



Brigidine School Windsor



Policy History	Clive Taylor (D E Ford)
Original Author	Elizabeth Bell
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Policy for health and safety

In recognition of our duty towards the health, safety and well-being of the staff, pupils, volunteers, visitors and contractors; it is our policy to:

- Maintain a health and safety framework that guides and supports everyone in fulfilling their responsibilities for fire and health and safety
- Outline the responsibilities and arrangements we have for complying with our fire and health and safety obligations
- Endeavour to comply with all our relevant fire and health and safety legal duties
- Identify and prioritise areas of risk and plan for their effective management
- Seek competent professional advice, guidance and support
- Undertake regular reviews of fire and health and safety performance of all operational areas
- Learn from accidents and incidents
- Consult with staff on matters affecting their health and safety
- Employ staff, volunteers and third parties who are suitable and competent
- Provide information, instruction and training which enable staff, pupils, volunteers, visitors and contractors to undertake their tasks safely
- Provide adequate levels of supervision determined by risk assessment that allow for the effective management of fire and health and safety
- Provide sufficient resources to enable the standards outlined in this policy to be met
- Review and if necessary amend this policy annually or when significant changes occur

Mr Mike Wyld

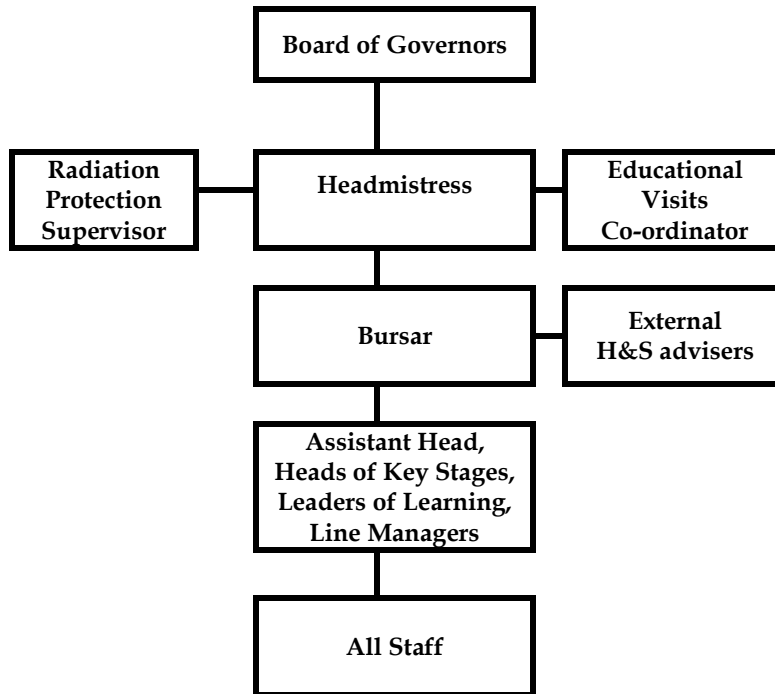
Chair of Governors

Mrs Elizabeth Robinson

Headmistress

October 2008

Organisation structure and responsibilities for health and safety



Board of Governors - The Board of Governors have the overall strategic and financial responsibility across the school for setting the framework and monitoring implementation as well as supporting the Headmistress and her senior management team in achieving realistic health and safety solutions.

The Governors have nominated one of their number to have responsibility for overseeing health and safety on their behalf.

Headmistress - The Headmistress is the most senior member of staff within the school with specific responsibility for health and safety. She delegates the operational responsibility for the successful management of health and safety through the existing management structure with the guidance and assistance of the Bursar. She endeavours to ensure that sufficient resources are made available to enable health and safety to be properly addressed throughout the school.

The Headmistress is responsible for ensuring that suitable management arrangements are established for implementing health and safety

Organisation structure and responsibilities for health and safety

Bursar - The Bursar is the member of the school's senior management team who is the person responsible for overseeing health and safety. She liaises with our external competent health and safety advisers, D E Ford Risk Management Services. She works with, and assists all those with responsibilities identified in this policy in achieving a common approach to the management of health and safety across the organisation.

This position is responsible for assisting the, Assistant Head, Heads of Key Stages, Leaders of Learning, and Line Managers in understanding what is required of them when implementing the management arrangements for health and safety. This person will advise the Headmistress of any health and safety issues or concerns raised.

Assistant Head, Heads of Key Stages, Leaders of Learning, and Line Managers - These Managers are responsible for the successful management of health and safety within their areas of authority. They are expected to set a positive example and endeavour to ensure that their staff and other workers are competent and supported to maintain good standards of health and safety. They will endeavour to ensure that sufficient resources are made available to enable their staff to fulfil their health and safety responsibilities.

Each Manager is required to implement the arrangements outlined in pages 12 to 18 in this Policy for fire and health and safety for health and safety as they affect their area of operation and to advise the Bursar of any health and safety issues or concerns raised.

In particular, each **Leader of Learning** with the assistance of their line manager is required to:

- Identify and report any hazards associated with their work, buildings & activities
- Try to remove these hazards where possible
- Implement safety precautions to reduce the potential harm of any hazards that cannot be removed
- Inform, instruct and train relevant staff, pupils and third parties with regard to the required safety precautions
- Keep records
- Ensure that remedial action is taken
- Review risk assessments periodically (at least annually), or in response to an accident or incident

Organisation structure and responsibilities for health and safety

Staff - Everyone working within the School environment has a health and safety responsibility and is required to:

- Co-operate on fire and health and safety matters
- Undertake their duties with due regard for the health and safety of the other people in their working environment
- Take care of their own health and safety
- Report fire and health and safety concerns as soon as possible
- Comply with the School policies and procedures applicable to their work

In addition, staff are reminded that they must not misuse equipment provided nor interfere with arrangements made in the interests of fire and health and safety.

Staff involvement in health and safety - In recognition of the importance of involving our members of staff in health and safety, we regularly discuss health and safety at team meetings.

Our managers have the opportunity to discuss issues at their monthly management meetings.

These issues are then referred onto the Headmistress or the Bursar.

Educational Visits Co-ordinator - In keeping with current advice from the DCSF, HSE, ISAAA, and British Standard 8848, we have a formal approval process for educational visits and trips which includes the person who is the school Educational Visits Co-ordinator. This senior person's role is to oversee the quality and risk management aspects of visits on behalf of the Headmistress and Governing Body. The role of the EVC in the school is to:

- Ensure educational visits meet the school's requirements
- Support the Headmistress and Governing Body with approval and other decisions
- Assess competence of prospective leaders and staff
- Ensure risk assessments meet requirements
- Organise training and induction
- Ensure parents are informed and give consent
- Organise emergency arrangements
- Keep records of visits, accident or incident reports
- Review systems and monitor practice
- Keep up to date with the current requirements on the types of visits and trips undertaken by the organisation

Organisation structure and responsibilities for health and safety

Radiation Protection Supervisor – To ensure that the use and storage of radioactive sources are in accordance with our legal duties, we have an appointed Radiation Protection Supervisor who is supported by an external Radiation Protection Advisor. The role of the Radiation Protection Supervisor is to:

- Report directly to the Bursar on matters affecting legal compliance
- Be responsible for the safe use and storage of radioactive sources
- Supervise those who work with radioactive sources
- Establish local rules
- Check local rules are followed
- Regularly monitor the safety of radioactive sources and their containers
- Check that the required records are accurate and up to date
- Ensure that emergency procedures are current and understood

The current holder of this post is the Head of Science.

External Health and Safety Advisers – D E Ford Risk Management are the 'Competent Person' as required by law. They liaise with the Bursar to provide support & guidance with regard to appropriate health and safety requirements that the school is required to consider.

Health and safety rules

Introduction

We require all staff to work safely. Failure to comply with these rules may jeopardise the safety of staff, pupils and visitors to the School, and may lead to disciplinary action.

If you do not understand what is expected of you, or if you are unsure about any aspect of these rules, speak to your manager or the Bursar. (The headings for these rules are in alphabetical order rather than in any order of importance).

General requirements

Everyone has a positive duty to follow the fire and health and safety procedures and must not misuse equipment provided, nor interfere with arrangements made in the interests of fire and health and safety.

It is the duty of all to report any visible or foreseeable dangerous situation and, where possible, take immediate action to prevent injury.

Accidents and work related illness

- All injuries, accidents and cases of work related illness, must be reported and investigated
- Inform your line manager of any medical condition, medication or other factors, such as fatigue, which could affect your ability to undertake your work safely
- You must not take any substance that could compromise your ability to work safely

Electrical safety

- Visually check electrical equipment for any defects or signs of damage prior to use
- Do not use electrical equipment in wet, damp or potentially explosive atmospheres, unless the equipment is specifically designed for use in these areas
- Do not overload electrical sockets
- Switch off electrical appliances when not in use
- Do not carry out repairs on electrical equipment unless you are competent to do so

Fire safety

- Always follow the evacuation procedure when the fire alarm is raised
- Make sure you understand the evacuation procedure for your area
- Do not prop open fire doors
- Do not damage or misuse fire fighting equipment
- Do not obstruct walkways and exit routes
- Ensure that fire exit doors can be opened

Health and safety rules

Harmful substances

- Make sure that you know how to handle safely any substance marked as hazardous or harmful
- Never keep or transfer a harmful substance into a container if it is not correctly labelled
- Always return harmful substances to their designated storage area

Lone working

- Never work alone on tasks identified by risk assessment as requiring more than one person to be present
- Ensure that someone knows where you are when you are working alone
- Concerns about lone working situations must be raised with your line manager

Machinery and equipment safety

- Specific operating guidelines/instructions for the use of machinery and equipment must be followed
- Do not undertake repairs and maintenance on machinery and equipment unless you are competent and authorised to do so
- Do not use machinery or equipment that is damaged, nor allow others to do so

Moving and handling

- Do not underestimate the risk of injury from moving and handling operations
- Never lift, move or carry anything or anyone unless you are confident you can do so safely
- Make sure you know how to lift, move and carry correctly and that you are physically able to take the weight
- Always seek assistance when you can
- Use lifting aids provided
- Reduce the weight of the load to be carried whenever possible

Protective clothing and equipment

- Protective clothing and equipment provided for your safety must be used
- Keep your protective clothing and equipment in good condition.
- Report immediately any unsuitable, defective or lost items

Slips, trips and falls

- Keep your work area clear from obstructions and “slipping and tripping” hazards
- Never allow cables trailing across floors to be a tripping hazard
- Do not take short cuts across unmade or slippery surfaces and keep to the paths, corridors and walkways provided
- Do not run, unless it is a requirement of the activity
- Use handrails on flights of steps and staircases
- Clean up any spillage immediately or, if you are unable to do so, place a warning sign in the area and report the hazard

Health and safety rules

- Wear suitable footwear
- Do not stand on chairs, desks or tables; use a 'hop up'
- Only undertake work at height if it has been risk assessed and it is safe to do so

Vehicles

- Always check the vehicle for defects prior to use
- Do not drive or operate a vehicle if you are not authorised to do so
- Do not drive a vehicle for which you do not hold the appropriate licence
- Inform your line manager of any changes in your medical condition or to your driving licence that affect your ability to drive whilst on School work or premises
- Always be aware of, and give way to pedestrians when on School roads
- Keep to the speed limit
- Do not allow yourself to be distracted whilst driving

EYFS and Junior School

- Due to the nature of these areas staff have risk assessments to cover trip / slip hazards and other potentially dangerous situations

Management arrangements for implementing health and safety

Introduction

The following sections outline in brief our fire and health and safety management arrangements for meeting the specific legal requirements of the School. We will work on those that are not yet fully implemented and will amend those where changes are needed to reflect changes in the law and best practice.

We require our staff who have managerial or supervisory roles to implement the fire and health and safety arrangements that are relevant to their areas of responsibility. (The headings for these arrangements are in alphabetical order rather than in any order of importance).

Asbestos

- The location of all asbestos or suspected asbestos is known
- We manage the potential risks from any asbestos or suspected asbestos by ensuring that no one is done until the asbestos record is checked
- The location of any known asbestos is identified by signage (a green oblong strip above the door in the room indicates no asbestos and red indicates that asbestos is present and the asbestos register must be consulted prior to work commencing)
- People who are likely to work on or near the location of the asbestos, are informed of its location

Computer Users

- We identify 'Users' as defined under current legislation. In general we interpret 'users' as staff who use this equipment for at least an hour or more at a time on a daily basis
- Each workstation is individually risk assessed, taking into account the computer equipment, the furniture, the working environment and the user
- Staff are informed of the assessment of their own workstation
- We advise "Users" of the opportunity for free eyesight tests and the purchase of any corrective lenses, at our expense, when they are required specifically for using our display screen equipment
- The software we use is suitable for the task

Contingency planning

- We identify potential critical incidents as part of our risk assessment process by considering what might happen on-site and off-site, who might be harmed and how, and checking our plans for managing these incidents
- Effective plans are established to mitigate the effects of an unforeseen crisis
- These plans are rehearsed periodically and refined as necessary
- Key staff are trained in their duties

Management arrangements for implementing health and safety

Contractors

- Competent contractors are appointed for the type of work required
- No work is commenced until agreement is reached on safety, taking into account the magnitude of the risks of the job and use of the area(s) where the work will be done
- Contract terms and insurances adequately protect the interests of the organisation
- Any work authorisation procedures, such as a hot work permit, are implemented where necessary for the safety of people and premises

COSHH - exposure to hazardous substances

- Assessments are done on the risks to health from exposure to hazardous substances
- Secure storage is provided for of hazardous substances
- Those working with hazardous substances are instructed and are competent
- Equipment provided to control exposure to hazardous substances is maintained in effective working order and inspected in accordance with statutory requirements

Drug and medicines

- Medication will only take place with the written consent of parents/guardians
- Records are kept over the use of medication and we inform parents/guardians of the medication administered.
- All staff responsible for the administration of medication are competent to do so

Educational Visits and Activities

- All trips and activities are authorised, planned and risk assessed
- Arrangements exist for obtaining informed parental consent in advance of any visit or activity
- Supervisory ratios and the competence of supervision are determined by risk assessment
- A suitably qualified first aider is to accompany every trip
- EYFS trips should be accompanied by a first aider who has completed a twelve hour paediatric first aid course
- Visits and activities support the religious ethos and the educational identity of the School

Electrics

- The electrical installation and portable electrical appliances are inspected and maintained for safety
- Any unsafe electrical equipment is removed from use as soon as it is discovered
- No unauthorised electrical equipment is used within the school
- Visitors who bring mains operated electrical equipment supply their own residual current device circuit breaker or other similar electrical safety device

Management arrangements for implementing health and safety

Expectant and new mothers

- A detailed risk assessment is carried out with the member of staff who informs us that they are an expectant mother
- The precautions put into place for the expectant or new mother are suitable in the context of any medical conditions of which they have made us aware
- The risk assessment is reviewed periodically with the expectant or new mother to ensure that it takes account of any changing needs

External areas

- The outdoor space is safely accessible for staff, pupils and visitors
- All paths, steps and any ramps are maintained in good condition and free from moss, fallen leaves and similar slip hazards
- Adequate separation is maintained between pedestrians and vehicles where this is assessed as a significant risk
- External areas are well lit during the hours of darkness where people walk
- External features such as trees, monuments, walls and external buildings/storage areas are checked for safety

Fire safety

- A fire risk assessment is carried out and any remedial measures identified are implemented
- The assessment is reviewed annually or when there are significant changes
- A fire emergency action plan is established
- Termly fire evacuation drills are carried out
- Staff are trained in the emergency action plan
- Fire doors, fire alarms, emergency lighting, smoke detectors and fire extinguishers are checked and maintained
- Regular checks of fire escape routes are undertaken in order to ensure that they remain free of obstruction

First aid and accident reporting

- The provision of first aid assistance available is determined by risk assessment and ensures that sufficient cover is provided during teaching time, out of hours activities, functions and for educational visits
- First aid kits are checked and replenished regularly
- Accident records are kept that comply with the Data Protection Act
- Accidents are reported, investigated and documented taking into account the severity and loss potential of the incident, as well as the regulatory and insurance requirements
- Lessons learned are shared with staff and inform risk assessment

Food safety

- Adequate food safety procedures are implemented in line with current Food Standards Agency guidelines
- Hygiene audits are carried out at regular intervals
- Food contact surfaces are in sound condition, clean and easy to disinfect
- All kitchen equipment and machinery is robust and in a good state of repair

Management arrangements for implementing health and safety

General building & equipment maintenance

- The buildings, their fittings and decorations are maintained in a safe condition
- Equipment is maintained and serviced to ensure it remains in a safe condition
- Statutory safety inspections are carried out on lifting equipment, gas fired appliances and fume cupboards
- Work at height is only undertaken when no other method is available and it is safe to do so following completion of a risk assessment

Grounds maintenance

- Motorised grounds maintenance equipment is maintained in good condition and is only used by staff who know how to use it safely
- Herbicides and pesticides in commercial quantities are only applied by trained and licensed people
- Storage of chemicals, fuel and equipment is in secure areas
- Gardeners are provided with suitable protective clothing to protect them against weather conditions, chemicals, flying and falling objects and noise

Health and Safety in the Curriculum

- Pupils are taught about hazards and risk control as part of the School curriculum
- Pupils are included in the risk assessment process
- Lesson plans include health and safety requirements
- EYFS and Junior School children are made aware of hazards within the classroom situation as and when necessary
- EYFS and Junior Staff must take all reasonable steps to ensure that hazards to children, both indoors and outdoors are kept to a minimum

Legionella

- A combination of temperature control, physical checks and disinfection are in place to manage the risk of legionella from our water systems
- Any infrequently used outlets such as showers or taps are regularly cleaned and flushed through
- Records are maintained of our control systems

Lettings

- The means of access and egress are safe for the use of hirers, and all equipment made available to and used by the hirers is safe
- Fire escape routes and exits are clearly marked for the benefit of unfamiliar users of the building, particularly during the hours of darkness
- Hirers are briefed about the location of the telephone, fire escape routes, fire alarms and fire fighting equipment. Notices regarding emergency procedures are prominently displayed
- Hirers using any equipment or facility provided by the school are made familiar with its safe use and, if necessary, briefed accordingly
- Arrangements are made for checking the security and condition of the premises and equipment used after vacation by the hirer

Moving and handling of pupils and equipment

- Detailed risk assessments are done on tasks that require the moving and handling of people and equipment where there is a significant risk of injury
- Moving and handling of pupils or of heavy or awkward loads is never done by lone workers unless aided by the use of lifting and handling equipment
- All staff are shown the correct methods of the moving and handling aspects of their work

Personal Protective Equipment

- Personal protective equipment is provided to each member of staff where risk assessment shows this to be necessary
- Information, instruction and training on the use and care of personal protective equipment are provided
- Sufficient supplies of personal protective equipment are kept available

Physical Education Equipment

- Equipment is installed and used in accordance with the suppliers' recommendations
- Equipment is checked and maintained regularly
- Recreational surfaces are to the correct safety standard for the equipment and activities for which they are used
- Risk assessments are produced and on display, for the safe use of play areas and equipment, including that for EYFS

Play Equipment

- Play equipment is designed, installed and used in accordance with the suppliers requirements
- Equipment is checked and maintained regularly
- In the EYFS area play equipment is checked regularly and any dangerous items are repaired or discarded
- All equipment in EYFS is age appropriate, sanitised regularly and stored safely
- Any equipment in need of repair is logged in the maintenance book
- Play surfaces are to the correct safety standard for the equipment
- Supervision is provided to all play areas
- Risk assessments are produced and on display, for the safe use of play areas and equipment, including that for EYFS

Remote supervision

- Remote supervision of pupils is only agreed after the Group Leader is satisfied that the students have acquired the necessary skills, confidence, physical ability and judgement to be left without direct supervision
- Pupils are given clearly defined rules of behaviour
- Monitoring of pupils allowed remote supervision is carried out by Group Leaders
- Group Leaders are able to locate/access the group promptly in an emergency

Risk Assessments

Management arrangements for implementing health and safety

- Staff who undertake risk assessments are competent
- Risk assessments are undertaken to identify significant risks associated with the School buildings, activities and people
- Generic risk assessments are used wherever possible so as to ensure a consistency of approach
- The risk assessment findings are recorded, communicated and acted upon
- Risk assessments are reviewed regularly and following a significant accident, a change in the law or a change in key personnel

Safety awareness, induction and information

- Induction training is provided for new staff (including any temporary staff), and ongoing safety information, instruction and training is provided for all staff. This training is documented
- The statutory Health and Safety Poster – ‘What you should know’, and the current Employer’s Liability Compulsory Insurance Certificate are displayed in staff areas
- Staff are consulted on fire and health and safety issues

Security

- Staff appointments are subject to rigorous reference and clearance checks
- Internet use and digital photograph protocols are established and monitored
- Visitors are required to sign in at the school reception and are not permitted to walk around the School unless accompanied
- Building layout, lighting levels and the securing of areas are checked to ensure that personal safety risks are eliminated or reduced
- The personal safety of staff and pupils is taken into account when planning changes to buildings, events and activities
- Key holder intruder alarm checks are never carried out unaccompanied

Science and Design and Technology areas

- Risk assessments are carried out to ensure that the appropriate controls are in place for science and design and technology activities
- Emergency isolation valves are provided for gas and electrical supplies
- Equipment and substances used are suitable and are checked for safety
- Rooms are kept locked when not in use
- Premises, equipment and class size are suitable for activities
- Radioactive sources are under the control of a nominated person who is our Radiation Protection Supervisor

Sports and after school activities

- Risk assessments are undertaken for sports and activities
- The level of coaching competence is considered as part of the risk assessment process
- Pupil skill and physique are considered as part of the risk assessment process
- Coaches and instructors who are not members of the School teaching staff are subject to competency and child protection checks prior to appointment
- Premises, equipment and class size are suitable for activities

Management arrangements for implementing health and safety

Stress

- Our approach to stress management is guided by the Health and Safety Executive published Stress Management Standards
- Managers are trained to identify causes of stress and their effects upon staff
- All claims of ill health due to workplace stress are documented and investigated
- All members of staff are encouraged to report any stress related concerns to their line manager or to seek advice from a trusted colleague

Transport

- All transport used by the school is supplied by a competent contractor
- All contracted transport providers are vetted on a regular basis
- The school minibus is maintained in line with the vehicle manufacturer's requirements
- Drivers and vehicles are insured
- Minibus drivers are trained, accredited and authorised

Violence to staff

- We adopt a 'no tolerance' approach to violence or challenging behaviour towards our staff
- Staff who may be exposed to challenging behaviour situations are trained in how to manage the situation
- Any counselling or post-incident assistance required by staff who have been subject to violence whilst at work will be provided by the school

Work experience

- All work related learning is agreed in principle with the Headmistress
- All work related learning is planned and risk assessed in accordance with Learning Skills Council guidelines
- Parental permission is obtained
- Approval of placement providers used is conditional upon on health and safety, general suitability and child protection considerations

Monitoring health and safety

A number of different checks are done on buildings and equipment to ensure the health and safety of our staff, pupils, and visitors. In addition we also:

- Carry out an annual self assessment audit
- Monitor fire and health and safety performance by undertaking spot inspections, audits and benchmarking
- Review risk assessments
- Investigate fire and health and safety issues or hazards brought to our attention
- Keep up to date with information on fire and health and safety
- Investigate accidents and near misses
- Review fire and health and safety as part of our formal risk management process