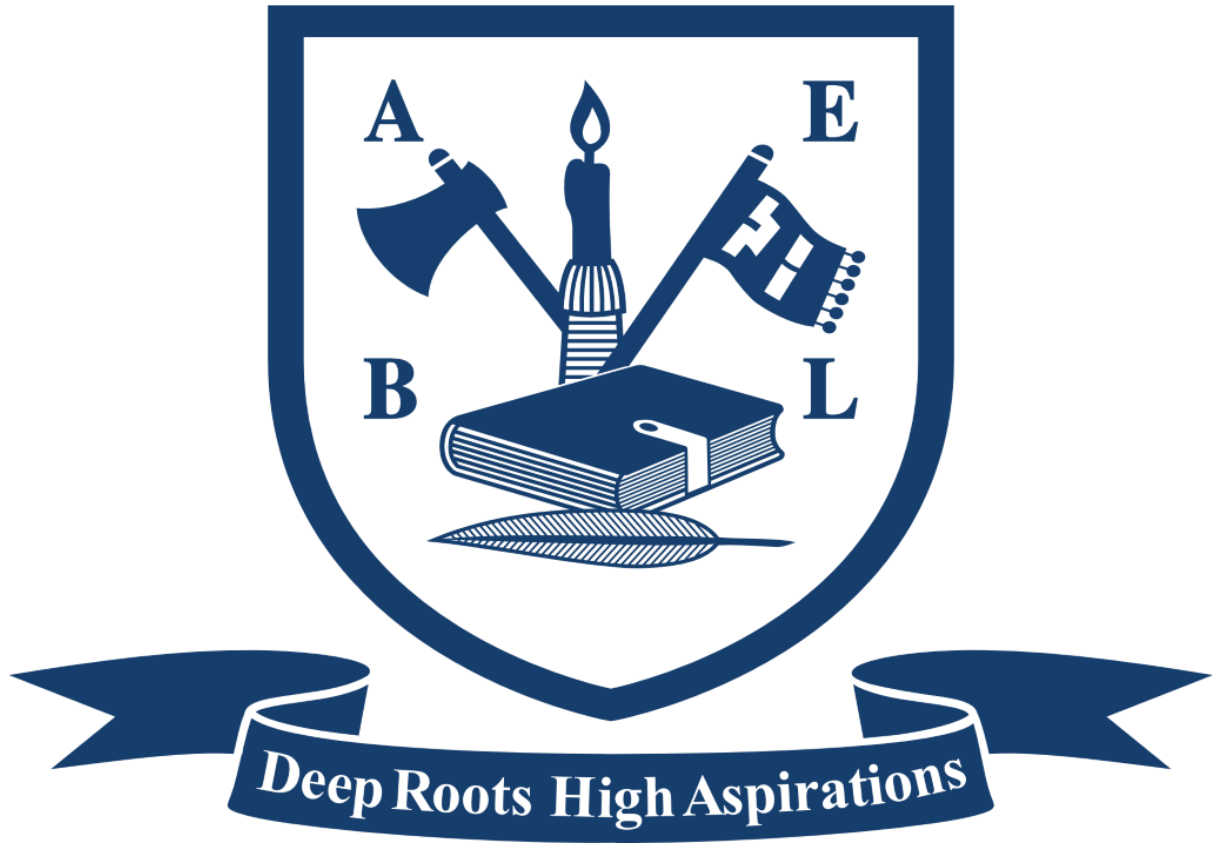


KNEBWORTH

Primary and Nursery School



Health & Safety Policy

*This policy is reviewed on an annual basis
Next review date: September 2023*

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Health and Safety

Statement of Intent

The Governing Body of Knebworth Primary School will strive to achieve the highest standards of health, safety and welfare consistent with their responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and other statutory and common-law duties.

This statement sets out how these duties will be conducted and includes a description of the school's organisation and arrangements for dealing with different areas of risk. Details of how these areas of risk will be addressed are given in the arrangements section.

This policy will be brought to the attention of all members of staff and a copy of this policy can be found on the staff drive in the policies folder.

This policy statement and the accompanying organisation and arrangements will be reviewed on an annual basis.

This policy statement supplements:
Hertfordshire County Council's (HCC)
Health and Safety Policy

Headteacher: Natasha Laskey

Chair of Governors: Gemma Wood

Organisation

As the employer, the Local Authority has overall responsibility for Health and Safety in Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools.

At a school level, duties and responsibilities have been assigned to staff and governors as detailed below.

Responsibilities of the Governing Body

The Governing Body are responsible for ensuring health and safety management systems are in place and effective. They fulfil a strategic role in health and safety and are not expected to be involved in day to day management of the school.

As a minimum these management systems should adhere to the LA's health and safety policy, procedures and standards as detailed on the H&S pages of the [Hertfordshire Grid](#) and follow the HSE's '[Managing for health and safety](#)' (HSG65) (hse.gov.uk), namely:

- **Plan**-set the strategic direction for effective H&S management.
- **Do**-ensure management systems deal with risks sensibly, responsibly and proportionately.
- **Check**-monitoring and reporting processes are in place to ensure the school is compliant.
- **Act**-undertake a formal review of health and safety performance.

Two Health and Safety Governors (Robert Hall and Robert Tutt) have been appointed to receive relevant information, monitor the implementation of policies and procedures and to feedback health and safety issues and identified actions to the Governing Body.

The Governing body will receive regular reports from the Head teacher /SLT in order to enable them to provide and prioritise resources for health and safety issues.

Where required the Governing body will seek specialist advice on health and

safety which the establishment may not feel competent to deal with.

HCC's Health and Safety Team,
Tel: 01992 556478
healthandsafety@hertfordshire.gov.uk
provide competent health and safety advice for Community, Community Special and VC schools.

Responsibilities of the Head teacher

Overall responsibility for the day to day management of health and safety in accordance with the health and safety policy and procedures rests with the Head teacher.

The Head teacher has responsibility for:

- Co-operating with the LA and Governing Body to enable health and safety policy and procedures to be implemented and complied with.
- Communicating the policy and other appropriate health and safety information to all relevant people including contractors.
- Ensuring effective arrangements are in place to pro-actively manage health and safety by conducting and reviewing inspections and risk assessments and implementing required actions.
- Reporting to the Governing body on health and safety performance and any safety concerns/ issues which may need to be addressed by the allocation of funds.
- Ensuring that the premises, plant and equipment are maintained in a safe and serviceable condition.
- Reporting to the LA any significant risks which cannot be rectified within the establishment's budget.
- Ensuring all staff are competent to carry out their roles and are provided with adequate information, instruction and training.
- Ensuring consultation arrangements are in place for staff and their trade union

representatives (where appointed) and recognising the right of trade unions in the workplace to require a health and safety committee to be set up.

- Monitoring purchasing and contracting procedures to ensure health and safety is included in specifications & contract conditions.

Whilst overall responsibility for health and safety cannot be delegated the Head teacher may choose to delegate certain tasks to other members of staff. Responsibilities of other staff holding posts of special responsibility i.e. Deputy Headteachers/Office Team/Site Manager will:

- Apply the school's health and safety policy to their own department or area of work.
- Ensure staff under their control are aware of and follow relevant published health and safety guidance (from sources such as CLEAPSS, AfPE etc.)
- Ensure health and safety risk assessments are undertaken for the activities for which they are responsible and that identified control measures are implemented.
- Ensure that appropriate safe working procedures are brought to the attention of all staff under their control.
- Take appropriate action on health, safety and welfare issues referred to them, informing the Headteacher of any problems they are unable to resolve within the resources available to them.
- Carry out regular inspections of their areas of responsibility and report / record these inspections.
- Ensure the provision of sufficient information, instruction, training and supervision to enable staff and pupils to avoid hazards and contribute positively to their own health and safety.

- Ensure that all accidents (including near misses) occurring within their area of responsibility are promptly reported and investigated.

Responsibilities of employees

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act etc. 1974 all employees have general health and safety responsibilities. All employees are obliged to take care of their own health and safety whilst at work along with that of others who may be affected by their actions.

All employees have responsibility to:

- Take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and others in undertaking their work.
- Comply with the school's health and safety policy and procedures at all times.
- Report all accidents and incidents in line with the reporting procedure ensuring these are documented and followed up.
- Co-operate with school management on all matters relating to health and safety.
- Not to intentionally interfere with or misuse any equipment or fittings provided in the interests of health safety and welfare.
- Report all defects in condition of premises or equipment and any health and safety concerns immediately to their line manager.
- Ensure that they only use equipment or machinery that they are competent / have been trained to use.
- Make use of all necessary control measures and personal protective equipment provided for safety or health reasons.

The school also benefits from other services on site i.e. sports clubs, French clubs etc. The school retains overall responsibility for H&S and works with the these third parties to ensure they are aware of school policies and procedures.

Local Arrangements

Further detailed information and guidance on the LA's expectations are provided via [Health and safety - Hertfordshire Grid for Learning \(thegrid.org.uk\)](https://www.thegrid.org.uk)

Please see the appendices for the following supporting information.

- Risk Assessments
- Offsite visits
- Health and Safety Monitoring and Inspections
- Fire Evacuation and other Emergency Arrangements
- Fire Prevention, Testing of Equipment
- First Aid and Medication
- Accident Reporting Procedures
- Health and Safety Information and Training
- Personal safety / lone working
- Premises Work Equipment
- Flammable and Hazardous Substances (COSHH)
- Asbestos
- Contractors
- Work at Height
- Moving and Handling
- Display Screen Equipment
- Vehicles
- Lettings
- Stress
- Legionella
- School Swimming and pools

Addendum - COVID-19 risks

APPENDICES

Health and Safety Policy supporting information

General Risk Assessments

The school conducts and documents risk assessments for all activities presenting a significant risk. These are coordinated by SLT following guidance contained on the H&S pages of the [Hertfordshire Grid](#) and are approved by the Headteacher.

Risk assessments are available for all staff to view on request (are held in the heads drive on the school network) these assessments will be reviewed on an annual basis or when the work activity changes, whichever is the soonest. Staff will be made aware of any changes to risk assessments relating to their work.

Individual Risk Assessments

Specific assessments relating to staff member(s) or pupil(s) are held on that individual's file and will be undertaken by a member of SLT.

Such risk assessments will be reviewed on a regular basis.

It is the responsibility of all staff to inform their line manager of any medical conditions (including pregnancy) which may impact upon their work.

Curriculum Activities

Risk assessments for curriculum activities will be carried out by teachers with subject leaders providing guidance when required using the relevant codes of practice and model risk assessments detailed below.

Whenever a new course is adopted or developed all activities are checked against these and significant findings incorporated into texts in daily use i.e. lesson plans, timetabling etc. All LA schools have a subscription to CLEAPSS and their publications are used as sources of model risk assessment within Science, Art and DT.

See

- CLEAPSS technology site <http://dt.cleapss.org.uk/>;
- CLEAPSS science site <http://science.cleapss.org.uk/>
- CLEAPSS primary school's site <http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/>

In addition the following publications are used within the school as sources of model risk assessments:

Primary schools

- [Be Safe! Health and Safety in primary science and technology, 4th Edition ASE] ISBN ISBN 978-0-86357-426-9]
- [Safe Practice in Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity 2020' Association of PE 'AfPE' <http://www.afpe.org.uk/>]

Offsite Visits

HCC has adopted the Outdoor Education Advisory Panel's (OEAP) national guidance for learning outside the classroom and offsite visits and all offsite visits will be planned following this guidance available via <https://oeapng.info/>

Responsibilities of key roles are outlined by the OEAP here:

Visit leader

EVC

Head teacher

See HCC's policy for the management of Learning outside the classroom and offsite visits is available here <https://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/healthandsafety/visits/manual.shtml>

The LA's Offsite Visits Advisor must be notified of all level 3 trips, which include self-led adventurous activities, fieldwork trips to open or "wild" country, and all trips overseas. This will be done via the use of Evolve, the online notification and approvals system.

Evolve is used for the planning and approval of offsite visits. Relevant risk assessments, participant's names etc. will be attached electronically as required. The school also have their own set of standard operating procedures and risk assessments for local learning areas (routine / low risk activities taking place near the school)

The member of staff planning the trip (visit leader) will submit all relevant paperwork and risk assessments relating to the trip to the school's Educational Visits Co-ordinator, Sim Bains, who will check the documentation and planning of the trip and if acceptable refer the visit for approval to the head teacher, Natasha Laskey for approval.

HCC recommends that the EVC should attend training and refresher training every 3 -5 years.

Health and Safety Monitoring and Inspection

A formal inspection of the site will be conducted on a termly basis and be undertaken / co-ordinated by the head teacher, site manager and link governor.

Inspections of individual curriculum areas will be carried out by Curriculum leaders or nominated staff.

In both cases the person(s) undertaking inspection will complete a report in writing and submit this to the Headteacher. Responsibility for following up items detailed in the safety inspection report will rest with the Headteacher.

Two named governors [Robert Hall and Robert Tutt] will be involved in monitoring the school's health and safety management systems on at least an annual basis and report back to both the relevant sub-committee and full governing body meetings.

Advice and pro forma inspection checklists to assist the monitoring process can be found on the [Grid](#)

Inspections will be conducted jointly with the establishment's health and safety representative(s) if possible.

Fire Evacuation and other emergency arrangements

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring the school's fire risk assessment is undertaken and implemented following guidance contained in '[Fire safety risk assessment; Educational premises](#)' and the [Grid](#)

The fire risk assessment is located in the school's fire log book and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Emergency Procedures

Fire and emergency evacuation procedures are detailed in the staff handbook and in the school's emergency response plan and a summary posted in each classroom. These procedures will be reviewed at least annually and are made available to all staff as part of the school's induction process. This training is supported by regular termly drills.

Evacuation procedures are also made available to all other users of the building (contractors / visitors/ hirers etc.).

Emergency exits, fire alarm call points, assembly points etc. are clearly identified by safety signs and notices.

Emergency contact and key holder details are maintained as part of the school's emergency response plan by the Head teacher and updated to the LA via Solero.

Fire Drills

Fire drills will be undertaken termly and results recorded in the fire log book.

Fire Fighting

- Staff must ensure the alarm is raised BEFORE attempting to tackle a fire.
- The safe evacuation of persons is an absolute priority. Staff may only attempt to deal with small fires, **if it is safe to do so without putting themselves at risk, using portable firefighting equipment.**
- Staff are made aware of the type and location of portable firefighting equipment and receive basic instruction in its correct use at induction.

Details of service isolation points (i.e. gas, water, electricity)

- Gas shut off point in the cupboard outside the school office and on the playground in the green box.
- Electricity mains point (red cupboard) is in the Year 6 link.
- Water shut off valve under the sink in the girl's toilet, the kitchen and there is a water meter by the playground gate.

Details of chemicals and flammable substances on site.

An inventory of these will be kept by the site manager and is available for consultation.

Inspection/Maintenance of Emergency equipment

Pat Welsh, Site Manager is responsible for ensuring that the school's fire log is kept up to date and that the following inspection / maintenance is undertaken and recorded in the fire log book located in the school office.

Fire Alarm System

Fire alarm call points will be tested weekly in rotation usually on a Wednesday morning. Any defects on the system will be reported immediately to the alarm contractor/electrical engineer Clymac.

A fire alarm maintenance contract is in place with Clymac and the system tested 6 monthly by them.

Firefighting equipment

Weekly in-house checks will be undertaken to ensure that all firefighting equipment remains available for use and operational.

Chubb undertakes an annual maintenance service of all firefighting equipment.

Defective equipment or extinguishers that need recharging should be taken out of service and reported direct to Chubb.

Emergency Lighting Systems

Emergency lighting will be checked for operation monthly in house and these tests recorded.

Annually a full discharge test for the duration of the batteries and certification of the system will be undertaken by Current Solutions.

Means of Escape

Daily checks will be undertaken for any obstructions on exit routes to ensure all final exit doors are operational and available for use.

First Aid and Medication

The school has assessed the need for first aid provision and identified the following staff to provide first aid (both on site and where required for trips/visits and extra-curricular activities).

TRAINED TO FIRST AID AT WORK LEVEL (3 days /18 hrs):

Carol Jennings: 21.07.21 – 23.07.21

TRAINED TO EYFS STANDARD (PAEDIATRIC FIRST AID, 2 days/ 12 hrs):

Kerri Duffy & Kay Long 13.11.19

Cara Breckenridge, Kate Clayton & Victoria Clark 11.10.21

TRAINED TO EMERGENCY FIRST AID AT WORK (1 day / 6 hrs):

Most members of staff (see single central record) 29.06.21/01.07.21 (Took place over two days for social distancing)

First aid qualifications remain valid for 3 years. A member of SLT will ensure that refresher training is organised to maintain competence and that new persons are trained.

FIRST AID BOXES ARE LOCATED AT THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

The Medical room

Kitchen

EYFS/KS1 classrooms

A member of the office team is responsible for regularly checking (termly) that the contents of first aid boxes are complete and replenished as necessary.

One automated external defibrillator is located outside the school office area.

Transport to hospital: Where a first aider considers it necessary, the injured person will be sent directly to hospital (normally by ambulance). Parents / carers will be notified immediately of all major injuries to pupils.

No casualty will be allowed to travel to hospital unaccompanied and an accompanying adult will be designated in situations where the parents/carers cannot be contacted in time.

Where there is any doubt about the appropriate course of action, the first aider will consult with the Health Service helpline (NHS Direct 111) and, in the case of pupil with the parents/carers.

Administration of medicines

All medication will be administered to pupils in accordance with the DfE document [Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions](#).

No member of staff will administer any medication (prescribed or non-prescribed) to children under 16 without a parent's written consent except in exceptional circumstances.

A member of the office staff is responsible for accepting medication and checking all relevant information has been provided by parents / carers prior to administering. Records of administration will be kept in the medical room.

All non-emergency medication kept in school will be securely stored in the locked medical room, refrigerated meds kept in clearly labelled container within fridge in the medical room with access strictly controlled. Under no circumstances will medication be stored in first aid boxes.

Emergency medication and devices such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing meters and adrenaline pens will always readily available to children and not locked away. Asthma inhalers will be kept in the medical room and clearly labelled and epipens will be kept in the child's classroom at a height only accessible to adults.

The school have chosen to hold an emergency salbutamol inhaler for use by pupils who have been prescribed an inhaler and for whom parental consent for its use has been obtained. This emergency inhaler would be used if the prescribed inhaler is not available e.g. broken / empty.

Individual Health Care Plans (IHCP)

Parents / carers are responsible for providing the school with up to date information regarding their child's health care needs and providing appropriate medication.

IHCPs are in place for those pupils with significant medical needs e.g. chronic or ongoing medical conditions such as diabetes, epilepsy, anaphylaxis etc.

The IHCP is developed with the pupil (where appropriate), parent/carer, designated named member of school staff, specialist nurse (where appropriate) and relevant healthcare services. These plans will be completed at the beginning of the school year / when child enrolls / on diagnosis being communicated to the school and will be reviewed annually by the SENCO.

All staff will be made aware of any relevant health care needs and copies of health care plans can be found in The Special Care File in the medical room.

Staff will receive appropriate training related to health conditions of pupils and the administration of medicines by a health professional as appropriate.

Accident Reporting Procedures

Accidents to employees

Employees must report all accidents, violent incidents and near misses.

Where HCC is the employer then **all** employee incidents must be reported to HCC using the online accident/incident reporting system hosted on Solero.

Employee accident / incident forms are to be retained for a minimum of 3 years.

Accidents to pupils and other non-employees (members of public / visitors to site etc.)

A local accident book kept in the school office is used to record all minor incidents to non-employees, more significant incidents as detailed below must also reported to HCC using the online accident reporting system hosted on Solero.

- Major injuries.
- Accidents where significant first aid treatment has been provided.
- Accidents which result in the injured person being taken from the scene of the accident directly to hospital.
- Accidents arising from premises / equipment defects.

Parents / carers will be notified immediately of all major injuries.

Pupil / student accident forms are to be retained for a minimum of 3 years after their 18th Birthday.

All Accidents

All major incidents will be reported to the Head teacher and the Governing Body.

Accidents will be monitored for trends and a report made to the Governing Body as necessary.

The Headteacher, or their nominee, will investigate accidents and take remedial steps to avoid similar instances recurring. Faulty equipment, systems of work etc. must be reported and attended to as soon as possible. Any relevant learning points will be communicated to relevant staff and pupils / students.

Reporting to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

The Head teacher is responsible for ensuring all RIDDOR reportable incidents are reported.

Incidents involving a fatality or major injury will be reported immediately to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on 0345 300 9923 and the Education Health and Safety team on 01992 556478.

Incidents resulting in the following outcomes must be reported to the HSE via their online reporting system <http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/> within 15 days of the incident occurring.

- A pupil or other non-employee being taken directly to hospital for treatment and the accident arising as the result of the condition of the premises / equipment, due to the way equipment or substances were used or due to a lack of supervision / organisation etc.
- Employee absence or inability to carry out their normal duties as the result of a work related accident, for periods of 7 days or more (including W/E's and holidays).

See the HSE information sheet ['Incident reporting in schools'](#) EDIS1 REV 3

Health and Safety Information and Training

Consultation

Employees and/or their representatives will be consulted on all matters that affect their health, safety and welfare. Health and Safety is a standing item at Friday SBM with minutes emailed to all staff.

The premises sub-committee meets termly to discuss health, safety and welfare issues affecting staff, pupils or visitors. Action points from meetings are brought forward for review by school management.

School Business Meetings are held weekly. Health and Safety is a standing agenda item and minutes are emailed to all staff after each meeting.

Communication of Information

Information and guidance on how to comply with the LA's health and safety policy is given via the [H&S pages of the Grid](#).

The Health and Safety Law poster is displayed outside the school office.

The Education Health and Safety Team, Tel: 01992 556478 provide competent health and safety advice for Community, Community Special and VC schools.

Health and Safety Training

All employees will be provided with:

- A copy of and induction training in the requirements of this policy;
- Update training in response to any significant change;
- Training in specific skills needed for certain activities, (e.g. use of hazardous substances, work at height etc.) and
- Refresher training where required.

Any new instructions or restrictions will be communicated to all staff in writing via staff meetings and recorded in minutes and highlighted as part of the standard cycle of policy review.

Training records will be kept by the Office Manager in the Single Central Record.

A member of SLT is responsible for co-ordinating health and safety training needs and for including details in the training and development plan. This includes a system for ensuring that refresher training is undertaken within the prescribed time limits.

The Head teacher will be responsible for assessing the effectiveness of training received and ensuring staff are competent to undertake their duties.

Each member of staff is also responsible for drawing the Head teacher's / line managers attention to their own personal needs for training and for not undertaking duties unless they are confident that they have the necessary competence.

Personal Safety

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 Head teacher. 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 a member of the SLT and sign in and out of the school premises using the school entry system.

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.

Where home visits occur, the following control measures are in place:

- Two members of staff to conduct the home visits.
- A mobile phone will be taken on the home visit.
- A copy of the address/location will be left with the school office alongside details of an expected time of return.

School staff responding to call outs

Nominated key holders attending empty premises where there has been an alarm activation should do so with a colleague if possible. They should not enter the premises unless they are sure it is safe to do so.

Premises and Work equipment

All staff are required to report to a member of SLT any problems found with the premises or plant/equipment. Defective equipment will be clearly marked and taken out of service by storing in a secure location pending repair / disposal.

Where premises defects are identified a dynamic assessment is conducted to determine if the area should be isolated / cordoned off whilst awaiting repair.

The Site Manager is responsible for identifying all plant and equipment in an equipment register and ensuring that any specific training or instruction needs, personal protective equipment requirements are identified and relevant risk assessments conducted where required.

Equipment restricted to those users who are authorised / have received specific training is detailed in the school's training records.

Planned maintenance / inspection

Regular inspection and testing of school plant and equipment is conducted to legislative requirements by competent contractors. Records of such monitoring will be kept by the site manager. (Key areas for compliance are outlined in 'Maintenance and inspection requirements on the [Grid](#) and the DfE's [Good Estate Management for schools](#))

Curriculum Areas

Subject Leaders are responsible for ensuring maintenance requirements for equipment in their areas are identified and implemented.

Electrical Safety

All staff will conduct a basic visual inspection of plugs, cables and electrical equipment prior to use. Defective equipment will be reported to the site manager.

All portable items of electrical equipment will be subject to formal inspection and testing (Portable Appliance Testing (PAT)) on an identified cycle (dependant upon the type of equipment and the environment it is used in).

All earthed equipment (class 1) and cables attached to such equipment will be tested annually.

This inspection and testing will be conducted by Project Solver on an annual basis.

The site manager is responsible for keeping an up-to-date inventory of all relevant electrical appliances and for ensuring that all equipment is available for testing

Personal items of equipment (electrical or mechanical) should not be brought into the school without prior authorisation and must be subjected to the same tests as school equipment.

A fixed electrical installation test (fixed wire test) will be conducted by Project Solver on a maximum of a 5 year cycle.

Records of these inspections and certification will be maintained and remedial works arising acted upon in a timely manner.

External play equipment

External play equipment will only be used when appropriately supervised.

This equipment will be checked daily before use for any apparent defects, and the Site Manager will conduct and record a formal termly inspection of the equipment.

PE and Play equipment is also subject to an annual inspection by the contractor, T&B Contractors.

Flammable and Hazardous Substances

Every attempt will be made to avoid, or choose the least harmful of, substances which fall under the **“Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002”** (COSHH Regulations).

Within curriculum areas (in particular science and DT) subject leaders are responsible for COSHH and ensuring that an up to date inventory and model risk assessments are contained in the relevant national publications are in place.

In all other areas the establishment's nominated person(s) responsible for substances hazardous to health are the site manager.

They shall ensure:

- An inventory of all hazardous substances used on site is compiled and regularly reviewed.

- Material safety data sheets are obtained from the relevant supplier for all such materials.
- If required, full COSHH risk assessments are conducted and communicated to staff exposed to the product/substance.
- All substances are appropriately and securely stored out of the reach of children.
- All substances are kept in their original packaging and labelled (no decanting into unmarked containers).
- Suitable personal protective equipment (PPE) has been identified and available for use. PPE is to be provided free of charge where the need is identified as part of the risk assessment.

PPE

All staff required to wear PPE will be provided with suitable information, instruction and training in its use and will use PPE provided accordingly, reporting any defects to their manager.

Where persons may be affected by their use on site, the site manager is responsible for ensuring that COSHH assessments are available from contractors (*this applies to both regular contracts such as cleaners and caterers and from builders, decorators, flooring specialists, etc*).

Asbestos

An asbestos survey and management plan is in place for the school in accordance with [HCC's asbestos policy](#). The school's most recent asbestos management survey was conducted on 06/12/13.

The school's asbestos log (including school plans, asbestos survey data and site specific management plan) is held in the school office.

The Head teacher will ensure that **all** school staff (and others such as catering and cleaning staff who may not be employed directly by the school) are made aware of the location of asbestos containing materials (ACM) within their work areas.

Under no circumstances must staff undertake any work which could disturb the fabric of the building or fixed equipment, e.g. affixing anything to walls without first obtaining approval from an Asbestos Authorising Officer. (Even stapling / pushing a drawing pin into ACM may result in the release of fibres into the air.)

In the event of any damage occurring to materials known or suspected to contain asbestos this will be reported to one of the school's asbestos authorising officers and the area immediately evacuated and closed / locked off.

Professional advice will be sought and details of the incident reported to HCC's asbestos team asbestos@hertfordshire.gov.uk

The school's asbestos authorising officers are Pat Welsh and Karen Wallace-Poultney and refresher training is required 3 yearly.

Prior to **any** work commencing on the fabric of the building or fixed equipment (e.g. boilers, kilns etc.), either by contractors or school staff, one of the asbestos authorising officers **must** check the asbestos log and establish whether permission to work can be given.

The Head teacher / asbestos authorising officers shall ensure:

- That the asbestos log is consulted at the earliest possible opportunity and that **all** work affecting the fabric of the building or fixed equipment is entered in the permission to work log and signed by those undertaking the work.
- A visual inspection of asbestos containing materials remaining on site is conducted and recorded (legal requirement to do so annually as a minimum).
- The limitations of the management survey and areas of the building that have not been surveyed are understood and considered as part of the permission to work process e.g. areas above 3m in height, within ceiling voids (where panels / tiles are fixed), floor voids and ducts etc.
- All records pertaining to asbestos are effectively maintained and retained (legal requirement to do so for a period of 40 years).
- The school's asbestos management plan is kept up to date and that any asbestos works (removal, new project specific surveys etc.) are notified to the LA via asbestos@hertfordshire.gov.uk.
- Where more invasive works and / or works which go beyond the limitations of the management survey are planned, a refurbishment / demolition survey will be commissioned to obtain a comprehensive assessment of all ACMs that could be affected prior to the works commencing

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 site manager 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

The [Construction \(Design and Management\) Regulations 2015](#) applies to all building, demolition, repair and maintenance or refurbishment work.

Such projects are notifiable to the HSE where the work exceeds 30 days or involves more than 500 person days of work. In such instances and/ or if there will be more than 1 contractor on site at the same time (in which case a principal designer and principal contractor must be appointed in writing by the client) it is recommended that an agent be used to work on the schools behalf.

Where the school undertakes projects direct the governing body are considered the 'client' and therefore have additional statutory obligations. These projects are managed by the site manager, the head teacher and the health and safety governor on the school's behalf who will ensure landlords consent has been obtained and, where applicable, all statutory approvals, such as planning permission and building regulations have been sought.

To ensure contractor competency the school uses a property framework contractor as a method of procuring works. These contractors have satisfied the County Council that they understand and abide by health and safety regulations. Details can be found at **Property contractors and consultants - Hertfordshire Grid for Learning (thegrid.org.uk)**

Contractors will be required to provide a construction phase plan, risk assessments and method statements detailing the safe systems of work to be used prior to works commencing on site.

Risk assessments and method statements shall be specific to the site and all aspects of the works to be undertaken. The school, contractors and any subcontractors involved will exchange relevant information regarding the work activities and agree the risk assessments.

Work At Height

Working at height can present a significant risk, where such activities cannot be avoided a task specific 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.

Storage above head height is minimised as far as possible, where this cannot be avoided only light-weight and rarely-used items are stored there.

When working at height (including accessing storage or putting up displays) appropriate stepladders or kick stools 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. Basic instruction is provided to all staff who use ladders / stepladders, see <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg455.htm>.

Formal training on work at height, use of ladders, mobile tower scaffolds etc. will be provided where a significant risk is identified as part of an individual's role.

The establishment's nominated person(s) responsible for work at height is the site manager. The nominated person(s) 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;
- A register of access equipment is maintained, all equipment is regularly inspected and maintained with any defective equipment taken out of use until repaired / replaced
- Any risks from fragile surfaces is properly controlled.

Lifting and Handling

Generic risk assessments for regular manual handling operations are undertaken and staff provided with information on safe moving and handling techniques.

Staff should ensure they are not lifting heavy items and equipment unless they have received training and/or equipment in order to do so safely.

Those manual handling activities which present a significant risk to the health and safety of staff, will be reported to a member of the SLT and 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 who must follow the instruction given when carrying out the task.

Paediatric Moving and Handling

All staff who move and handle pupils have received appropriate training (both in general moving and handling people techniques and specific training on any lifting equipment, hoists, slings etc. they are required to use).

All moving and handling of pupils has been risk assessed and recorded by a competent member of staff.

Equipment for moving and handling people (hoists, slings etc.) is subject to inspection on a 6 monthly basis by a competent contractor.

Display Screen Equipment

All staff who use computers daily, as a significant part of their normal work (*significant is taken to be continuous / near continuous spells of an hour or more at a time*) e.g. admin / SLT shall have a DSE assessment carried out. This is kept on their personnel file.

Staff identified as DSE users are entitled to an eyesight test for DSE use every 2 years by a qualified optician (and corrective glasses if required specifically for DSE use).

Advice on the use of DSE is available via the [Grid](#)

Vehicles on site

Vehicular access to the school is restricted to school staff and visitors only and not for general use by parents / guardians when bringing children to school or collecting them. Access to the school must be kept clear for emergency vehicles.

Separate pedestrian and vehicle gates are provided.
A risk assessment is in place for pedestrian / vehicle segregation.

Lettings/Shared use of Premises

Lettings are managed by the Office Manager. The school currently has lettings with Hayley Lloyd-Williams and John McKessick.

They will ensure a signed letting agreement is completed specifying the school's terms and conditions for hire. ([COVID-19 supplementary conditions of hire](#) available for school to adapt on the Grid)

Relevant public liability cover must be in place and checked by the school.

The school will provide hirers with a site induction to ensure they are clear on emergency procedures and any specific risks or restrictions relating to the use of the site.

A risk assessment (proportionate to the activity) will be completed before the event, the School reserves the right to impose restrictions in order to ensure health and safety.

Stress/Wellbeing

The school and governing body are committed to promoting high levels of health and well being and recognise the importance of identifying and reducing workplace stressors through risk assessment, in line with the HSE's management standards.

Legionella

A water risk assessment of the school has been completed in September 2020 by Hydrocert. The site manager is responsible for ensuring that the identified operational controls are being conducted and recorded in the school's water log book.

This risk assessment will be reviewed where significant changes have occurred to the water system and/ or building footprint.

The risks from legionella are mitigated by basic operational controls and thus the following checks are undertaken and recorded.

- Water is heated and stored to 60 deg C at calorifiers (any vessel that generates heat within a mass of stored water);
- Weekly flushing of seldom used outlets and all showers (with all outlets flushed after school holiday periods);
- Monthly temperature checks on sentinel outlets (those nearest and furthest away from calorifiers);
- Quarterly disinfection / descaling of showers;
- Stored cold water tanks are inspected for compliance and safety on an annual basis by an external contractor and tank water temperature recorded.

All records relating to the management of Legionella must be kept for 5 years and the school is outsourcing this package of work to a specialist contractor.

School Swimming

Primary school swimming in public schools

These will be planned as an offsite visit in line with the schools policy.

The school will obtain a copy of the pool's standard operating procedure (PSOP) sometimes referred to as a normal operating procedure (NOP) and emergency action plan (EAP) which identify the safety arrangements for the host pool.

In addition, the school will obtain assurance over:

- The level of training of the swimming teacher(s) (Swim England level 2 Teaching Swimming (formerly ASA level 2));
 - Pupil / swimming teacher ratios;
 - Rescue / lifeguard provision provided;
 - Changing provision / arrangements
-
- Ensure good hygiene procedures are in place and in line with national guidance;
 - Maintain appropriate cleaning regimes ensure staff wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) in circumstances where this is required.
 - Keep occupied spaces well ventilated.
 - Follow public health advice on self-isolation and managing confirmed cases.
 - Promote asymptomatic testing.