



Health and Safety Policy issued by the governors of Handcross Primary School

Taken from WSCC Model Health and Safety Policy for schools dated May 2017

Date policy approved by the Premises Committee: February 2018

Date of next review : February 2019

At Handcross School, every child is special

Aims for the School

- To make all children and staff feel safe, happy, respected, cared for and have a sense of belonging. To create a trusting atmosphere in which the spiritual life and personal qualities of the children will flourish and their growing confidence and independence nurtured.
- For there to be high expectations which inspire, motivate and challenge **every** child to learn in every aspect of a broad curriculum. For the children to learn how to think independently, develop their imaginations and have fun. For every day to be used to the full.
- To have good working relationships between all who work in the school and a strong partnership with the parents, other schools and the community.
- To create an in/outdoor environment which is attractive, lively, stimulating, informative and which supports the children's learning.
- For the learning to be based on our knowledge of *how* children learn, the preferences and interests expressed by the children themselves and from stimuli within the locality.
- For exciting and memorable lessons to be well planned and resourced, with plenty of rich, satisfying, enjoyable, multi-sensory experiences, and for lessons to be suitably differentiated to meet every individual need.
- For the good and relevant use of IT to be fully exploited.
- To set short, medium and long-term goals which challenge and stretch each individual, and for progress to be carefully tracked.
- For teachers to accurately assess individuals at every stage of the learning so that the resulting interventions have a direct *impact on the children's learning*.
- For the children to be able to talk about their progress towards their targets, and for their achievements to be celebrated.
- For the children to be prepared to lead a life within a diverse and constantly changing society, in which they will respect British values, adopt a healthy lifestyle, achieve economic well-being, and make a positive contribution.

September 2017

Statement of Intent

The governing body 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 governing body 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 governing body 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. **Signed by:**

Jan Elliott

Stephen Laing

Chair of Governors

Named Governor responsible for Health & Safety

THE ORGANISATION FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health and safety responsibilities

The Governing Body 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 governing body 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 governing body, 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.

Department Heads are 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 governing body 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.

Employees are responsible for their own health and safety, that of their colleagues and members of the public who may be affected by their work activities.

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. *Mel Vallance & Sarah Goodenough* are responsible for reporting accidents

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

Administering medicines

The school's Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions, Administration of Medicine, First Aid and Accident Policy details the procedures followed by the school and is based on WSCC policy and procedures. The lead staff members for the administration of medicines are *Mel Vallance and Sarah Goodenough*. 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. *Henry Brennan*, 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.

Henry Brennan is the designated people 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. Contractors are continuously monitored whilst on site. *Henry Brennan* is responsible for the management of contractors.

Curriculum Safety

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

Class teachers under the direction of Gill Pedersen or Charlotte Sturkey are responsible for Design and Technology, Drama, theatre and arts and Physical Education.

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 *Mel Vallance*, 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 West Sussex Services for Schools website.

DSE user risk assessments will be reviewed periodically by *Mel Vallance*, 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 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 *Henry Brennan, Bursar*.

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 *Gill Pedersen, Head Teacher*.

Fire Safety

Gillian Pedersen is the Responsible Person for Fire Safety management. *Mel Vallance, and Angie Cribb* are the designated persons 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 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 Procedures (see Fire Safety Policy)**, 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.

The Emergency Fire Procedures 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 (adequate number of fire wardens to assist with the evacuation)
- Any need to co-operate or co-ordinate with other responsible persons that will be operating within the premises.

Training

In house fire safety awareness training is carried out annually for all staff.

First Aid

The lead First Aiders are *Sarah Goodenough and Mel Vallance*. The following staff are trained First Aiders: Sam Powell, Linda Boustead, Julie Guiver, Catherine Aylett, Henry Brennan, Emma Fewster, Emma Grant, Angie Cribb, Steph Young, Henry Lewis, Antje Taylor, Jane Creasey, Julia Ford, Steve Sneller and Charlotte Greany. Details of the school's first aid trained staff is available in the school office. *Sarah Goodenough & Mel Vallance*, monitor 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.

Sarah Goodenough & Mel Vallance are the designated persons for ensuring the first aid kits are kept fully stocked and items are within date, checks of first aid kits are recorded as completed.

Glazing

The school holds an up to date Glazing Survey and regularly monitors glazing as part of the premises inspection. *Henry Brennan, Bursar*, is responsible for glazing management.

Gas Safety

The school ensures that the gas boilers and other gas appliances are serviced and maintained regularly. Insert name or role 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 West Sussex Services for Schools website. Staff will also complete the eLearning 'Health & Safety for schools' and records will be kept. *Sarah Goodenough* is responsible for the induction of staff in Health and Safety.

Food Safety and Hygiene

The lead for Food Safety at Handcross is *Chartwells*. 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 before being opened up to pupils again.

All incidents are to be reported to the Food Safety Lead.

All staff that handle food have passed the online training Food Safety - Level 2. *Angie Cribb* is responsible for making sure that they have completed the training. See also Healthy School Food and Lifestyle Policy 2017 for more information. The school follows government advice 'Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities'.

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. *Gill Pedersen, Head Teacher*, is responsible for risk assessing and producing lone working procedures. Please also see 'Lone Working Policy' dated March 2017 for more information.

Play equipment

Henry Brennan is responsible for ensuring that 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. *Angie Cribb* regularly monitors external play equipment and defects are reported immediately to the Head teacher. Faulty equipment is immediately decommissioned.

Health and Safety Monitoring, audit and review

The Governing Body 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 Governing body shall prepare an annual action plan to address deficiencies in health and safety arising from the Head teachers' annual report.

Premises Maintenance

The internal premises will be inspected at regular intervals by *Health & Safety Governors and Henry Brennan* and the external premises will be inspected by *Angie Cribb*. The inspections are recorded and resulting issues reported to the Head teacher. The school is to be kept clean, tidy and free from hazardous obstacles. Staff must report any defective equipment, furniture or premises issues to *Henry Brennan*, using the defects log. *Henry Brennan*, will sign and date completed actions in the log.

Moving and Handling of Children 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 Governing body 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. *Mel Vallance*, is 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 of this and an appropriate risk assessment is to be undertaken following the guidance contained within the Health and Safety A-Z on the West Sussex Services for Schools website. 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. *Gill Pedersen, Head Teacher* and *Sarah Goodenough* are the schools Educational Visit Co-ordinators (EVC)

Oil

The school uses oil fired heating. The oil is stored in accordance with regulations and the oil tank is regularly inspected by Henry Brennan, and is serviced and maintained by SSE.

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 governing body 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 utilises the services of Health Assured Employee Assistance and Occupational Health.

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 *Sarah Goodenough & Mel Vallance*.

Water quality

Sarah Goodenough 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 SSE.

Working at height

Teaching staff are not permitted to work at height to put up displays. *Henry Brennan* has been ladder trained and any staff working at height will take the West Sussex elearning training programme on working at height and will erect displays on behalf of teaching staff. Ladders, step stools and other access equipment are kept on a ladder register and regularly inspected and maintained by *Henry Brennan*.