and Rescue Service.

Means of Escape

Regular inspections shall be made of means of escape, to ensure that they are kept free from obstruction. If it is found that they are even partially blocked, for example, furniture or rubbish, **immediate** action must be taken to clear the obstruction. Inspection shall also include a visual check that all fire safety signs e.g. direction of escape route, are in place and clearly visible. Immediate action will be taken to replace or expose to view any sign which is not visible.

Fire Fighting Equipment

Fire-fighting equipment will be used only by trained staff when they are confident in their ability to douse a **small** blaze, in most cases they should leave the area immediately by the nearest escape route.

Fire extinguishers will be subject to an annual inspection by a competent contractor.

Fire-fighting equipment including extinguishers, blankets, hose reels, sand buckets will also be checked **weekly** for:

- (i) Its correct location.
- (ii) Vandalism.
- (iii) Obstruction.
- (iv) Sand buckets should be full and not contain any rubbish.

Fire Alarm Systems

The fire alarm system should be tested at a pre-determined time **on a weekly basis** via a **different alarm point** on each occasion. Where a link has been established between the alarm and monitoring service, this must be checked on each occasion to ensure it is fully operational. All tests must be recorded within the St Helens Council Fire Safety Log Book.

Mrs S Brown (Caretaker) is responsible for the weekly alarm test at this site.

The day and time of the test is Wednesday at 14.15.

This will ensure that in addition to checking the system as a whole, all call alarm points are checked on a regular basis. Any sounding of the alarm outside of the agreed time should be treated as an evacuation. Any visitors or contractors should be informed of tests.

Emergency Lighting

A system function test including the operation of all emergency lighting should be undertaken on a **monthly basis**, with the results recorded within the St Helens Council Fire Safety Log Book

Fire Doors

Fire doors play an essential role in prohibiting the spread of smoke and fire, but only if they are closed and stay closed during a fire.

Fire doors are often wedged open or propped open with fire extinguishers or litter bins, therefore, such practices should be discouraged.

Weekly checks will, therefore, be carried out to inspect all fire doors as well as door furnishings such as hinges, glazing, push bar mechanisms and self-closing devices. Faults found in any mechanism shall be reported for immediate attention.

4.4 Electrical Safety

The Electricity at Work Regulations (1989) require employers to ensure that all electrical equipment used in the workplace is safe to use, properly maintained and without risk to health.

- The fixed electrical circuits, etc, within the school should be inspected and tested at least every **five years** by a competent person.
- Where wiring is subject to damage and abuse (e.g. surface wiring in temporary classrooms) and in external areas such as greenhouses, it should be similarly inspected every **three years**.

- Any additions or changes to the school's wiring must be inspected and tested by a competent person before power is applied.
- The electrical circuits associated with stages/theatre halls should be inspected **annually**.
- Schools should keep an inventory of all electrical equipment (including portable and transportable items) and it should not be possible for apparatus previously discarded as defective to slip back into use.

The person responsible for ensuring that departmental inventories of equipment are drawn up is Mrs Angela Webster (Office Manager) and in Angela's absence, Kellie Johnson (Office Admin).

All electrical faults must be reported to Mrs Anne-Louise Friar.

- Equipment which was not manufactured to current standards may require modification (e.g. pottery kilns with exposed elements that can be touched).
- Home-made or modified equipment shall not be used.
- All electrical equipment operating at over 50 volts should be visually checked **each term** and any defective items rectified.
- Any hand-held equipment that has an exposed metal case should be inspected and tested by a competent person **each year**.
- Any double insulated equipment (i.e. no exposed metal casing) should be visually inspected for any damage to the insulation of the item, cable sheath or plug each time it is used.
- Where equipment is used outside the building via flexible cable a residual current device (RCD) should be used in the supply circuit. (RCDs work by sensing any difference in the current flowing in the two power supply lines. If, because of an insulation failure, damage, etc., an additional current flows to earth from either line, possibly via a person, the power is switched off in a fraction of a second. The trip sensitivity is predetermined; up to 30 mA will provide protection against electrical shock to earth. RCDs do not, however, provide any protection against a shock caused by connection between live and neutral).

Portable Appliance Testing

The majority of potentially dangerous faults will be picked up by formal visual checks, carried out by a competent person or by informal visual checks carried out by users.

Electrical testing where the needs for such has been identified must be carried out by a competent person. This will be a member of staff such as a Technician, who has been trained in the use of adequate test equipment, or a suitably qualified electrical contractor.

A detailed procedure on the testing and examination of portable electrical equipment is available on the St Helens Schools' Portal

4.5 Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)

The COSHH Regulations 2002, (as amended), require employers to assess the risks to the health of employees posed by the use of toxic, harmful, irritant and corrosive substances,

these include many substances used in Design and Technology & Art Design, Science Departments and where schools directly employ Caretakers and/or Cleaners.

More detailed information is contained in the booklet: Working with substances hazardous to health - A brief guide to COSHH (INDG136 rev5).

A risk assessment looks at the ways in which the use of a substance(s) can give rise to harm and the steps required to reduce that harm. The duty to carry out such assessment will normally rest with the Head of Department, though the responsibility may be delegated to another person. In all but the most simplest of cases, the assessment must be recorded.

General risk assessments have been drawn up by CLEAPSS for most substances in use in Design and Technology & Art Design and Science.

For other substances not covered by these general assessments, a suitable & sufficient assessment must be completed. A standard proforma for COSHH Assessments has been drawn up by the LA. Copies of the proforma assessment form and guidance on its completion are available on the St Helens Schools' Portal.

4.6 Asbestos Containing Materials

In accordance with the requirements of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012, a survey has been conducted to determine the location and condition of asbestos containing material within the school.

The Headteacher shall ensure that all site-based staff are made aware of the location of the asbestos report and understand its contents.

The Headteacher shall ensure that Asbestos Awareness e-learning training has been completed by those members of staff with responsibilities for the building, those who may undertake inspections or those who may work on the fabric of the building.

The Headteacher shall also ensure that any persons carrying out building/maintenance works are made aware of the survey report and the location of known or suspected asbestos containing materials. The 'Confirmation of access sheet' provided with survey should be signed by the contractor to evidence this.

4.7 Glass and Glazing

A survey of all glass and glazing panels has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 14 Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992. The survey shall be kept in an accessible location and be available for inspection by enforcing authorities.

4.8 Pupils with Medical Needs

Whenever possible, pupils with medical needs will be supported in such a way as to minimise any disruption to their education. The arrangements in place for this school reflect the DfE Guidance Supporting pupils at School with Medical Conditions (December 2015) and the policy and procedures put in place by the Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Group around particular tasks and conditions. When new conditions or medical tasks emerge the school will seek the guidance of the Local Authority in order to determine what arrangements can be put in place. The School Nurse is available to answer any concerns that may arise, and can be contacted on 01744 627566.

4.9 Outdoor Education Activities and School Trips

This school recognises the importance of ensuring that outdoor education activities and school trips are planned and organised in such a way as to minimise risks to pupils, staff and helpers.

To this end the school will follow the LA Guidelines for Health & Safety of pupils on Educational Visits (March 2013).

Mrs Anne-Louise Friar has responsibility for onsite advice/co-ordination of offsite trips and educational activities.

4.10 Fixed Play Equipment

The Headteacher shall ensure that any new fixed outdoor play equipment is designed and installed by a competent contractor who operates within the requirements of BSEN 1176 and BSEN 1177. A post installation inspection of new fixed outdoor play equipment shall be undertaken by an independent organisation, in consultation with property support/school surveyors.

Whether new or existing fixed outdoor play equipment, the Headteacher shall ensure that:

- Risk assessments are conducted to identify the hazards, determine suitable precautions and help devise the management system for the fixed play equipment. Certain play equipment may become slippery in cold or wet conditions; these items of equipment should be identified as part of the risk assessment process and sufficient precautions put in place to make them safe for use or place out of action if it is not possible.
- Operational procedures are in place that define the arrangements around the use of the equipment. These arrangements must be communicated to staff and pupils and should specify the level of supervision for each area.
- Inspections of fixed play equipment is undertaken at the following recommended intervals:

Routine: Daily visual inspection of the equipment must be carried out by the member of staff supervising the play/curriculum activity prior to the use of the equipment. This visual inspection should include a visual check of the play surface around the equipment, including any gated and fenced areas, and any obvious structural defects on the play equipment itself.

Weekly recorded visual inspection by a member of staff, ie Caretaker or nominated member of staff. Looking at the basic condition of the equipment, especially faults due to recent vandalism, breakages and also cleanliness of the playground.

Operational: Quarterly recorded operational inspection by a trained RPII Play Inspector. This inspection will look in more detail at the condition of the equipment, providing a quality control check on the more regular inspections and identifying wear and tear on the equipment.

Annual: Annual main inspection by an independent competent person who is an accredited member of a relevant recognised trade body such as: Association of Play Industries or Register of Play Inspectors International. Looking at vandalism, wear and tear, long term structural problems, standard compliance and design.

- Provisions are in place for repairs and maintenance.

4.11 Infection Control

Employees must follow all relevant guidance, policy, and procedures during periods of pandemic, infectious diseases and threat to public health such as COVID19.

The school as the employer will adapt to the threat of pandemics by completing additional risk assessments, introducing additional emergency procedures and following central govt and PHE guidance in relation to transmissions and prevention of infectious diseases.

The school aims to minimize any risk of the spread of infection and will:

- Maintain high standards of hygiene throughout the school including promotion of good hand washing.
- Provide warm water, liquid soap and hand drying facilities in all toilet/washrooms.
- Ensure spillages of bodily fluids, such as blood, urine and vomit are dealt with immediately and that adequate facilities are provided to protect the people involved.
- Organise for the safe cleaning of equipment and where appropriate disinfection and through cleaning of the premises.
- Arrange for the safe disposal of any infected materials.

4.12 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 Headteacher 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

Where the school undertakes construction and building works projects directly, the governing body are considered the 'client' and therefore have additional health and safety responsibilities to consider before starting works, including:-

- Are you clear about your responsibilities?
- Have you made your formal appointments?
- Have you checked that the principal designer or designer has the capability and necessary skills, knowledge, training and experience to fulfil their duties?
- Have you checked that the principal contractor or contractor has the capability and necessary skills, knowledge, training and experience to fulfil their duties?

- Have you checked that the project team is adequately resourced? Has a project or client brief been issued to the project team?
- Has the project team been provided with information about the existing site or structure (pre-construction information)?
- Do you have access to project-specific health and safety advice?
- Are suitable arrangements in place to manage health and safety throughout the project?
- Has a schedule of the key activities for the project been produced?
- Has sufficient time been allowed to complete the key activities?
- Where required, has an online F10 notification form been submitted to HSE to notify them of commencement of work?
- Have you checked that a construction phase plan has been adequately developed before work starts on site?
- Are you satisfied that suitable welfare facilities have been provided before work starts on site?
- Have you agreed the format and content of the health and safety file

Such projects are managed by Liverpool Archdiocese (who sub-contract Cassidy & Ashton Surveyors) who will ensure that the School have obtained consent and, where applicable, all statutory approvals, such as planning permission and building regulations have been sought. For maintained schools, the landlord is the Local Authority. Schools are required to notify the Authority when they are proposing works that will affect the layout or operation of the building.

Under CDM 2015, certain construction work must be notified to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). For further information and guidance on CDM 2015 contact your School Property Officer.

The school, contractor(s) and any subcontractor(s) involved will exchange relevant information regarding the work activities and agree the risk assessment and safe systems of work to be used prior to works commencing on site. Contractors will be asked to provide risk assessments and method statements specific to the site and works to be undertaken.

Archdiocesan/Local Authority Managed Projects

Where a project is managed by the Archdiocese/local authority, the above list of information will be the responsibility of the Archdiocese/LA to determine.

4.13 WORK AT HEIGHT

Working at height can present a significant risk, 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 authorised to work at height.

When working at height (including accessing storage or putting up displays) appropriate stepladders 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.

Formal training on work at height, when using leaning ladders, will be provided where a significant risk is identified as part of an individual's role, this training will be provided by contacting the health & safety section.

Safe use of step ladder training can be undertaken via the ‘My Learning Platform’ for all staff who may use step ladders.

The Headteacher 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;
- any access equipment is inspected and maintained;
- any risks from fragile surfaces is properly controlled.

4.14 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 and record the incident on a report form. Where any incident results in a physical injury this should also be documented on the accident reporting system. 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. 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.

5.0 CURRICULUM SAFETY MATTERS

(Sections 5.1, 5.2 and 5.4 apply to secondary schools only)

5.3 Physical Education

Head of Department shall ensure that:

- A *Physical Education Department Health & Safety Policy* is developed and maintained, documenting the arrangements that are in place within the Department. This is to be read in conjunction with the school’s General Health & Safety Policy. The Policy should be provided to all members of staff working within the Department on a recorded basis.
- Supervising Teachers have the appropriate qualification/training for the activities taught as outlined in the afPE Publication: Safe Practice in Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity (2016).

- Risk Assessments are undertaken for activities within Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity. Guidance (Risk Assessment in Physical Education for St Helens Schools) produced by the LA for reference has been issued to all schools.
- Gym equipment is within current test period and adequately maintained and inspected before use. The inspection shall be organised on behalf of the school by the school's Property Services Officer.
- Pupils using PE equipment are adequately supervised in accordance with the guidance given in the afPE publication.
- Checks of goalposts (rugby/football) are being undertaken before use and on a regular basis. Guidelines produced by the Football Association regarding inspection regimes for football posts are issued to all schools.

The Class Teacher shall ensure that:

- They carry out a cursory visual check of equipment and the playing surface/area prior to the commencement of Physical Education activities.
- Pupils using PE equipment are adequately supervised in accordance with the guidance given in the afPE publication.
- Areas used for physical education, school sport and physical activity are thoroughly inspected and any necessary preparation works carried out prior to the class commencing. This includes ensuring that landing areas such as sandpits are raked and softened and playing fields are cleared of obvious debris **immediately prior to use**.
- Goalposts (rugby/football) are checked before use and on a regular basis following the Football Association's Guidelines issued to the school.

5.5 Work Experience/Placements

This school recognises the importance of ensuring that work experience/placements are planned and organised in such a way as to minimise risks to pupils.

Placement providers shall be vetted prior to use by school staff. To this end, the school will follow the HSE guidelines on Young People and Work Experience (INDG 364 rev1) 2013.