

"I can do all things through God, who gives me strength."
Philippians 4:13

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

FOR

NEWTON SOLNEY CofE (VA) INFANT SCHOOL

Reviewed by Davinia Gamble March 2024

Approved by Governors March 2024

STATEMENT OF GENERAL POLICY ON HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE

Statement of Intent

This policy statement supplements and complements the more detailed statement issued by the Derbyshire Health Safety and Wellbeing Service issued on the S4S site.

The school's Governing Body and Senior Management Team recognise and accept their responsibilities both under civil and criminal law and also under schemes of delegation for local management of schools. As responsible employers and/or persons in control of premises, the requirements to provide a safe and healthy working environment for all employees is acknowledged.

The school is committed to ensuring that risk assessments are undertaken, control measures implemented, and systems of work are constantly monitored and reviewed.

In compliance with the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, this schools Governing Body will ensure so far is reasonably practicable that:

The premises are maintained in a safe condition.

Safe access to and egress from the premises is maintained.

All plant and equipment is safe to use.

Appropriate safe systems of work exist and are maintained.

Sufficient information, instruction, training and supervision is available and provided to ensure staff are competent to fulfil their role in a safe manner.

Arrangements exist for safe use, handling and storage of articles and substances at work.

A healthy working environment is maintained including adequate welfare facilities.

In addition to the above commitment, the Governing Body also recognises its obligation to non-employees. Where it is reasonably foreseeable that pupils, members of the public, contractors etc are or may be affected by the school activities being carried out on or within the school boundaries or otherwise, the Governor Body will make the necessary information, instruction, training and supervision available to ensure the safety of those affected. As an education provider which must set standards by example for its pupils, this commitment is seen as especially important.

The Governing Body will ensure through the Senior Management Team that adequate resources are set aside from the total budget allocation for the expressed aims of the policy statement to be properly implemented.

The Governing Body is committed to this policy and all staff are required to comply as a condition of employment. They are encouraged to assist in the Governing Body's

commitment to the continuous improvement in our health and safety performance. For the policy to be effectively implemented the school must have the full co-operation of employees and others who use the premises.

Employees are reminded of the own duties:

To take care of their own safety and that of others.

To co-operate with the Governing Body and the Senior Management Team so that they may carry out their own responsibilities successfully.

To comply with all relevant, codes of practice and standards as necessary, and point out any shortcomings in these to management.

Consultation with employees' representatives will be held as and when appropriate on all matters affecting the health and/or safety of employees concerned.

A copy of this statement has been provided to every member of staff. Copies are also posted on the staff notice-boards. This policy statement and the accompanying organisation and arrangements will be revised as and when necessary.

This policy statement together with the organisational structure and the following arrangements and procedures has been approved by the schools Governing Body.

Name Mrs Davinia Gamble

Name Mrs Jaide Meyrick

Sign

Sign

Headteacher

Chair of Governors

Date

Date

Responsibilities of Governing Bodies

Governing Bodies are responsible for ensuring that health and safety is maintained within their school. In order to do this, they must ensure that certain key elements are in place within the school. The responsibilities of Governing Bodies outlined below fall principally into the areas of monitoring of performance, ensuring health and safety matters are adequately resourced and ensuring that those staff who have specific health and safety responsibilities are aware of and undertake those responsibilities.

In particular the Governing Body should ensure that: -

- The school has a health and safety policy (which can be based on the Children's Services policy and guidance) which is implemented within the school and that the effectiveness of this policy is monitored. The Governors should formally approve this policy.
- Health and safety is effectively managed in the school through appropriate management systems including risk assessments, inspections, communication systems, guidance, review and monitoring.
- The school considers health and safety as an on-going priority and ensures that health and safety obligations are included in school development plans.
- Health and safety responsibilities are allocated to appropriate staff within the school's organisational structure.
- When decisions on staffing levels are being considered that the health and safety implications of such decisions are fully considered.
- Adequate resources for health and safety are identified.
- They seek health and safety advice from Children's Services Health and Safety Section as necessary and that this advice is acted upon as far as is reasonably practicable.
- There is an appropriate forum for discussing health and safety issues, taking decisions and ensuring action is carried out. This could be full Governors' meetings or a sub-committee of the Governors where health and safety is a standing agenda item.
- They receive an annual report on the school's health and safety performance from the Headteacher to include, for example, the findings of risk assessments, any problems the Headteacher feels need referring to the Governors, accident statistics, any changes in working practice and any budgetary implications (this is not an exhaustive list).
- They receive on a regular basis any guidance issued by the Authority and take appropriate action as necessary.
- They review annually the health and safety performance of the school and set targets for achievement for the next year.
- All the County guidance on school journeys and adventure activities and licensing where appropriate is complied with.

NB: THE GOVERNORS OF VOLUNTARY AIDED AND FOUNDATION SCHOOLS ARE THE EMPLOYERS AND THEREFORE LIABLE FOR THE EMPLOYER'S RESPONSIBILITIES AS OUTLINED IN THE HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK ETC ACT 1974 AND THE MANAGEMENT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK REGULATIONS 1999 AND OTHER SAFETY REGULATIONS MADE UNDER THE REMIT OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK ETC ACT 1974.

Responsibilities of the Headteacher

The Headteacher is ultimately responsible for the day-to-day implementation of health and safety in their school. This includes ensuring there are arrangements in place for the safe use of the school after hours for lettings and other events.

In order to effectively discharge this responsibility, the Headteacher should ensure that: -

- A school health and safety policy is developed with the Governing Body in line with the Children's Services health and safety policy and guidance and that this policy is fully implemented and monitored within their school.
- The policy is brought to the attention of all employees and is periodically reviewed.
- Their knowledge of health and safety issues is kept up to date.
- Individuals within the school staff are allocated appropriate duties in terms of health and safety management and that these are recorded in the school health and safety policy document.
- Staff are made aware of the health and safety guidance, and any guidance issued by the Children's Services which is relevant to their work.
- An annual report on health and safety is prepared and presented to the Governors.
- Inspections of the school are carried out as per Children's Services guidance and that appropriate action is taken to deal with the findings of these inspections.
- The school has a relevant number of people trained to carry out risk assessment.
- Risk assessments of all significant risks are carried out and that the findings of these risk assessments are communicated to all those who may be affected by the risk.
- Following risk assessment, an action plan is drawn up to ensure the identified risk reduction measures are followed up.
- Adequate resources are made available to ensure that the school meets its statutory obligations as far as is reasonably practicable.
- Staff training needs in terms of health and safety are identified and that staff receive adequate health and safety training where required. This should include ensuring that all staff (including supply, part-time and temporary staff, staff undergoing teaching training and students on work experience) receive as a basic minimum induction training on their first day in school.
- An appropriate hazard reporting system is set up and that there is a follow-up procedure to ensure actions have been taken.
- All equipment (both personal protective equipment and general equipment, eg tools, goggles, gloves, ladders etc) required to ensure health and safety, is provided and is suitable for the task for which it is intended and that it can be adequately and safely stored.
- Systems exist to ensure equipment is checked and where it is found to be faulty that it is taken out of use until repaired/disposed of.
- Safe systems of work are adopted and are documented.

- All goods purchased comply with the relevant safety standards and where there are health and safety implications for their use that these are considered prior to purchase and appropriate systems of work and risk assessments are put in place.
- Appropriate emergency procedures, eg fire drills, fire alarm testing, etc, are carried out in accordance with Children's Services guidance and that the results are recorded and where appropriate acted upon.
- Where contractors are appointed to work on the site that all appropriate health and safety documents (eg safety policy/risk assessments) have been seen by the school. That all risks presented by the contractor's work have been assessed and appropriate controls put into place and that the contractor has been made aware of any risks that there may be to their health and safety from working on the site.
- That there are systems in place to ensure that all necessary permits to work are completed for work by contractors.
- All parts of the premises and plant that the Governors are responsible for the repair and/or purchase of are regularly inspected and maintained in safe order. That any unsafe items which are the responsibility of the Authority are reported to them in the appropriate form.
- Where a situation presents an imminent risk of serious personal injury that action is taken to minimise that risk as far as is reasonably practicable irrespective of who is ultimately responsible for dealing with it under the LMS scheme.
- Appropriate first aid provision is ensured and maintained.
- Where the premises are used or let after hours that all appropriate health and safety considerations eg access, lighting, emergency escapes, access to a phone, access to first aid facilities, have been considered and the necessary actions have been put in place. That all the necessary insurance is in place and that a lettings agreement has been signed.
- Any health and safety guidance received from Children's Services is made available to the Governing Body so that appropriate action may be taken as necessary.
- There is appropriate liaison and consultation with Trade Union representatives.

Teaching/non-teaching staff holding positions of special responsibility

This includes the Caretaker - they have the following responsibilities:

Apply the school's health and safety policy or relevant Children's Services department health and safety guidance to their own department or area of work and to be directly responsible to the Headteacher for the application of the health and safety procedures and arrangements.

Carry out regular health and safety risk assessments of the activities for which they are responsible.

Ensure that all staff under their control are familiar with the health and safety code of practice, if issued, for their area of work.

Resolve health, safety and welfare problems members of staff refer to them or refer to the Headteacher any problems to which they cannot achieve a satisfactory solution within the resources available to them.

Carry out regular inspections of their areas of responsibility to ensure that equipment, furniture and activities are safe and record these inspections where required.

Ensure so far as is reasonably practicable, provision of sufficient information, instruction, training and supervision to enable other employees and pupils to avoid hazards and contribute positively to their own health and safety.

Investigate accidents that occur within their areas of responsibility.

Prepare an annual report for the head teacher on the health and safety performance of their department or area of responsibility.

Class teachers

Class teachers are expected to:

Exercise effective supervision of their pupils, to know the procedures for fire, first aid and other emergencies and to carry them out.

Follow particular health and safety measures to be adopted in their own teaching areas as laid down in the relevant guidance, if issued and to ensure that they are applied.

Point out any shortcomings in health and safety arrangements relevant to their area of work.

Give clear oral and written instructions and warnings to pupils when necessary.

Follow safe working procedures, be aware of all risk assessments and appropriate control measure relevant to their area of work and teaching.

Require the use of protective clothing and guards where necessary.

Make recommendations to their Headteacher or Head of Department on health and safety equipment and on additions or necessary improvements to plant, tools, equipment or machinery.

Integrate all relevant aspects of safety into the teaching process and, where necessary, give special lessons on health and safety in line with National Curriculum requirements for safety education.

Avoid introducing personal items of equipment (electrical or mechanical) into the school without prior permission.

Report all accidents, defects and dangerous occurrences to their Head of Department.

Set a good personal example.

All Employees

All employees have health and safety responsibilities as outlined by the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.

The health and safety responsibilities of employees are as follows. Whilst at work all employees will: -

- Make themselves familiar with and conform to the schools/department health and safety policy.
- Be aware of and comply with all schools/department health and safety guidance and instructions, safe systems of work and risk assessments, including control measures relevant to their area of work.
- Point out any shortcomings in the schools/department arrangements for health and safety (guidance, instruction, safe systems of work and risk assessments) to their Section Head or Headteacher as appropriate.
- Report all hazards and incidents occurring during the course of their work to their line manager. In addition to this, where the hazard is such that it represents an imminent risk of serious injury, the employee must take all steps within their control to make the situation safe.
- Use appropriate safety equipment and personal protective equipment/clothing which is provided by the employer and ensure that it is used by persons under their charge where appropriate.
- Co-operate with management in any situation related to health and safety, for example, the introduction of new procedures, initiatives or requirements.
- Co-operate with any investigations related to health and safety, eg. accident investigations.
- Ensure that all persons for whom they have responsibility obey safety rules and safe systems of work.
- Not use equipment which they have not been trained to use.
- Take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of other persons who may be affected by their acts or omissions.
- Report all accidents however minor or near misses.
- Not intentionally or recklessly interfere with or misuse anything provided in the interests of health, safety and welfare.

School Health and Safety Representatives

The Governing Body recognises the role of Health and Safety Representatives appointed by a recognised trade union. Health and Safety Representatives will be allowed to investigate accidents and potential hazards, pursue employee complaints and carry out school inspections within directed time but, wherever practicable, outside teaching hours. They will also be consulted on health and safety matters affecting all staff.

They are also entitled to certain information, eg. about accidents and to paid time Off to train for and carry out their health and safety functions. However, they are not part of the management structure and do not carry out duties on behalf of the Head teacher or Governing Body.

Pupils

Pupils, allowing for their age and aptitude, are expected to:

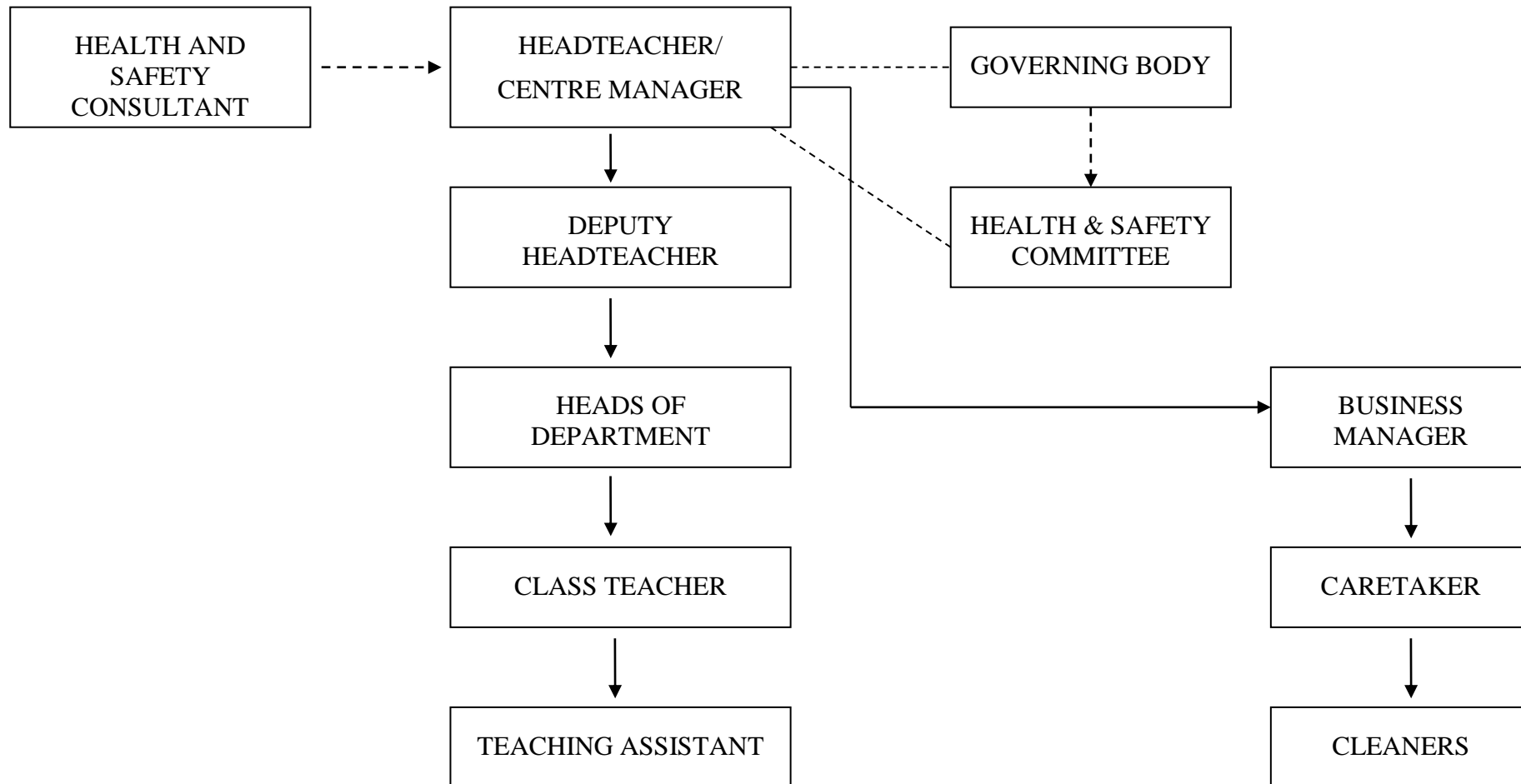
Exercise personal responsibility for the health and safety of themselves and others.

Observe standards of dress consistent with safety and/ or hygiene.

Observe all the health and safety rules of the school and in particular the instructions of staff given in an emergency.

Use and not wilfully misuse, neglect or interfere with things provided for their health and safety.

Organisational Responsibility for Health and Safety



Arrangements for Health and Safety

Accident/Incident Reporting

All accidents and incidents in Newton Solney School will be reported and recorded in line with the Local Authority accident reporting guidance. In Newton Solney School all staff will record all accidents in line with this guidance. All pupil accidents are reported to parent/carers. Paper records of the accidents are filed securely after being signed by an adult. The Headteacher will report more serious accidents/near misses online. Records of these online reports will be printed and filed securely in the Health and Safety school folder.

Administration of Medicines

- Staff will only administer prescription medicine in school where necessary
- A parental consent form is to be filled in with the details of the medicine, dosage and when the medicine is to be given. Medicines must be clearly labelled with the child's name
- Staff member to record on this form when the medicine is administered
- The prescription medicine to be handed by the parent to a member of staff for safe keeping.

Adverse Weather

The Headteacher and Chair of Governors will make decisions on school closure. Communication to staff and parents will be sent out via Parent Hub.

Animals

Please refer to our Keeping Chickens Policy.

Asbestos

An asbestos survey has been carried out at the school and the details of this are in the asbestos file which is stored in the red fire box in the school office.

Communication

Staff report any Health and Safety issues to the Headteacher. These are dealt with promptly and appropriately. Health and Safety is a key point on the agenda for our weekly staff meetings and termly Governor meetings.

Contractors

Arrangements for contractors – Schools have responsibility to ensure that all contractors undertaking work on their site are competent, adequately insured, and are able to carry out their activities in a way which poses no threat of injury to anybody in the vicinity including pupils, staff, visitors or to a lesser extent, trespassers.

COSHH

Storage of hazardous substances such as cleaning materials will be locked in the cleaning cupboard and which is not accessible to children.

Personal protection equipment (e.g. rubber gloves) will be available.

A COSHH poster is displayed in the cleaning cupboard which gives details of chemical and hazardous substances.

Disaster Plans

Please refer to our Critical Incident Policy

Lockdown

Please refer to our Lockdown procedures.

Equipment

Any equipment in school should be used safely and for its intended purpose only. Equipment identified as defective should be taken out of use immediately and brought to the attention of the Headteacher or School Business Officer. No second hand equipment must be introduced to the school without the agreement of the Headteacher. Electrical equipment will be tested regularly. Plugs and leads will be visually checked regularly.

Fire

The school has a fire evacuation procedure. All fire exits are clearly signed. A termly fire drill will take place when all staff and children will evacuate the school. This will be recorded in the fire procedure folder which is stored in the red fire box in the school office. Fire-fighting equipment and alarm systems are maintained regularly via a contract.

First Aid

First Aid procedures, to include:

- Staff are trained in paediatric first aid and are trained every three years
- Provision of a fully stocked first aid box in the library area
- Notification to parents of any head injury or minor injuries on the appropriate slip
- An ambulance will be called where necessary by any responsible adult and arrange for someone to meet and guide the ambulance. If the school is unable to contact a parent (or an alternative nominated person) a member of staff will accompany a child to hospital

Forest Schools

- Two Forest Schools Leader trained in outdoor emergency first aid

- The Forest School Leader will carry out site risk assessment before any activity can take place, and any possible hazards are acted upon as outlined in the risk assessments
- The Forest School Leader is responsible for the safe storage and handling of tools
- The Forest School Leader is responsible for carrying, stocking and storing a fully equipped first aid kit and burns kit in line with the Forest Schools Policy
- Please refer to the separate Forest Schools Policy

Lone Working

Please refer to our Lone Worker Policy.

Off Site Activities

- Please refer to the separate Off Site Activities Policy within the Behaviour Policy
- Any off site visit must be approved by the Headteacher
- For any visit to take place off the school site, a letter home requesting permission is required. When a child first attends the school, parents are asked to sign a form giving their permission for visits within the walking distance around the village. In addition, parents are asked to give emergency contact names and phone numbers.

Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEP's)

PEEPs are in place for anyone who needs one. See individual and personal plans.

Personal and Intimate Care

Personal and intimate care plans are written for each individual child who requires one. These are signed by staff and parents/carers.

Playground Safety

- Schools rules about playground behaviour are designed to maximise playground safety
- Two members of staff on duty at playtimes to provide a high level of supervision of playground
- Regular inspection and maintenance of playgrounds by staff and caretaker.

Playground Safety

Daily checks of the playground are carried out by staff or the Headteacher.

Road Safety

- A self-imposed parking restriction is in place in the road outside the school which parents are regularly encouraged to follow
- A self-imposed one way system around the village for cars which parents are encouraged to be part of
- Parents are encouraged to park at The Unicorn village pub car parks and walk down to school.

Site Access

- All visitors are required to report to Reception and sign in the visitors' book
- All visitors to the school will be asked to wear a visitors badge

Stress Management

Please see our Management of Stress Policy.

Violence at Work

Please see our Violence at work guidance.

Waste Management

General waste is stored in an appropriate outside bin which is emptied weekly. Hazardous and controlled waste is removed by a specialist company by contract.

Wildlife Areas/Sensory Garden

Risk assessments are carried out for gardening activities. The sensory garden is fenced. The pond is covered with a metal grid.

Working at Heights

Be safe; always use the right equipment when working at height. Every year 4,000 people suffer a major injury, sometimes fatal, as a result of a fall from height in the workplace. In the last 6 years there have been 5 deaths and over 3,000 injuries in the education sector.