

Crossley Street Primary School



Health & Safety Manual

March 2023

Health and Safety Policy

Section 1: General Statement of Health and Safety Policy

The following statement sets out the health and safety objectives for Crossley Street Primary School with the aim of ensuring best practice in the management of health and safety.

Crossley Street Primary School

- Will take all reasonable steps to provide safe and healthy conditions for staff (including agency staff), pupils and others who may be affected by its activities.
- Will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with all relevant health and safety legislation.
- Will provide adequate resources to implement this policy including access to support from health and safety competent persons. Where necessary external specialist advice and assistance will be obtained.
- Accepts that health, safety and wellbeing include mental and emotional as well as physical health, safety and wellbeing.
- Accepts that health, safety and wellbeing are an integral part of all its activities and will take steps to manage these effectively.
- Expects all staff and pupils to co-operate in complying with all legal obligations and to take reasonable care of their own health, safety and wellbeing and have regard for the health, safety and wellbeing of others.
- Is committed to providing the necessary information, instruction and training to all staff and pupils where applicable.
- Acknowledges and actively supports the role and responsibilities of employee representatives and will give full cooperation to elected safety representatives of recognised trade unions to enable them to carry out their duties effectively.
- Is committed to regular evaluation and review of its health and safety policy to ensure its objectives are met and, as necessary, to modifying the policy in light of new legislation and other changing circumstances.
- Will review this health and safety policy document annually.
- Will set out full details for the organisation of, and arrangements for, the management of health, safety and wellbeing in the school.

Section 2

Organisation & Responsibilities

Responsibilities for implementing and reviewing the school's Health and Safety Policy are detailed below:

1.0 The Governing Body.

The Governing Body of a Community or Voluntary Controlled School has collective responsibility for ensuring that the Leeds City Council Schools' Health and Safety Policy is adopted and that arrangements are in place for the school to implement it.

2.0 Management Structure.

2.1 The Governing Body is responsible for strategic health and safety planning and for periodic review of health and safety performance.

2.2 The Headteacher is responsible to the Governing Body for securing the full implementation of the school's Health and Safety Policy.

2.3 Members of the school senior leadership team are responsible for ensuring that the requirements of this policy and all other legislative requirements are managed under the normal method of delegated powers and by establishing a system of appraisal of management performance against agreed health and safety performance indicators.

2.4 Heads of departments are responsible for ensuring that the requirements of this policy and legal requirements specific to their sphere of activity are implemented and monitored.

2.5 'Competent person'

The Caretaker has responsibility as the competent person for: -

1. advising the Headteacher (if the competent person is not the Headteacher); Governors and Senior Leadership Team in the discharge of their legal duties and responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and all regulations made there-under, and;

2. for liaising with Leeds City Council's Health, Safety and Wellbeing Advisers and enforcement officers such as HM Inspectors of the Health and Safety Executive and West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Officers.

2.6 Leeds City Council's Health, Safety and Wellbeing Advisers are responsible for providing advice and support to schools on all aspects of health and safety.

Section 3

Implementation

3.1 The Governing Body, Headteacher, and Senior Leadership Team will implement the school's Health and Safety Policy by:

- Ensuring adequate resources, in terms of both personnel and finance, are allocated to secure implementation of the policy.
- Planning, organising and implementing arrangements to eliminate or control significant risks and to comply with relevant statutory provisions.
- Determining and documenting procedures, operational instructions, guidelines and codes of practice to implement the school's health and safety policy.
- Ensuring that responsible managers and staff are competent through recruitment, training or otherwise, to carry out their duties for health, safety and welfare.
- Setting health and safety performance standards to ensure effective management within their areas of control.
- Ensuring that all hazards are identified, significant findings of assessments are recorded, groups exposed to risks are identified and the actions taken to protect the health and safety of these groups are recorded.
- Ensuring that all staff (including agency staff) are familiar with, and comply with, the requirements of the school's health and safety policy and that all new staff are inducted into the requirements of the health and safety policy and any school and Leeds City Council guidelines and instructions.
- Ensuring that any contractors and sub-contractors who work in school premises have effective arrangements for health, safety and welfare.
- Establishing systems for monitoring all arrangements to ensure that they are working effectively.
- Reviewing information from monitoring systems to ensure continued and effective compliance with performance standards.
- Ensuring that Headteachers, SLT and Sub Committees of the Governing Body report at least annually to the Full Governing Body on health and safety issues within the school.

3.2 Heads of Department / Team Leaders will ensure that:

- Any health, safety and wellbeing matters that they cannot deal with directly are brought to the attention of the Headteacher or Senior Leadership Team.
- Significant hazards within their department are identified with suitable and sufficient risk assessments undertaken, which will include general workplace risks, substance risks, equipment risks etc.
- Safety measures and controls identified by risk assessments are implemented.
- Staff (including agency staff) and pupils are provided with suitable and sufficient information, instruction and training to enable compliance with this policy and legal standards.
- A system to manage health, safety and wellbeing within their department is implemented, which may include a schedule of inspection, service and maintenance arrangements for equipment and services and accident investigation arrangements.
- Equipment and substances are suitable for the purpose they are used.
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3.3 Staff (including agency staff).

All staff (including agency staff) are responsible for:

- Complying with the school's health and safety policy.
- Taking reasonable care of their own health and safety and that of others affected by their acts or omissions.
- Co-operating with the school's Governing Body, Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team in complying with all relevant statutory provisions.
- Using all work equipment and substances in accordance with the information, instruction and training received.
- Not intentionally misusing anything provided in the interests of health, safety and welfare.
- Following all prescribed safe working practices and not working while unfit to do so.
- Reporting to the school's Governing Body, Headteacher and/or Senior Leadership Team any health and safety problem they cannot deal with themselves or any shortcoming they find in the health, safety and welfare arrangements.

3.4 Pupils.

All pupils will be responsible for:

- Complying with school rules and procedures.
- Taking reasonable care of themselves and others.
- Co-operating with their teachers and other school staff.
- Using equipment and substances in the manner in which they are instructed.
- Not misusing anything provided for the purposes of health and safety.
- Reporting anything they believe to be hazardous or dangerous to their Teacher/ Form Tutor/ Headteacher.

3.5 Consultation.

- There will be full consultation with representatives elected by the trade unions recognised by the school and Leeds City Council regarding the establishment and implementation of all of the school's health, safety and welfare arrangements in accordance with agreed consultation arrangements.

Section 4

Audit and Review

The Principal means used for reviewing the school's Health and Safety Policy will be:

- Audits of health and safety management in individual departments.
- Annual reports to the Governing Body covering the management of health and safety within the school.
- Regular evaluation and review to ensure that new legislation or other changing circumstances are incorporated within the Health and Safety Policy and that the Policy remains effective.
- Evaluation of health and safety management against performance indicators to ensure that objectives are met and that best value provision is obtained.

Section 5

Standards affecting the whole school

The general arrangements and standards required to implement the school's Health and Safety Policy are set out within the Health and Safety Handbook for Schools. The contents are outlined below and can be found on the Leeds for learning Health and Safety Pages.

1. Safety Management System
2. Accident reporting and Investigation
3. Asbestos
4. Building work contracts
5. Consultation with employees
6. Contractors
7. Display Screen Equipment
8. Educational Visits
9. Electrical appliances
10. Emergency evacuations & emergency planning
11. First-aid
12. Fire safety
13. Gas, electric and water services
14. Glazing
15. Health and Safety in Design and Technology workshops, textiles and food technology.
16. Health and Safety in Science.
17. Jewellery and other personal effects
18. Liquefied Petroleum Gas and other temporary heating
19. Lifting equipment
20. Lone & isolated working
21. Manual Handling
22. Medication
23. Mobile Phones
24. Monitoring processes
25. New and expectant mothers
26. Noise

27. Occupational health
28. Permits to work
29. Personal protective equipment
30. Play areas
31. Purchasing equipment
32. Pupils carrying out work activities in school
33. Risk Assessment
34. Safe use of ladders, step ladders and trestles
35. Safe practice in Physical Education
36. Security and personal safety
37. School premises safety
38. Stage Equipment
39. Stress at work
40. Substances
41. Training records
42. Work at height
43. Work equipment
44. Work experience and Young Persons' safety
45. Work related violence
46. Workplace Health, Safety And Welfare

Arrangements

1. Safety Management System

Schools should follow the general requirements outlined within the Education Service Advisory Committee document "Managing health and safety in schools".

A safety management system will enable schools to implement, monitor and review all aspects of health and safety management. A Safety Management System outlines who has responsibility for undertaking key health and safety tasks, such as risk assessments.

2. Accident reporting and Investigation

Accidents should be recorded and reported in accordance with the procedure outlined in guidance documents. Accidents should be investigated as soon as possible after occurrence and should be investigated by management of the premises in which the accident happened. Investigation provides reactive monitoring data.

3. Asbestos

Any part of the building fabric containing asbestos must not be worked upon until the asbestos within it has been made safe, either by removal or enclosure.

Any work undertaken that releases asbestos fibres into the air is placing everyone in the premises at significant risk of contracting asbestos related disease.

4. Building work contracts

Serious injuries can occur where building work is undertaken. Schools need to ensure that building contractors do not place pupils or staff at risk from their activities. This requires management control of any building work undertaken.

The guidance document includes checklists and a hand out sheet outlining basic rules for contractors to follow.

5. Consultation with employees

Employers have a legal duty to consult with all members of staff in respect to health and safety issues. Schools will need to establish mechanisms to ensure that all staff are consulted on any health and safety issue that affects them. This may be achieved by setting up a health and safety committee or by including health and safety as an agenda item on all staff team meetings.

6. Contractors

Any contractor working on a school site has to be managed to ensure that they do not import any risks into school without ensuring that suitable precautions are in place and that staff and pupils are informed if they will be affected.

Similarly schools must ensure that contractors are not placed at risk from any school activities.

7. Display Screen Equipment

Wherever a member of staff uses a computer workstation an assessment must be carried out to ensure that the person is not likely to be placed at risk from using the equipment. Anyone who is classed as a 'user' – i.e. they have no option but to use a computer and use it for at least one hour a day every day – is entitled to an eye or eyesight test that will be paid for by the employer.

8. Educational Visits

The guidance contained with the Handbook for Educational Visits should be followed where any such visits take place. Visits must be planned and well managed; staff leading visits must be competent to lead the visit.

9. Electrical appliances

Schools must manage the use and testing of electrical appliances. Frequency of testing will depend upon the type and use of equipment, varying from every year to every four years.

10. Emergency Evacuation and Planning

Systems should be implemented to ensure that all occupants of the premises can be evacuated in an emergency. Different systems may be required depending upon the cause of the evacuation – e.g. fire and bomb evacuations.

Schools should also plan for emergencies. The type of emergency may be loss due to fire, events occurring during an educational visit, loss of electricity, major road traffic accident outside the school gates etc. Arrangements should also be in place to enable normal operation to continue alongside the management of an emergency.

11. First-aid

Details first-aid requirements for schools. Every school must ensure that first-aid is provided to all staff. Provision of first-aid to pupils is part of the common law duty of 'in loco parentis'.

12. Fire Safety

All schools must carry out a fire risk assessment; procedures should also be in place to ensure that alarm systems, fire fighting equipment, lighting etc, is regularly tested and maintained in a good condition.

13. Gas Electric and Water services

Schools should ensure that gas, electricity and water services are maintained in a safe condition. Gas services and appliances should be regularly inspected and tested by a Gas Safe registered gas engineer; mains electricity should be inspected and tested at least once every five years; water services must be maintained in a condition that does not give rise to risk.

14. Glazing

Assessments should be undertaken to ensure that any glass that is likely to cause injury if it is broken is either replaced or made safe.

15. Health and Safety in Design and Technology

Specific procedures should be implemented within Design and Technology departments to reduce risks from equipment and processes to a minimum.

16. Health and Safety in Science

Specific procedures should be implemented within Science departments to reduce risks from equipment and processes to a minimum.

17. Jewellery and other Personal Effects

Schools should ensure that they have specific policies relating to the range and type of jewellery and other personal effects that pupils can wear whilst at school as certain items can place children at risk of injury.

18. Liquefied Petroleum Gas and other temporary heating

Wherever schools require temporary heating specific criteria need to be addressed prior to introducing supplementary LPG or electric heating.

19. Lifting Equipment

Any equipment used for lifting objects or people must be maintained in a good condition. The frequency for inspection and testing will be in accordance with legal requirements outlined in the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER)

20. Lone & Isolated Working

Systems should be implemented in workplaces where staff will neither work by themselves or in isolated parts of the building to help reduce the likelihood of injuries being caused and to enable assistance to be obtained if required.

21. Manual Handling

Activities involving manual handling that may cause injury must be assessed to determine the most effective way to reduce the likelihood that injury will occur and to identify any equipment or change in procedures that should be implemented to reduce risk.

22. Medication

Wherever possible arrangements should be made to prevent the need for any medication to be given to any pupil at school, however there will be instances where this is difficult to achieve. Whenever this is likely to occur schools need to ensure that clear procedures are followed to reduce the likelihood that incorrect dosage and incorrect medication will be given.

23. Mobile Phones

Concerns have been raised regarding the installation of mobile phone base stations and the possible ill-health effects caused by the use of mobile phones. Current guidance points to there not being any significant effects yet known to exist, although a precautionary approach is advised.

24. Monitoring Processes

Schools, in common with any other workplace, need to monitor the provision of health and safety within the workplace. This can be achieved by undertaking regular inspections of the premises, investigation and analysis of accidents and audit of systems and procedures.

25. New and Expectant Mothers Guidance

Specific assessments need to be carried out wherever a new or expectant mother is at work. The assessments should take into consideration any condition of the work that could adversely affect the mother and/or unborn child.

26. Noise

There are limits contained within the Noise at Work Regulations that should not be exceeded. If they are specific requirements must be put into place. Noise levels below the statutory limits should also be minimised wherever possible, particularly where the level is likely to affect the effectiveness of the teaching environment.

27. Occupational Health

The most important asset to any organisation is its staff. Schools should have regard to ensuring that proactive and reactive strategies are in place in respect to maintaining and promoting good health amongst staff.

28. Permits to Work

High risk activities in Schools may, on occasion, require very strict controls. Control can be applied using a permit to work system. A permit will identify the safe conditions and requirements that must be present before any work can be started and must be signed by a senior manager. The following permits used in school:

- Hot Work Permit
- Electrical
- Permit to work

29. Personal Protective Equipment

The use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must only be considered as a last resort after every other possibility to reduce risk has been examined, as a temporary measure until further improvements can be made, and where it is not possible to provide any other means to reduce risk – e.g. for some cleaning tasks. PPE has to be carefully selected, with consultation on the type to be used being undertaken with the people who will be required to use it. It must be suitable for the task and be maintained in a safe condition.

30. Play Areas

Any play area, and the equipment installed within the area, provided for pupil use must be designed, installed and monitored in accordance with national standards.

31. Purchase of equipment

Equipment must be purchased from reputable suppliers and should conform to any relevant national standards and, where applicable, meet minimum health and safety requirements.

32. Pupils carrying out work activities in school

Measures should be in place to ensure that whenever any pupils are requested to undertake any work activity on behalf of the school suitable and sufficient precautions are taken to prevent them being placed at significant risk of injury.

33. Risk Assessment

Any work related activity that may place any person that may be affected by it at risk of injury or ill health should be assessed. The risk assessment should identify the likelihood that harm will occur and the most likely severity of that harm. Measures to reduce the risk can then be identified and put in place.

Specific legislation outlines assessments that need to be made for particular types of activity – such as manual handling, use of display screen equipment, noise & hazardous substances. A general risk assessment will identify where such other assessments are required. Once suitable means for reducing risk have been identified those measures need to be implemented. Assessments should be reviewed on a regular basis and at least every year or whenever there is a significant change to the activity or people likely to be affected by it.

34. Safe use of Ladders

Injuries received from the incorrect use of ladders can be severe. There are measures that should be taken whenever such equipment is used to reduce the likelihood of injury occurring.

35. Safe Practice in Physical Education

Specific procedures should be implemented within Physical Education departments to reduce risks from equipment and activities to a minimum.

36. Security and Personal Safety

The safety and well being of staff and pupils within schools can be affected by security and personal safety issues. Schools today need to ensure that appropriate measures are implemented according to their location and the likelihood that they may be affected by intruders, vandals and arsonists.

37. School Premises safety

Linking with monitoring processes, a proactive measure that can be taken to reduce the likelihood of accidents occurring is to undertake regular inspections of the premises. Inspections can be carried out using a checklist pro-forma, although the person undertaking the inspection will need to be aware of the safety issues to be checked. These guidance documents provide a pro forma and outline common workplace safety issues that may be found within schools.

38. Stage Equipment

Specific requirements need to be addressed to ensure that equipment used on and around a school stage is maintained in a safe condition.

39. Stress

An increasing issue within all workplaces is the subject of stress. Stress can affect different people in different ways. The causes of stress can vary greatly. Staff need to be able to identify signs of stress and to take early preventive action to deal with the things causing them stress and to enable them to cope with whatever issues are affecting them. Managers need to be able to identify possible causes and to take action to reduce the likelihood that staff will become stressed. Suitable measures must also be in place to enable anyone suffering from stress related symptoms to receive appropriate help and assistance.

40. Substances

Substances that are used or are produced as the result of a process that may cause harm to anyone exposed to them must be assessed and have measures taken to reduce the risks presented. Substances can be hazardous to health, such as solvent vapours, and can also have physical characteristics that could cause harm and injury, such as a flammable liquid.

41. Training Records

Schools should maintain records of all training staff have received. A training needs analysis should be carried out for each member of staff and each staff group. Risk assessments should be used to help identify training needs.

42. Work Experience for Pupils & Young Persons' Safety

Systems should be in place to ensure that any establishment accepting any pupil on work experience has informed the pupil's parents or guardians about the risks that may be encountered. Checks need to be made to ensure that the organisation to which a pupil is sent complies with health and safety requirements. Young people must be considered as being at greater risk than adults due to their age and maturity. This should be considered whenever a risk assessment is undertaken for anything that may affect a young person or child.

43. Work at Heights

Any work undertaken must have suitable risk control measures in place. Work at height will include working with ladders & step ladders as well as using mobile tower scaffolds and erecting edge protection to the sides of buildings.

44. Work Equipment

Any equipment used at work must be suitable for the purpose for which it will be used and only used for the purpose for which it has been designed. Equipment should be maintained in a safe condition and taken out of use if it becomes defective. People using equipment should be provided with training that is commensurate with the equipment being used.

45. Work Related Violence

Studies have shown that school staff can be subject to incidents of violence from members of the public as well as colleagues. An incident will be violent if the victim perceives it to have been, and can range from verbal insults and verbal abuse to threats with a weapon and physical assault. In addition to the measures that can form part of a school's security and personal safety assessment measures are available to help reduce continued acts of a violent nature.

46. Workplace Health, Safety & Welfare

Regulations outline the minimum standards that all workplaces should comply with to ensure the health, safety and welfare of staff. Schools are subject to additional Schools Premises Regulations that go further than the Regulations that affect other workplaces for certain issues, such as indoor temperature.

Some parts of the Health, Safety and Welfare Regulations are also not applicable to school classrooms, such as the requirements for minimum working space. The majority of the Regulations do, however, apply, and are concerned with health issues such as having suitable and sufficient lighting, waste removal and adequate ventilation; safety issues such as prevention of falls from height, management of traffic in and around the premises, provision of adequate flooring and safety of doors and gates; welfare issues such as the provision of a rest area for pregnant women and nursing mothers, suitable facilities for changing clothing if required, provision of suitable drinking water and provision of suitable toilet facilities.