



Health & Safety Policy

Bamburgh School

Approved by:	Head Teacher	Date: March 2020
Last reviewed on:	December 2021	
Next review due by:	June 2022	

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General Statement of Intent

The governing body recognises and accepts its responsibility to provide a safe and healthy working and learning environment for staff, pupils and visitors. It believes that the prevention of accidents, injury or loss is essential to the efficient operation of the school and is part of the good education of its pupils.

The governing body will take all reasonably practicable steps to fulfil this responsibility and will aim to achieve more than the basic minimum legal requirements as well as best practice overall. In so doing it will pay particular attention to meeting the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work, etc., Act, the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations, other Regulations and relevant Codes of Practice.

The governing body is committed to progressive improvements in the field of Health and Safety.

The arrangements outlined in this statement cannot prevent accidents or ensure safe and healthy working conditions. The governing body believes that only the adoption of safe methods of work and good practice by every individual can ensure everyone’s personal health and safety. The governing body will take all reasonable steps to identify and reduce hazards to a minimum but all staff and pupils must appreciate that their own safety and that of others also depends on their individual conduct and vigilance while on the school premises or while taking part in school-sponsored activities.

Health and Safety Policy Statement

The Governors and management of the School are committed to a safety management approach to Health & Safety, and thereby to an organised, well informed and pro-active approach to all health & safety and welfare related issues. All activities will be planned and executed with a systematic approach which includes an element of "context sensitive" risk assessment, and necessary control measures will be put in place to reduce/eliminate to a safe level any foreseen risks.

This policy supplements and operates in conjunction with South Tyneside Corporate Health and Safety Policy Manual and Children and Young People's Directorate Health and Safety Policy

It is the policy of this school to operate at all times in a manner which ensures, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of all persons employed, visiting, working in or being taught at the school.

All school staff are reminded that they have a duty of care to carry out their work with due regard for the health and safety of themselves, other staff, pupils, contractors and visitors to the school, and to observe the health and safety requirements relevant to their activities.

A suitable and sufficient assessment of all foreseeable hazards and risks to staff, pupils and visitors will be carried out. Where significant risk is identified, appropriate measures to reduce or eliminate the risks will be taken and communicated to those concerned.

Consultation will take place with any Union appointed safety representatives and members of staff on matters that effect their health and safety. If required, specialist advice will be sought at the earliest opportunity from The South Tyneside Corporate Health & Safety Team, Building Surveyors, Asset Manager or other specialist advisers, such as the local Fire Officer.

All staff are requested to support the school in achieving a safe environment for everyone. The necessary information, training, instruction and supervision will be made available by managers to achieve this, particularly to staff after recruitment, transfer or changes to their responsibilities.

A copy of this statement will be brought to the attention of all members of staff. It will be regularly reviewed and updated as necessary, or at least annually.

Additional information to implement this policy is contained in the attached Schedule of Duties. Further information is contained within the Health and Safety Manuals.

These can be found: www.bamburghschool.co.uk

Organisation

The school recognises the need to identify organisational methods for implementing and controlling the health and safety of all persons who work within or visit the school.

The following is a summary of individual responsibilities, their consequent structure and accountability.

Governors

The Governing Body has the responsibility to ensure that all reasonable steps have been taken to reduce the possibility of accident or injury to both staff and pupils, although it should be emphasised that unnecessary responsibility cannot fall on individual members of the Governing Body, nor can the Head of the school or employees avoid responsibility by referring urgent matters to that body for information and decision. The Governors will be kept informed of all developments relating to health and safety matters and Clerks to Governors will include such matters on the Agenda for termly meetings.

Governors must ensure:

Implementation of the Council's Corporate Health and Safety Policy -
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1D7wWNEeyZ5M8vJvEVqHC7HfvWVXM6vMN/view>

That in co-operation with the Head teacher, an individual school Health and Safety Policy is produced, and this policy is regularly reviewed and revised as and when necessary;

That risk assessments are undertaken of any activity that has significant associated hazards and that a written record of these assessments are kept and reviewed regularly;

That sufficient funding is allocated for health and safety issues e.g. training, provision of personal protective clothing etc.

That regular health and safety inspections of the premises are carried out on a termly basis; with copies of inspection reports sent to Corporate Health and Safety and Directorate.

That the Governing Body receives an annual audit of health and safety systems and standards of health and safety from the Head teacher;

That a positive health and safety culture is established and maintained.

Headteacher

The Head teacher is responsible and accountable for the implementation of this policy and the compliance with all relevant legislation in every area and activity within the school. In order for this to be achieved, his/her operational duties include the following:

Ensuring that all members of staff (including new staff, supply staff, probationers and students, voluntary helpers etc.) are aware of the contents of the school health and safety policy and all safe working practices.

If deemed necessary, appointing one or more members of staff (Health and Safety co-ordinators), undertaking specific duties in relation to health and safety (This post is not to be confused with union appointed safety reps. This is an extra role to enable the Governing Body/Head teacher to effectively manage health and safety.)

Ensuring that risk assessments are carried out on any activity that has significant associated hazards. South Tyneside LEA recommends that a group approach to risk assessment be executed, usually consisting of an individual who has received specific training in the theory of risk assessment, a teacher/head of department/ assistant who has the hands-on experience of tasks being assessed, and any safety representatives that school may have. Where significant risks are identified, appropriate measures and/or safe working practices will be introduced to reduce/eliminate such hazards.

Undertaking inspections of the school premises, plans, and equipment and working practices on a termly basis. Where necessary implement any changes and improvements. A copy of the inspection checklist and action plan to address identified deficiencies should be sent to Corporate Health and Safety and the LEA.

Providing an annual report to the Governors of the school regarding safety performance – risk assessments carried out, fire drills carried out, also accidents that have occurred and any identified trends, etc.

Making recommendations to Governors where Health and Safety funding is required, and advising on any safety policies that need to be introduced.

Ensuring that effective first aid provision and accident reporting procedures exist in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Corporate Health & Safety Team (to allow South Tyneside Council to comply with the Reporting of Injuries Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations).

Deputy Head/Head of Department

Deputy Heads/Head of Department are responsible to the Head teacher for the health and safety of all staff, workplaces and activities under their control. To achieve this, their duties include the following:

Ensuring that all staff, probationers/students/supply teachers and voluntary helpers are aware of the requirements of the Health and Safety Policy, and the safe working practices that apply to their area of activity.

Actively encouraging the participation in health and safety and welfare matters of all pupils.

Making known to the Head teacher any identified training needs.

Establishing and regularly reviewing safe working practices for activities under their control.

Taking effective action and/or immediately referring to the Head teacher any health and safety problems brought to their attention. This includes the stopping of any practices or the use of any tools, equipment etc. which are considered unsafe. This is to be enforced until safety levels are adequate.

Ensuring on a termly basis that all items of portable electrical equipment (including new purchases) are entered on the school inventory before use, and those visual inspections of all equipment take place before each use. Defective or damaged equipment must be isolated and taken out of use until repaired or replaced, (repaired by a competent person only).

Checking the adequacy of fire precautions and procedures in liaison with the Site Supervisor.

If an accident/incident occurs, assisting in the accident investigation regarding any findings and recommendations to prevent a recurrence.

Teaching Staff (Including Supply Teachers)

Teachers have a duty of care under Health and Safety Legislation. In order to achieve their duties include the following:

Ensuring that all staff (including temporary staff and supply teachers) and students etc. assigned to help, are aware of the general health and safety requirements of the school and the detailed requirements for activities relevant to them (i.e. risk assessment).

Implementing the health, safety and welfare procedures for pupils at a level appropriate for their requirements also communicating information about hazards that may be encountered and the measures necessary to reduce risk in terms that they can readily understand.

Exercising effective supervision of pupils and maintain an awareness of emergency procedures in respect of fire, first aid, accident reporting etc. carrying them out as necessary.

Seeking information on any special safety measures to be adopted in their own teaching areas and ensure that they are adhered to.

Setting an example by personally following safe working practices.

Ensuring that where necessary, the appropriate protective clothing, guards etc. are available, in good condition and are used. All electrical equipment should be visually checked before use.

Reporting to the Head teacher or Head of Department any defects in equipment or identified inadequacies in procedures. (Where any defect renders the equipment potentially hazardous, it should be isolated and clearly labelled 'awaiting repair', 'until repaired' or 'replaced'.)

Integrating all relevant aspects of health and safety into the teaching process and if necessary, giving special instruction. (e.g. The use of equipment in technology lessons)

Assisting in ensuring that all persons evacuate the building in the event of a fire alarm sounding.

Support Staff

There is a need to identify the duties and responsibilities for the following categories of staff where appropriate. As these differ for each establishment it is not possible to provide a 'model'. Remember that in allocating duties consideration should be given to the degree of risk as well as competence of the individual, training, instruction, supervision and authority needed to carry them out.

It is suggested that a format similar to the preceding pages be adopted for the following groups of employees within your school.

Technicians

Caretakers/Cleaners

Classroom Assistants

Office Staff

Supervisory Assistants

Ground Maintenance Staff

There is a need to stress that all employees have legal responsibilities under The Health and Safety At Work Act. Those duties are to safeguard themselves, colleagues and others in the workplace.

Trade Union Safety Representative

Any Trade Union Safety Representative will be encouraged by the Head teacher to fulfil his/her duties as well as being released for any appropriate training. The Head teacher will also consult regularly with the Safety Representative on Health & Safety matters. He/she will be entitled to inspect the school in accordance with the agreed Trade Union/Authority procedures.

Health & Safety Executive

The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) have many powers, including the right to visit the school and have sight of all relevant policies and documents.

They have the right to turn up for announced or unannounced visits, however they will usually visit in connection with an accident that has been reported to them.

All visits and communications with the HSE must be notified to the Corporate Health and Safety team and the LEA

Arrangements

The school recognises its obligations to identify arrangements designed to make its safety policy effective.

All staff should be aware of the following arrangements:-

Risk Assessments

Risk assessment is a principle requirement of the management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations. Regulation 3 requires all employers and self-employed persons to undertake a systematic assessment of all risks (except the trivial) to workers and any others who may be affected by their work activities. The purpose of the risk assessment is to assist the employer to determine what measures to take in order to establish safe systems of work and to comply with health and safety legislation.

This school has completed risk assessments in the following areas: -

School trips

School transport, (not the condition of contracted transport, but the arrangements for)

Use of school mini buses and the arrangements for contracted school transport e.g.

Pick up points, (separation of pedestrians and traffic turning circles etc.)

Use and condition of outdoor play equipment

Use and condition of indoor play equipment

Craft/design and technology (e.g. use of scissors)

Manual handling assessments for teachers/caretakers who have to move heavy/awkward loads.

Fire risk assessments

Display Screen equipment assessments

Control of substances hazardous to health assessments

Cookery activities

Swimming

Lone working (e.g. caretaker or teachers with parents)

Any work experience placements you may occasionally have

P.E. activities and P.E. equipment

Contractors working on-site

Violence to staff (e.g. lone working situations etc.)

Walking to and from events

Security

(This is not an exhaustive list).

The regulations talk about the need for a competent person to carry out risk assessments. Our competent person on the theory of risk assessments is Chris Cunningham Site Supervisor.

We have a team approach to risk assessment which includes:

Competent person in theory of risk assessment

Relevant teacher

Safety Rep/Union appointed Safety Rep.

Individual carrying out duties

The approach allows for competency not only in the theory but also the practical and allows for discussion from a Health and Safety perspective. This group fulfils the competency need.

Fire and Emergency Procedures

Each week the alarm will be tested to ensure that it is effective. Points from different zones are used to trigger the alarm to ensure that all break glass or other points are in working order. Details are recorded in the Fire Log Book.

Fire drills must be carried out at least once per term to enable everyone to become familiar with the evacuation procedure. Details should be recorded in the Fire Log Book.

In each room there should be a diagram showing exit and line up points. The location of explosive substances such as gas and paint should be known and the Senior Fire Officer informed upon arrival.

CO2 cylinders are stored in:

The pool plant room

Temporary heaters are generally not used however, we do have 5 heaters which are locked away to be used in the case of an emergency

Other highly flammable/explosive substances and locations:

Science Lab

Hydro Pool

Fire exits and fire exit routes should be free from obstruction at all times.

All exit doors must be unlocked whilst there are people in the building.

All fire exits must be clearly signed and comply with legislation e.g. including pictogram

The use of display materials containing combustible materials must be controlled by covering with a non-combustible material e.g. Perspex, sprayed with a fire retardant spray and adequate breaks between displays to prevent rapid spread of fire.

All visitors should be made aware of arrangements in case of fire.

The fire log book is kept in the Site Supervisors office. Full and detailed records are kept of evacuations, call point testing, alarm system servicing, firefighting equipment checks etc.

What to do in case of fire.

Sound the alarm (via the nearest call point).

Immediately leave the building via the nearest safe exit and go to the designated assembly point (Bamburgh Senior Yard). Where possible close all doors behind you.

Designated members of staff should ensure the Fire and Rescue Service has been called.

NOTE: The alarm ceasing to sound does NOT indicate that it is safe to re-enter the building.

On sounding the alarm the fire brigade will be summoned if necessary by senior management. All staff, pupils and visitors must leave the building immediately, closing doors behind them as necessary.

Lines up points have been designated and a diagram displaying where they are is placed in each room.

Only if there is no risk to personal injury should attempts be made to tackle a fire using a suitable fire extinguisher. In addition, if there is no risk of injury, mains services such as gas and electricity should be turned off.

The mains isolator for gas can be found in the kitchen and Boiler Room. The mains isolator for electricity can be found next to Room S18 in the main electric cupboard.

Action on Hearing a Fire Alarm

Teacher or responsible adult will supervise children leaving the building by appropriate exit, closing the door when the last person is out (diagrams located in each room).

Proceed to line up at assembly point: BAMBURGH SENIOR YARD

Walk quickly, but do not run.

Keep calm.

Do not stop to collect any personal belongings or books.

Registers will be taken to the lineup points by the receptionist and distributed to teachers for roll call.

If the fire brigade has been called there must be clear access to the site by emergency services.

Lettings

Details of fire procedures will be given to hirers.

Special precautions must be taken for large gatherings (e.g. plays)

All emergency exits must be unlocked while the building is occupied.

Access to a telephone is advisable, however if access is not given this must be communicated to hirers so that they can make their own arrangements.

The Caretaker must inspect premises after their evening use and check for possible fires.

The no smoking policy must be communicated to the hirers.

If the caretaker discovers a fire when the school is unoccupied, he/she must sound the alarm and call the fire brigade.

The Head teacher must be informed immediately.

Contractors on site

Before we select contractors, we will make sure that they not only have a good work record, but also a good health and safety record. (You need to be sure that if you invite contractors onto your site they will not endanger any members of staff, pupils of visitors by their actions or failure to act.) The Corporate Health & Safety Team must be notified at an early stage on proposed projects. This will enable the group to consider any health & safety design issues and ensure that the contractor has satisfied all relevant health & safety criteria (refer to Corporate Health and Safety Policy)

Have they got any history of working within a school in this area, how did this go what reputation have they got?

What is their accident rate, when was the last time they had a reportable accident?

Have they had any Health and Safety Prosecutions/investigations in the last 3 years?

(Your chosen contractor must be known to the authority and be fully accredited. For confirmation and further advice, contact Corporate Health and Safety Team who will be able to advise.)

Before any contractors are engaged to work on this school site for any jobs other than routine maintenance, we will check with Building Services/Asset Management, to make sure that the job can go ahead. Sometimes pending on the job type, size duration etc. other regulations come into play that need to be followed such as The Construction Design and Management Regulations (CDM Regs).

Once we have checked with Building Services or Asset Management and they have advised that the job can go ahead we will then and only then engage any contractors to work on site.

When Contractors arrive on site to commence work the following Safe Systems of Work will be followed...

1. All staff will be informed of the works being carried out and any areas that are likely to be affected. Also the duration and timing of the works will be discussed.
2. Ensure that any changes to the job are discussed with the Head teacher or representative, and any changes affecting timing, or health and Safety be looked at and action taken where necessary.
3. Ensure that any contractors working on site or sub-contractors are familiar with our Health and Safety Policy and are aware of any local safety rules. (A copy of the Statement of Intent (page 2) of this document is in the front of the Visitor's book.)
4. Monitor the contractor's performance during the works and take appropriate action when necessary. If you believe there to be a detrimental effect on Health and Safety then the job should be stopped until you are satisfied with the Health and Safety Practices.

Asbestos

South Tyneside Council has prepared a register of where asbestos is may be found at this school. It identifies where Asbestos is known to be present in areas of the school. Please refer to the asbestos held in the Site Manager's office.

When any building/modification works are carried out in this school we will assume that the presence of asbestos is likely and make the contractors aware of this fact, so that the necessary measures can be taken before work commences. We will discuss this with Building Services/Asset Management before work commences, as part of the risk assessment process.

Please refer to the Corporate Health and Safety Policy Manual with regard to the Asbestos Management Plan

Rubbish and combustible waste

This should not be left in the boiler room (boiler rooms should not be used for storage) or in the area beneath the stage, in escape routes or in passageways.

Such materials should be put in a metal or non-combustible container and be disposed of as soon as possible. If bins stored outside, where possible, they should be stored 6 metres away from the building.

Fire Guards

These must be used when temporary gas heaters are in use.

Displays and Decorations

Decorations must not be placed near temporary heaters or suspended by light fittings.

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted on School premises and grounds.

Electrical supplies and fittings

Any faults must be reported immediately to the site supervisor. Any faulty fittings (e.g. cracked sockets etc.) should be isolated and labelled for repair. (See Equipment and Materials for electrical testing of equipment)

Boiler Rooms

Boiler rooms must not be used for storage.

First Aid

The First Aiders(s) are:

Katy Hurst

Emma Kirton

Joanne Elliott

The first aid boxes in this school are located in:

Bamburgh School Office

Bamburgh Medical Room

Notices giving details of whereabouts of first aid facilities will be displayed in school.

At all times there are people on the School premises and for offsite activities i.e. school trips there should be a first aider present. The minimum requirement is that an Emergency Aid Appointed Person must be present to take charge of the first aid arrangements but this is unusual and must be determined via risk assessment and recorded in a retrievable form.

All teaching staff acts in loco parentis during the time that the school is open for children.

All injuries, whether to staff, pupils or visitors, must be recorded via the school accident book or for more serious injuries, on the accident report forms. South Tyneside Council guidance for accident reporting should be followed at all times.

Any serious injuries should be transported to hospital by ambulance as the patient's condition could worsen. Accidents of this type should be reported by telephone or E Mail in the first instance to the Corporate Health and Safety Team (0191 4247341/6) and then followed by a written report/investigation using appropriate South Tyneside Council paperwork.

No attempt to move an injured person should be made until a proper examination and assessment has been completed.

There is clear evidence that premature handling of the casualty has worsened injuries.

Minor injuries may be treated on a self-help basis or by any members of staff in loco parentis.

Medicines

Please refer to our separate medications policy.

Please find Link below.

<http://smartfuse.s3.amazonaws.com/031201613c0b3b7ec715619af1c08c47/uploads/2017/05/Supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions.pdf>

Epilepsy

If a known epileptic suffers a short seizure and shows rapid signs of recovery, then it is appropriate to sit the child quietly and to closely monitor his/her condition.

If the person suffers an injury during the seizure, then immediate first aid should be given.

If the fit is violent and/or prolonged, medical help should be sought, or an ambulance called as well as contacting the parents, or partners in the case of adults.

All staff are to be informed of children who are epileptic and are to be aware of action to be taken.

If a child with no past history of epilepsy has a seizure, parents should be contacted immediately and medical advice sought.

In the event of fatal or serious injury, nothing at the site of the accident must be moved, except for helping the injured, until a thorough examination has been carried out.

Trade Union Safety Representatives must also be informed of injuries and dangerous occurrences.

Parents/guardians or next of kin must be contacted as soon as possible.

Design and Technology

All Design & Technology activities must be risk assessed and suitable controls to reduce risk to an acceptable level implemented prior to the activity taking place. CLEAPPS have produced guidance and model risk assessments to assist in this process. If a copy of CLEAPSS guidance is not available at the School the Corporate Health and Safety Team should be contacted.

Staff should ensure that:-

Children are well supervised at all times.

Protective clothing is worn when appropriate.

Sharp edged tools are stored so that the cutting edge cannot be accidentally touched.

All tools are stored appropriately in commercially purchased storage units.

Files and similar objects have properly fitted handles.

Hammer heads must be checked regularly.

Tools must be used for their intended purpose.

Scissors must be handled correctly and be of the round edged type.

Food Technology

All Food Technology activities must be risk assessed and suitable controls to reduce risk to an acceptable level implemented prior to the activity taking place.

Appropriate food hygiene standards must be observed.

Housekeeping in this area needs to be good; passageways must be kept free for safe movement

Coats and bags must be stored inside room.

The floor should be kept clean, and 'clean as you go' practices should be adopted.

Spillages must be cleared up immediately and the area dried with paper towels.

Windows and ventilation should be properly controlled.

Staff should note various means of exit from the cookery area.

There must be no displays, pictures or pin boards near the cooker.

Firefighting equipment including fire blanket extinguisher should be in close vicinity.

These must NOT be sited over the cooker but near the exit to this area.

There must be adequate and safe working practices drawn up for this area all pupils should:-

Wear clean aprons

Tie back long hair

Remove jewellery e.g. rings

Be discouraged from wearing loose clothing

Must not carry hot substances

Must not be allowed to do any frying

Must use plastic graters only etc.

Equipment and materials

Correction Fluids

Should be water (not solvent) based.

Children should not bring their own correction fluids into schools.

Pen Tops

Pens supplied to children should be without tops where practicable. If children bring their own pens, they should be advised to dispose of the tops. Staffs needs to be vigilant about this as there have been several accidents and subsequent deaths due to children putting pen tops into their mouths.

Kettles and Microwave Ovens

Kettles and microwave ovens should not be used in classes or activity areas except in specialist areas designed for such purposes.

Installations

Only approved contractors will be used after consultation with Building Services.

Extension Cables

Extension cables must not be used permanently - only as a temporary measure. Those with multi sockets may be used for low powered equipment only, e.g. computers. Equipment such as heaters and kettles must be plugged directly into a wall mounted socket.

Electrical Equipment

All electrical equipment details should be entered in the inventory book which is kept in Google Drive in the PAT Testing and Inventory folder.

All equipment should be regularly tested and labelled by the competent person undertaking the test.

Any defective equipment must be taken out of service, labelled and stored in a secure place so it cannot be used until repaired.

Printing and Reprographics

Printers are located in the Bamburgh School Office, the Staff room and the printer room off the main Bamburgh reception. Children must not use the photocopier. It has been sited in a well-ventilated area.

Gas

There must be access to the isolator at all times. Keys will be kept in Site Supervisors office. Gas isolation valves should be clearly identified.

P.E. and Swimming /after School activities

Staff are reminded that:

- 1.If a parent has put a restriction on a child's activity on medical grounds, it is the PARENT ALONE WHO CAN REMOVE IT.
- 2.If a child taking part in an unaccustomed physical activity is known to have a disability, or have an ongoing medical complaint (e.g. asthma, epilepsy, cystic fibrosis, etc.), reasonable adjustments should be made to enable the child to participate. This may involve a higher level of supervision

If these two points are not followed, a serious situation could develop, which result in claims may for damages should an incident occur.

There is specific guidance available in the BAALPE Safe Practice in Physical Education, Which we follow.

A note of consent must be received from the parent/guardian before a child may take part in swimming and any after school activities.

Cancellation of Activities

Parents/guardians must be notified in advance if after school activities have to be cancelled. Where this is not possible, children must be kept in school until the time they would normally leave at the end of the activity.

Equipment

Any defects or damage should be reported immediately, and taken out of use awaiting repair if necessary.

Gymnasium Ropes

Children are not allowed to 'knot' the ends of the ropes. Not only does this make them dangerous, but it also damages the fibres.

Swimming Supervision

There should be continuous supervision and there must be at least one qualified adult **(with a lifesaving qualification min: RLSS/ASA Rescue Test for teachers or National Pool Lifeguard qualification.)** and 1 other supervisor (able to demonstrate the competencies indicated below) on the poolside.

NB: if a QTS teacher is not present poolside, it is important to remember that the supervisors/instructors must still be working under the direction of a qualified teacher (QTS).

There should also be adequate qualified cover for this lifeguard should he/she have to leave the poolside for any reason. The instructors working with swimmers cannot be the lifeguard but may be used to provide cover if they are adequately qualified. In this case the instructor must stop teaching and their pupils must leave the water.

Teachers are instructed that they do not allow children into the pool unless the pool lifeguard is in attendance or if the individual teacher(s) possess the relevant qualifications.

Animals in School

Animals can play an important role in the education of children. Children can learn about their needs and characteristics. Only suitable animals should be used in the school and proper planning considered for their welfare, particularly during holiday times. Recognised publications (e.g. CLEAPSS guides) should be used to determine suitable animals and should be available when keeping animals in school. This procedure is a guide to the precautions taken by the school.

Be aware that there are some animals and plants that cannot be taken from the wild.

Have a reliable reference book available on the animal such as those produced by the RSPCA.

Only obtain animals from reputable suppliers.

Ensure that children wash their hands before and after handling animals.

Animal housing to be kept clean and disinfected as required.

Do not allow contact between school animals and wild animals to avoid transmission of disease.

Do not allow children to bring dead or injured animals in to school.

If animals wander on to floors or tables wash afterwards.

Teach children how to handle the animals with care.

Feed animals correctly.

Any animal bites and scratches should be washed carefully. Seek medical advice if there is any risk of infection.

Piano

The pianos are sited in the Music Room (B31)

Only adults should move the pianos.

There should be one person at each end and then it should be on a smooth, level surface. Specific care should be taken when moving a piano backwards or forwards, as a falling piano will always fall backwards or forwards. It is therefore important to keep the area clear of obstructions and people.

A visual check on castors should be made to check that they are adequate for the load.

The piano must NOT be moved up or down stairs/steps.

A risk assessment needs to be carried out before the piano is moved.

Violence to Staff

The Governors are concerned about the possibility of staff being subjected to violence of any kind whilst working in school.

If any member of staff is subjected to **any** aggression on school premises they must inform the Head teacher immediately. Staffs are asked to keep written records of such episodes.

An IRF report form should be completed and passed to the Head Teacher. The Head Teacher must send the IRF to the Education Health & Safety Officer at the LEA.

Appropriate steps will be taken by the Head teacher to deal with such a situation.

If necessary, the Governors and LEA will be informed and involved.

School Trips

This school follows the guidance as laid down in the South Tyneside 'School Trips and Adventurous Outdoor Activities Guidance'.

Accidents

All accidents must be reported to the Head teacher and entered into the accident book which is found in Medical Room in Bamburgh School and also complete the IRF documents.

Fatal or Major Injuries must be reported immediately by telephone to Health and Safety Manager (Stephen Bell 0191 4246186) and also to the Chair of Governors for guidance. This must be followed up by the completion of an accident report form and sent to the Education Health and Safety Officer.

Dangerous Occurrences must also be reported immediately by telephone to Health & Safety Manager (Stephen Bell 0191 4246186).

HIV/AIDS

There are publications available regarding the care of children and adults who suffer with HIV/AIDS. Also see Health & Safety Manual.

Infectious Diseases

There are publications available regarding the care of children and adults dealing with 'Infectious Diseases'.

Security

An assessment for security will be carried out annually by Chris Cunningham, Site Supervisor unless there is a breach in security in which it will be assessed immediately and amended as needed.

This policy shall be reviewed regularly and amended as necessary

Lone Working

Lone work is that in which the person undertakes a specific activity unaccompanied or without immediate access to another person for assistance. (Lone working is not where individuals experience transient situations in which they find themselves alone, but where individuals are knowingly or foreseeably placed in circumstances in which they undertake work activities without direct or close supervision).

Generally it is acceptable for employees to work alone, provided the School complies with legislative duties and exercises the common law 'duty of care' to the individual(s) concerned. (Lone working is prohibited in specific circumstances e.g. working with live electrical conductors, confined spaces, etc.). The Corporate Health and Safety Team can advise on this, if required.

Whilst recognising that flexible working arrangements are helpful in an Education environment, the need for lone working should be avoided wherever possible.

The responsibility for implementing planned and effective safe systems of work for those who work alone is that of the person who controls the work activity. This responsibility cannot be delegated to those who work unaccompanied.

However all employees have a responsibility to take reasonable care of their own safety and to co-operate with their employer. Employees should not knowingly place themselves in situations which expose them to additional risk by working alone, without having first collaborated in the development and implementation of a 'safe system of work' and without the full knowledge of their line-manager.

If a person finds that they are placed in a situation, which may be considered to be that of a 'lone worker', then they should make sure that their manager is made aware of these circumstances at the earliest opportunity and then assist in the process of identifying the steps needed either to prevent the 'lone worker' situation from arising, or if this is not possible, assist in developing the precautions necessary to ensure their own safety.

To satisfy the current legislative requirements, it is necessary for the risks associated with 'lone working' to be assessed i.e.:

Identify all persons who may be required to work alone and the foreseeable circumstances in which this may occur

Identify the hazards to which the person(s) may be exposed and the current controls in place to minimise the risks to their safety

Assess whether these controls are adequate and whether there is more that could reasonably be done to further reduce the risks

Develop and implement safe working arrangements, including the provision of information, instruction, training and supervision

Monitor and review the safe working arrangements for effectiveness

It would be expected that this risk assessment process is undertaken as a collaborative exercise by the 'lone worker' and their line manager and that the agreed safe working procedures are recorded and communicated to all person(s) who may be required to work alone and any colleagues who have a role to play in ensuring their safety.

Special consideration needs to be given to identifying the training and the level of competence required, to enable persons to work alone, safely. This is normally set at a higher level than that required for those who work with other colleagues.

Arrangements that are implemented to ensure the safety of 'lone workers' need to be subject to a monitoring regime which is commensurate with the risk, by their supervisor/line manager. (This might range from periodic visits, to the implementation of Permits to Work or CCTV observation).

'Lone workers' have a responsibility to inform their line manager if they have any concerns over the effectiveness and efficiency of the agreed arrangements and they should also be subject to a periodic review.

The purpose of a risk assessment is to establish:

Whether the work can be done safely by an unaccompanied person and the arrangements necessary to ensure that a lone worker is not exposed to a greater risk than those who work together.

For example:

Does the workplace present a special risk to a lone worker? (e.g. due to the environment, location, contents, unfamiliarity, ...)

Does the work activity present a special risk to a lone worker? (equipment, process, substance, location, time, members of public, handling cash, e.g.)

Is there a safe way in and out for one person? (both in the course of the normal work and in the event of an emergency)

Can the equipment in use be adequately controlled, handled by one person?

Can all goods, substances and materials in use be safely handled by one person?

Is the working environment appropriate? (E.g. heating, lighting, ventilation etc.)

Does the lone worker have, or have access to, first aid facilities?

Does the lone worker have access to a suitable means of communication, or other means of summoning assistance, should this be required? e.g. (mobile telephone, radio, inactivity alarm, etc.)

Is there a risk of violence associated with the work activity and/or location?

Is the lone worker more at risk due to their gender or their inexperience?

Has the employee received sufficient information, instruction and training to enable the work to be undertaken safely whilst alone?

Has the employee received specific training in how to respond to foreseeable emergencies which may arise in the course of their work alone?

Is the lone worker medically fit to undertake the work alone? (E.g. health checks, health monitoring etc.)

Are there contingency plans in place should an alert/alarm be raised by a lone worker? Are these plans well known and rehearsed? (E.g. would you or your colleagues know what to do, who to contact, etc.)

The outcomes of the risk assessment process should be written down, normally in the form of a procedure or a 'user' checklist, which defines:-

the conditions under which 'lone working' would be permitted,

the scope of the work permitted and

The arrangements necessary to ensure the safety of the 'lone worker'.

The 'lone worker' is obligated to follow the agreed procedures and protocols established to ensure their own safety and has a responsibility to ensure that the agreed arrangements are in place prior to commencing work. Where there are concerns regarding any aspect of the arrangements, advice should be sought from an appropriate, responsible person.

Where contingency plans form part of the arrangements, they should be clear, precise, communicated, practised and subject to periodic review.

Staff are encouraged to ensure that they do not place themselves, or those they are responsible for, in the situation below:

The worst case scenario is that individuals are working alone, unbeknown to others, including those responsible for their safety and well-being, for whom no safe system of work has been developed.

The HSE has published guidance on 'Lone Working', which can be found (and downloaded free) on the HSE's website:-

www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg73.pdf

Hazardous Substances

Hazardous substances include chemical and biological agents, including cleaning chemicals, adhesives, paints and substances used for science teaching. These should be kept locked away at all times not in use. Staff should not keep their own small stock.

Chemicals should always be stored in suitable containers the contents and hazards clearly labelled.

Incompatible chemicals, (e.g. oxidising agents and solvents) should be stored separately. A simple chart on how hazardous substances should be stored is attached. Hazardous liquids should be stored in suitable secondary containment that would safely contain any leakage.

To comply with the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) you need to:

Assess the risks to health arising from hazardous substances used in or created by your workplace activities.

Decide what precautions are needed. You must not carry out work which could expose your employees to hazardous substances without first considering the risks and the necessary precautions, and what else you need to do to comply with COSHH.

Prevent or adequately control exposure. You must prevent your staff and students being exposed to hazardous substances. Where preventing exposure is not reasonably practicable, then you must adequately control it.

The eight principles of control are:

Design and operate activities to minimise generation, release and spread of hazardous substances.

Take into account all relevant routes of exposure – inhalation, skin absorption and ingestion – when developing measures to control risk.

Control exposure by means that are proportionate to the health risk.

Choose the most effective and reliable control options which minimise the escape and spread of hazardous substances.

Where adequate control cannot be achieved by other means, provide, in combination with other control measures, suitable personal protective equipment (e.g. gloves, goggles, etc).

Check and review regularly all elements of control measures for their continuing effectiveness.

Inform and train all staff on the hazards and risks from the substances they work with, the measures to minimise the risks and ensure adequate supervision.

Ensure the control measures introduced do not increase the overall risk to health and safety.

For further information about hazardous substances used in science teaching please refer to the CLEAPSS guidance. For further assistance contact the Corporate Health and Safety Team on 0191 424 7431-6

Blood and other body fluids – avoiding contamination

All staff should be familiar with this procedure before having to handle blood or other body fluids.

Treat all blood and body fluids as infectious.

Cover any cuts, scratches or abrasions with a waterproof adhesive plaster before starting to clean up spills. Wear disposable gloves and, if necessary, disposable overalls.

Bio Hazard Kits, complete with gloves, aprons, absorbent granules, bio hazard disposal bags, etc. are available from the Site manager / School office.

Ask a first aider to clean and dress any wound as necessary.

Brush up absorbent materials once the fluids have been soaked up.

Clean surfaces exposed with suitable anti bacterial or disinfectant product.

Dispose of the gloves and wipe or contaminated material in a plastic bag, seal if possible, and dispose of in the main bin. If there is a yellow bag system in place, use the yellow bag and dispose in the Clinical Waste disposal bin.

Wash immediately and thoroughly where there has been accidental contact with blood or body fluid.

Medical advice should be sought immediately where exposure to blood borne pathogens has occurred.

Record incident in the accident book and complete the Accident Report Form.

Electrical Safety

Used properly, electricity is of great benefit and a good servant. Misused it can be dangerous and a poor master.

All portable appliances should be subject to Portable Appliance Testing (PAT). Unauthorised appliances should not be brought into the School unless subject to PAT and entered on the Inventory of Portable Appliances in the School.

Staff should visually check each item of electrical equipment prior to use, i.e:

Damage, e.g. cuts, abrasion to the cable covering;

Damage to the plug, e.g. casing cracked or pins bent;

Non-standard joints including taped joints in the cable; the outer covering (sheath) of the cable not being gripped where it enters the plug or equipment.

Look to see if the coloured insulation of the internal wires is showing;

damage to the outer cover of the equipment or obvious loose parts or screws;

overheating (burn marks or staining);

equipment that has been used in unsuitable e.g. wet or dusty conditions;

also, investigate any unusual odours, e.g. grease, oils, insulation, lubricants - this often is first indication of a fault.

Beware and minimise trip hazards posed by trailing cables.

The fixed electrical installation should be checked at five yearly intervals. The installation must be checked annually in areas where a Public Entertainments License applies.

Highly Flammable Liquids

Quantities of highly flammable liquids will be kept to a minimum and such substances stored in a locked metal cabinet. The cabinet should be at least 30 minutes fire resisting.

Highly Flammable Liquids must never be stored in refrigerators unless the appliance is Spark Proof

Health and Safety Inspections

Health and Safety Inspections will be undertaken once per term by the Head teacher and Site Manager. The results will be recorded and an action plan produced to address identified deficiencies. The Health and Safety Representative for the school is invited to accompany these inspections.

Work at Height

Current legislation (The Work at Height Regulations 2005) requires that work at height be avoided where possible.

A place is 'at height' if a person could be injured falling from it, even if it is at or below ground level.

Staff must:

avoid work at height where they can;

use work equipment or other measures to prevent falls where they cannot avoid working at height; and

Where they cannot eliminate the risk of a fall, use work equipment or other

Measures to minimise the distance and consequences of a fall should one occur.

The Regulations require that:

All work at height is properly planned and organised;

All work at height takes account of weather conditions that could endanger health and safety;

Those involved in work at height are trained and competent; the place where work at height is done is safe;

Equipment for work at height is appropriately inspected;

The risks from fragile surfaces are properly controlled; and the risks from falling objects are properly controlled.

Staff planning work at height must:

Ensure that no work is done at height if it is safe and reasonably practicable to do it other than at height;

Ensure that the work is properly planned, appropriately supervised, and carried out in as safe a way as is reasonably practicable;

Plan for emergencies and rescue;

Take account of the risk assessment.

For further advice, contact the Corporate Health and Safety Team.

Ladders, Stepladders and Kick Stools

Ladders and step ladders should be used only as a means of access, not as a working platform.

Extending ladders should only be used by persons who have received suitable instruction and training.

Access to roofs even retrieving balls, should not be undertaken during windy or severe weather.

Staff must not use chairs, etc., for access to high shelving or putting up displays. There should be sufficient stepladders or kick stools provided around the school. Staff should receive basic instruction in the use of step ladders to ensure that they are aware that they must not have any degree of side loading and that the top step should not be stood on, unless it is designed for this, and has a suitable rail to support the user.

There should not be any chairs in storerooms.

Ladders and stepladders should be Class 1 (Industrial) standard. Any Class 3 (Domestic) grade or wooden ladders and stepladders will be replaced with Class 1(industrial).

Ladders and stepladders should be subject to visual inspection prior to every use. A formal visual inspection should be undertaken by the Caretaker on a monthly basis and records kept. An inspection record form is attached.

Manual Handling

Manual handling - including lifting, pulling, pushing, moving and carrying - should be avoided as far as possible.

If it is not possible to avoid manual handling then the risk should be minimised by breaking the load down into smaller parts where possible. Where this is not possible mechanical aids such as trolleys should be used. It may be possible to use a 2 or more person lift. Where there are manual handling tasks to be carried out then a suitable risk assessment must be undertaken and recorded.

Where staff have to carry out manual handling operations then the appropriate level of training will be arranged.

Swimming/Therapy Pools

- a) Safe systems of work for pools.
- b) Cleanliness of water and facility and ensuring temperature is correct. Alert Site Manager where there is an issue with the water quality or temperature.
- c) Hygiene - Legionella water quality, lifesaving equipment/supervision.
- d) First Aid equipment available.
- e) Safe procedures and pool rules displayed where appropriate.
- f) Security of pool, including restricted access.
- g) Responsibility for cleaning the pool - use of chemicals etc., within the pool environment, safe handling, storage, security, etc.

Refer to the following publication - <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg179.htm>

Office Safety

The office is checked to ensure that adequate walkways are maintained that are free from tripping hazards from trailing cables, etc.

A Display Screen Equipment Assessment should be undertaken in respect of persons that habitually use computer equipment for an hour or more per day.

Adequate storage should be maintained and items stored below head height where possible. Items that are surplus to requirements should be disposed or recycled as appropriate. Where storage at height cannot be avoided suitable means of access should be readily available.

New and Expectant Mothers

When a member of staff has become pregnant the Head teacher should be notified and an appropriate assessment carried out to ensure that while at work and return to work while breastfeeding conditions are suitable.

Further information is available from the HSE document: A guide for new and expectant mothers who work. See link below. file:///H:/Downloads/3.10_New_Expectant_Mothers_17_11_16.pdf

Safety Training

The safety training needs of the school will be considered by the Senior Management Team and appropriate training arranged.

Appropriate safety training will be given to new or temporary staff at induction. As an absolute minimum, this basic training should include the procedures for fire and first aid. They should also be made aware of this safety policy and the procedures for implementing it.

The Head Teacher will arrange refresher training as necessary.

Consultation

There will be effective arrangements for joint consultation between Senior Management and representatives of staff within the School.

All staff are required to report potential hazards and if they are not satisfied with the actions taken to address their concerns they may raise the issue through their line manager. If the problem remains unresolved, then the issue may be referred to the Head teacher.

Health and Safety will be a Standing Item on the agenda staff meetings.