



VALENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Health and Safety Policy

Date:	2 nd November 2023
Date for review:	November 2024



Health and Safety Policy

This policy is guided by the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), particularly Article 3, which ensures the best interests of the child are a top priority in all health and safety decisions. The school is committed to providing a safe, healthy environment in accordance with Article 24, which upholds every child's right to health and well-being.

Risk Assessments & Safeguarding: In line with Article 19, the school will take all necessary steps to protect children from harm, including thorough risk assessments and staff safeguarding training.

First Aid & Medical Support:

In accordance with Article 24, we ensure children have access to appropriate medical support, clean facilities, and hygiene education.

Bullying & Mental Well-being:

Article 29 highlights the need for education that supports children's overall well-being, as a school we have mental health initiatives and anti-bullying policies.

It is the policy of the Governing Body, so far as is reasonably practicable:

- to provide adequate control of the health and safety risks arising out of our work activities
- to consult with our employees on matters affecting their health and safety
- to provide and maintain safe plant and equipment
- to ensure safe handling and use of substances
- provide information, instruction and supervision for employees
- to ensure all employees are competent to do their tasks, and to give them adequate training
- to prevent accidents and cases of work-related ill health
- to maintain safe and healthy working conditions
- to review and revise this policy as necessary at regular intervals.

Responsibility

Overall and final responsibility for Health and Safety is that of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

Day to day responsibility for ensuring the policy is put into practice is delegated to Richard November (Headteacher)

To ensure health and safety standards are maintained/improved, the following people have responsibilities in the following areas:

Name	Role	Responsibility
	Employer	<p>The employer has ultimate control of the school.</p> <p>They will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inaugurate robust approaches to health and safety, with clear policies that focus on the real risks, and encourage sensible risk management • Implement arrangements that manage the risks to staff, pupils and visitors who may be affected by the school's activities • Make sure employees have the relevant information and training to manage risks on a day to day basis, including access to competent health and safety advice. • Check that the control measures have been implemented and remain appropriate and effective (even where funding is delegated in the case of local authority-controlled schools).
	The Governing Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take reasonable steps to make sure that the school is following the employer's policy and procedures e.g. through regular discussion at governor meetings. • Promote a sensible approach to health and safety, making use of competent health and safety advice when required • Work in close partnership with the head teacher and senior management team to support sensible health and safety management and to challenge as appropriate • Ensure adequate resources for health and safety are available.
	Head Teacher	<p>The Head Teacher is responsible for the day to day running of the school. They will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform employees about the real and significant risks in the school and the precautions they need to take to manage them • Ensure staff receive adequate training to enable them to carry out their responsibilities • Ensure adequate resources for health and safety are available. • Promote a positive, open health and safety culture in school • Report to Governors on key health and safety issues • Ensure that all staff co-operate with the policy • Devise and implement safety procedures • Ensure that risk assessments are reviewed on an annual basis

	Senior Leadership Team Member	<p>Senior Management within the school will support the Head Teacher in their role. They will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage and monitor purchasing and contracting procedures to ensure risks are effectively managed • Advise contractors of site-specific risks and overseeing their activities on site • Ensure staff and visitors are aware of the onsite procedures and the precautions to follow • Ensure accident and incident reporting and carry out investigations into accidents and produce reports/statements for any civil or criminal action which may arise • Ensure risk assessments are accurate, suitable and reviewed annually (recommended) or before if there is a change • Deal with any hazardous practices, equipment or building issues and report to the head teacher if they remain unresolved • Provide a good example, guidance and support to staff on health and safety issues • Carry out a health and safety induction for all staff and keep records of that induction • Keep up to date with new developments in Health and Safety issues for schools • Ensure any contractors on site are competent in health and safety matters
	Site Manager	<p>The Site Manager is responsible for day to day maintenance and other buildings/grounds issues. They will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that any work that has health and safety implications is prioritised • Report any concerns regarding unresolved hazards in school to the senior management team immediately • Ensure that all work under their control is undertaken in a safe manner • Carry out a daily check of the grounds and building to spot any disrepair or other hazards such as broken glass etc. in the play areas • Ensure that all cleaning staff are aware of safe working practices, especially regarding reporting of hazards, the use of hazardous substances and manual handling • Carry out a weekly test of the fire alarm and other fire safety checks as required

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all contractors are ‘inducted’ and shown the relevant risk assessments, asbestos records and are made aware of any fragile roofs or other hazards in the areas where they will be working • Fully co-operate with health and safety arrangements during larger building projects
All employees	Employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the Health and Safety Policy • Comply with the School’s health and safety arrangements • Cooperate with managers and co-ordinators on health and safety matters • Take reasonable care of their own and other people’s health and safety • Leave the classroom/playground/office in a safe condition • Follow safety instructions when using equipment • Supervise pupils and advise them on how to use equipment safely • Report practices, equipment or physical conditions that may be hazardous to their line manager and/or the appropriate member of staff • Follow the accident/incident reporting procedure • Contribute to and highlight any gaps in the school’s risk assessments
Pupils	Pupils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow safety and hygiene rules intended to protect the health and safety of themselves and others • Follow safety instructions of teaching and support staff, especially in an emergency
	Health and Safety Advice Team (LBBD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice and guidance to help schools fulfil their health and safety responsibilities • Visit where necessary to give advice on all aspects of new and existing health and safety policies and procedures

Arrangements

Coordination of Health and Safety Management

An action plan is in place which includes:

- Building services maintenance/servicing regime
- Review of risk assessments and safe systems of work

- Actions against gaps in health, safety and wellbeing management

This assists the school in coordinating the current management systems and ensure continuous improvement.

The health, safety and wellbeing action plan is taken to the Resources committee for monitoring.

Accident, Incident and Investigations (RIDDOR Reporting)

Any accident or injury should be reported via the accident/incident report form and passed to the relevant manager/head teacher to consider what could be done to prevent further occurrences.

All contractors must ensure that accidents/incidents involving their personnel are reported to the schools using the accident/incident report form.

The [Head teacher] will ensure that where RIDDOR applies accidents/incidents are reported to the Health and Safety Executive.

The Local Authority do this on the school's behalf. However, the accident/incident MUST be reported promptly to the Health and Safety Team

First Aid

The school has carried out a first aid risk assessment to ascertain the required number of first aiders and the location/number of first aid kits. A first aider and first aid kits are taken on educational visits.

Educational Visits

All off-site trips will be subject to risk assessment and the advice of the Council's Educational Visits Advisor will be closely followed. The Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel offers more specific advice and the website, Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel - advice, support and monitoring of visits and outdoor learning provides schools with details of local authority outdoor education advisers.

Electrical Testing

- Hard wiring is tested by a competent contractor every 5 years
- All items of portable electrical equipment in school are inspected and checked annually
- See also the building maintenance plan.

Asbestos

- All staff have been made aware of the location of any asbestos in school
- All contractors must sign to say they have seen the register before starting work on site

Fire Safety and Emergency Evacuation

- A fire risk assessment has been undertaken and reviewed annually (or before if there is a change)
- An Emergency Evacuation Plan has been developed and communicated to all relevant person on the school premises.
- Fire exits have appropriate signage
- Plans showing exit routes are displayed by the door of each classroom
- A fire drill is practised and documented once a term by the Site Manager.
- Evacuation times and any issues which arise are reported to the Governors/board
- Fire extinguishers are checked
- Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans are in place as required

Control of Hazardous Substances

- The use of hazardous substances in school will be kept to a minimum
- The Site Manager (with appropriate support from senior managers) will complete a COSHH assessment for all hazardous substances used on site

Administration of Medicines

- Medication is only administered to pupils when the parental consent form has been completed
- The medicine will be administered by one nominated member of staff for each pupil and appropriate records kept
- Medicines are only administered during school time when they have been prescribed by a child's GP or other relevant medical professional
- Medicines are kept in a locked cupboard in the school office
- The only exceptions to this are asthma medication and 'EpiPen's' (following discussion with parents) which may be kept in appropriate locations, out of the reach of other pupils, as appropriate

Display Screen Equipment

- For employees with 'desk-based jobs' the procedure for carrying out workstation self-assessments on an annual basis will be followed
- For employees provided with portable devices (e.g. laptops, tablets) staff will be issued guidance on their use

Manual Handling

- Pupils and staff must only lift equipment and furniture within their own individual capability
- Manual handling training will be provided for appropriate members of staff including, if necessary, include how to lift pupils safely
- Risk assessments and safe systems of work are in place

Playground Equipment and Supervision

- Playground equipment and its use is supervised during all breaks during the school day
- If the equipment is used during lesson time supervision is again maintained
- A decision is made, recorded and enforced if inclement weather (damp/icy) means that equipment becomes unsafe to use on a particular day
- Appropriate levels of supervision will be maintained in playgrounds as described in the playground risk assessment
- See also the building maintenance plan for servicing/maintenance details of equipment used

Risk Assessment

- The school maintains a comprehensive set of risk assessments that cover curriculum-based activities in school; school visits and the running of the school building and grounds
- They are all available on the school central server for staff to inspect and refer to as necessary
- The management team will take steps to ensure that appropriate staff are aware of the risk assessments appropriate to their role and will monitor compliance with control measures specified in the risk assessments
- All risk assessments are reviewed on an annual basis (except risk assessments for school trips which should be reviewed each time the trip takes place)
- Procedures for new and expecting members of staff will be followed, including carrying out a Risk Assessment if not already considered in existing risk assessments

Slips Trips and Falls

- The potential for slips trips and falls in school has been risk assessed and appropriate controls have been put in place
- This includes working procedures for mopping floors, absorbent floor mats near entrances and regular hazard spotting inspections

Snow and Ice

- A plan has been produced outlining the main pedestrian routes that the site staff will strive to keep open during snowy and icy conditions
- If it becomes impossible to keep these routes clear the head teacher is informed immediately and this information contributes to any decision to close the school

Stress at Work

- Proactive – Stress Risk Assessment are used to identify how levels of stress (caused by work) amongst employees can be reduced
- Reactive – individuals who are identified to be suffering from excessive levels of stress (caused by work or personal issues) are supported in accordance with the school's health and wellbeing procedures and, if necessary, by accessing the Occupational Health and/or the Employee Assistance Programme

Supervision of Pupils

- Sensible, safe behaviour will be promoted to pupils by all members of staff
- Dangerous or risky behaviour displayed by pupils will be addressed and dealt within the school rules
- Pupils will only be allowed into or stay in classrooms under adult supervision
- Appropriate supervision of cloakrooms and toilet access will be in place at busy times

Training

- Health and Safety Training Needs are assessed as part of individual's annual review
- Training needs are also being identified as part of a risk assessment process

Working at Height

- Working at heights risk assessments have been completed for the school
- Appropriate record keeping and safe systems of work are kept in the working at heights file.
- All site/caretaking staff who undertake working at heights have been on an appropriate training course.
- Teaching and other staff who assist in putting up displays in school have been given appropriate in-house training and advised that they must:
 - Use appropriate access equipment - step ladders, kick stools etc.
 - Wear flat shoes whilst putting up displays
 - Not climb on furniture to put up displays

Date agreed by governors: 2nd November 2023

Review Date: November 2024

Signed by Chair of Governors

Signed by Headteacher