

St Laurence Church Infant School

Health and Safety Policy



Approved by: Full Governing Board

Last revised on: December 2024

Next review due by: December 2025

1. Aims

Our schools aim to:

- Provide and maintain a safe and healthy environment
- Establish and maintain safe working procedures amongst staff, pupils and all visitors to the school site
- Have robust procedures in place in case of emergencies
- Ensure that the premises and equipment are maintained safely, and are regularly inspected

2. Legislation

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education on [health and safety in schools](#) and the following legislation:

- [The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974](#), which sets out the general duties employers have towards employees and duties relating to lettings
- [The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992](#), which require employers to make an assessment of the risks to the health and safety of their employees
- [The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999](#), which require employers to
 - carry out risk assessments, make arrangements to implement necessary measures, and arrange for appropriate information and training
- [The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002](#), which require employers to control substances that are hazardous to health
- [The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations \(RIDDOR\) 2013](#), which state that some accidents must be reported to the Health and Safety Executive and set out the timeframe for this and how long records of such accidents must be kept
- [The Health and Safety \(Display Screen Equipment\) Regulations 1992](#), which require employers to carry out digital screen equipment assessments and states users' entitlement to an eyesight test
- [The Gas Safety \(Installation and Use\) Regulations 1998](#), which require work on gas fittings to be carried out by someone on the Gas Safe Register
- [The Regulatory Reform \(Fire Safety\) Order 2005](#), which requires employers to take general fire precautions to ensure the safety of their staff
- [The Work at Height Regulations 2005](#), which requires employers to protect their staff from falls from height
- The school follows [national guidance published by Public Health England](#) when responding to infection control issues.
- Sections of this policy are also based on the [statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage](#).

3. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board

- The Local Governing Body will delegate day-to-day responsibility to the Head Teacher.
- The governors have a duty to take reasonable steps to ensure that staff and pupils are not exposed to risks to their health and safety. This applies to activities on or off the school premises.
- The governing board also has a duty to:
 - Assess the risks to staff and others affected by school activities in order to identify and introduce the health and safety measures necessary to manage those risks
 - Inform employees about risks and the measures in place to manage them
 - Ensure that adequate health and safety training is provided

Head Teacher

The Head Teacher is responsible for health and safety day-to-day. This involves:

- Implementing the health and safety policy
- Ensuring there is enough staff to safely supervise pupils
- Ensuring that the school building and premises are safe and regularly inspected
- Providing adequate training for school staff
- Reporting to the governing board on health and safety matters
- Ensuring appropriate evacuation procedures are in place and regular fire drills are held
- Ensuring that in their absence, health and safety responsibilities are delegated to another member of staff
- Ensuring all risk assessments are completed and reviewed
- Monitoring cleaning contracts, and ensuring cleaners are appropriately trained and have access to personal protective equipment, where necessary
- In the Head Teacher's absence, the Deputy Head Teacher assumes the above day-to-day health and safety responsibilities.

Health and safety lead

The duties of Health and Safety at St Laurence Church Infant School will be lead by the Head Teacher, Bursar, Building Site Supervisor and Catering Supervisor.

Staff

School staff have a duty to take care of pupils in the same way that a prudent parent would do so staff will:

- Take reasonable care of their own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by what they do at work

- Co-operate with the school on health and safety matters
- Work in accordance with training and instructions
- Inform the appropriate person of any work situation representing a serious and immediate danger so that remedial action can be taken
- Model safe and hygienic practice for pupils
- Understand emergency evacuation procedures and feel confident in implementing them
- Pupils and parents
- Pupils and parents are responsible for following the school's health and safety advice, on-site and off-site, and for reporting any health and safety incidents to a member of staff.
- Contractors
- Contractors will agree health and safety practices with the headteacher before starting work. Before work begins the contractor will provide evidence that they have completed an adequate risk assessment of all their planned work.

4 Site security

- The Building Site Supervisor is responsible for the security of the school site in and out of school hours. They are responsible for visual inspections of the site, and for the intruder and fire alarm systems.
- The Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher and Site Supervisor are key holders and will respond to an emergency.

5 Fire

- Emergency exits, assembly points and assembly point instructions are clearly identified by safety signs and notices.
- Fire risk assessment of the premises will be reviewed regularly and a copy is available in the main school office.
- Emergency evacuations are practiced at least once a term. The fire alarm is a loud continuous bell.
- Fire alarm testing will take place once per week.
- New staff will be trained in fire safety and all staff and pupils will be made aware of any new fire risks.

In the event of a fire:

- The alarm will be raised immediately by whoever discovers the fire and emergency services contacted. Evacuation procedures will also begin immediately
- Fire extinguishers may be used by staff only, and only then if staff are trained in how to operate them and are confident they can use them without putting themselves or others at risk

- Staff and pupils will congregate at the assembly point. This is the upper playground.
- Class teachers will take a register of pupils, which will then be checked against the attendance register of that day
- The Bursar will take a register of all staff
- Staff and pupils will remain outside the building until the emergency services say it is safe to re-enter
- The school will have special arrangements in place for the evacuation of people with mobility needs. These children have a Personalised Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP). Fire risk assessments will also pay particular attention to those with disabilities.

6 COSHH

Schools are required to control hazardous substances, which can take many forms, including:

- Chemicals
- Products containing chemicals
- Fumes
- Dusts
- Vapours
- Mists
- Gases and asphyxiating gases
- Germs that cause diseases, such as leptospirosis or legionnaires disease

Control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH) risk assessments are completed by the Designated Site Manager or equivalent and circulated to all employees who work with hazardous substances. Staff will also be provided with protective equipment, where necessary.

Our staff use and store hazardous products in accordance with instructions on the product label. All hazardous products are kept in their original containers, with clear labelling and product information and kept in a locked secure cupboard away from children's reach.

Any hazardous products are disposed of in accordance with specific disposal procedures. Emergency procedures, including procedures for dealing with spillages, are displayed near where hazardous products are stored and in areas where they are routinely used.

6.1 Gas safety

Installation, maintenance and repair of gas appliances and fittings will be carried out by a competent Gas Safe registered engineer

Gas pipework, appliances and flues are regularly maintained

All rooms with gas appliances are checked to ensure that they have adequate ventilation

6.2 Legionella

A water risk assessment is to be completed termly by the nominated contractor for statutory testing within the school.

The Site Manager is responsible for ensuring that the identified operational controls are conducted and recorded in the school's water log book

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

The risks from legionella are mitigated by the following:

- Temperature checks
- heating of water
- All water outlets to be run for half an hour after each holiday

6.3 Asbestos

Staff are briefed on the hazards of asbestos, the location of any asbestos in the school and the action to take if they suspect they have disturbed it.

Arrangements are in place to ensure that contractors are made aware of any asbestos on the premises and that it is not disturbed by their work.

Contractors will be advised that if they discover material which they suspect could be asbestos, they will stop work immediately until the area is declared safe.

A record is kept of the location of asbestos that has been found on the school site.

7 Equipment

All equipment and machinery is maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. In addition, maintenance schedules outline when extra checks should take place

When new equipment is purchased, it is checked to ensure that it meets appropriate educational standards

All equipment is stored in the appropriate storage containers and areas. All containers are labelled with the correct hazard sign and contents

7.1 Electrical equipment

All staff are responsible for ensuring that they use and handle electrical equipment sensibly and safely

Any pupil or volunteer who handles electrical appliances does so under the supervision of the member of staff who so directs them

Any potential hazards will be reported to the Senior Site Manager immediately

Permanently installed electrical equipment is connected through a dedicated isolator switch and adequately earthed

Only trained staff members can check plugs

Where necessary a portable appliance test (PAT) will be carried out by a competent person

All isolators switches are clearly marked to identify their machine

Electrical apparatus and connections will not be touched by wet hands and will only be used in dry conditions

Maintenance, repair, installation and disconnection work associated with permanently installed or portable electrical equipment is only carried out by a competent person

7.2 PE equipment

Pupils are taught how to carry out and set up PE equipment safely and efficiently. Staff check that equipment is set up safely

Any concerns about the condition of the gym floor or other apparatus will be reported to the Site Supervisor.

PE equipment is checked annually by a certified company and termly by the Sports Coach and Site Supervisor

7.3 Display screen equipment

All staff who use computers daily as a significant part of their normal work have a display screen equipment (DSE) assessment carried out. 'Significant' is taken to be continuous/near continuous spells of an hour or more at a time

Staff identified as DSE users are entitled to an eyesight test for DSE use upon request, and at regular intervals thereafter, by a qualified optician (and corrective glasses provided if required specifically for DSE use.)

8 Lone working

Lone working may include:

- Late working
- Home or site visits
- Weekend working
- Site manager duties
- Site cleaning duties
- Working in a single occupancy office

Potentially dangerous activities, such as those where there is a risk of falling from height, will not be undertaken when working alone. If there are any doubts about the task to be performed

then the task will be postponed until other staff members are available.

If lone working is to be undertaken, a colleague, friend or family member will be informed about where the member of staff is and when they are likely to return.

The lone worker will ensure that they are medically fit to work alone.

9 Working at height

We will ensure that work is properly planned, supervised and carried out by competent people with the skills, knowledge and experience to do the work.

In addition:

- The Site Manager retains ladders for working at height
- Pupils are prohibited from using ladders
- Staff will wear appropriate footwear and clothing when using ladders
- Contractors are expected to provide their own ladders for working at height
- Before using a ladder, staff are expected to conduct a visual inspection to ensure its safety
- Access to high levels, such as roofs, is only permitted by trained persons

10 Manual handling

It is up to individuals to determine whether they are fit to lift or move equipment and furniture. If an individual feels that to lift an item could result in injury or exacerbate an existing condition, they will ask for assistance.

The school will ensure that proper mechanical aids and lifting equipment are available in school, and that staff are trained in how to use them safely.

Staff and pupils are expected to use the following basic manual handling procedure:

- Plan the lift and assess the load. If it is awkward or heavy, use a mechanical aid, such as a trolley, or ask another person to help
- Take the more direct route that is clear from obstruction and is as flat as possible
- Ensure the area where you plan to offload the load is clear
- When lifting, bend your knees and keep your back straight, feet apart and angled out. Ensure the load is held close to the body and firmly. Lift smoothly and slowly and avoid twisting, stretching and reaching where practicable

11 Off-site visits

The school has an Educational Visits Policy which is reviewed every three years. It complies with national and local guidance particularly with regard to the duty of care, supervision and assessment of risk.

When taking pupils off the school premises, we will ensure that:

- Risk assessments will be completed where off-site visits and activities require them. They will be agreed by the Educational Visits Co-Ordinator.
- All off-site visits are appropriately staffed
- Staff will take a mobile phone, a portable first aid kit, information about the specific medical needs of pupils along with the parents' contact details
- There will always be at least one first aider on school trips and visits. For trips and visits with pupils in the Early Years Foundation Stage, the first aider will have a current paediatric first aid certificate, as required by the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

12 Lettings

This policy applies to lettings. Those who hire any aspect of the school site or any facilities will be made aware of the content of the school's health and safety policy, and will have responsibility for complying with it.

13 Violence at work

We believe that staff should not be in any danger at work, and will not tolerate violent or threatening behaviour towards our staff.

All staff will report any incidents of aggression or violence (or near misses) directed to themselves to their line manager/headteacher immediately. This applies to violence from pupils, visitors or other staff.

14 Smoking

Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the school premises.

15 Infection prevention and control (Please also see Covid Addendum)

We follow national guidance published by UK Health Security Agency (formerly Public Health England) when responding to infection control issues. We will encourage staff and pupils to follow this good hygiene practice, outlined below, where applicable.

15.1 Handwashing

- Wash hands with liquid soap and warm water, and dry with paper towels
- Always wash hands after using the toilet, before eating or handling food, and after handling animals
- Cover all cuts and abrasions with waterproof dressings

15.2 Coughing and sneezing

- Follow a Catch It, Bin It, Kill It approach - Cover mouth and nose with a tissue, dispose of tissue in a lidded bin, wash hands after using or disposing of tissues
- Spitting is discouraged

15.3 Personal protective equipment

- Wear disposable non-powdered vinyl or latex-free CE-marked gloves and disposable plastic aprons where there is a risk of splashing or contamination with blood/body fluids (for example, nappy changing or treating wounds)
- Wear goggles if there is a risk of splashing to the face
- Use the correct personal protective equipment when handling cleaning chemicals

15.4 Cleaning of the environment

- Clean the environment, including toys and equipment, frequently and thoroughly

15.5 Cleaning of blood and body fluid spillages

- Clean up all spillages of blood, faeces, saliva, vomit, nasal and eye discharges immediately and wear personal protective equipment.
- When spillages occur, clean using a product that combines both a detergent and a disinfectant and use as per manufacturer's instructions. Ensure it is effective against bacteria and viruses and suitable for use on the affected surface
- Never use mops for cleaning up blood and body fluid spillages - use disposable paper towels and discard clinical waste as described below
- A spillage kit is available for blood spills or vomit

15.6 Laundry

- Wash laundry in a separate dedicated facility
- Wash soiled linen separately and at the hottest wash the fabric will tolerate
- Wear personal protective clothing when handling soiled linen
- Bag children's soiled clothing to be sent home, never rinse by hand

15.7 Clinical waste

- Always segregate domestic and clinical waste, in accordance with local policy
- Used nappies/pads, gloves, aprons and soiled dressings are stored in correct clinical waste bags in the foot-operated bin in the medical room
- Remove clinical waste with a registered waste contractor
- Remove all clinical waste bags when they are two-thirds full and store in a dedicated, secure area while awaiting collection

15.8 Pupils vulnerable to infection

Some medical conditions make pupils vulnerable to infections that would rarely be serious in most children. The SENCO will liaise with parents of these pupils to record this information on

a One Page Profile, Physical Disability Management Plan or or Medical Alert Card as appropriate.

These children are particularly vulnerable to chickenpox, measles or slapped cheek disease (parvovirus B19) and, if exposed to either of these, the parent/carer will be informed promptly and further medical advice sought.

15.9 Exclusion periods for infectious diseases

The school will follow recommended exclusion periods outlined by the NHS and Public Health England, summarised in appendix 1.

15.10 COVID 19 - Health and Safety Policy Update

St Laurence Church Infant School is committed to ensuring the health and welfare of staff, pupils and visitors to our establishments during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The school has continued to undertake risk assessments during the COVID-19 pandemic. A detailed risk assessment has been undertaken and an action plan to make any necessary adjustments to mitigate risk has been produced.

In making a risk assessment, the following Health and Safety elements were considered:

- Buildings & Facilities
- Emergency Evacuation
- Cleaning & Waste Disposal
- Classrooms
- Staffing
- Group Sizes
- Social Distancing
- Catering
- PPE
- Response to suspected/confirmed Covid-19 cases
- Curriculum/learning environment
- Communication
- Governance
- School events (including trips)

The risk assessment and any accompanying action plans are dynamic and are regularly reviewed to ensure they meet current need. All appropriate documentation is shared with staff and any necessary training to support implementation of the plan is provided. The most recent Outbreak Management Plan with enhanced risk reduction measures is available on the school website and staffroom notice board.

Staff, parents and visitors are made aware of the school's infection control procedures and contents of associated risk assessments in relation to coronavirus.

16 New and expectant mothers

Risk assessments will be carried out whenever any employee or pupil notifies the school that they are pregnant.

Appropriate measures will be put in place to control risks identified. Some specific risks are summarised below:

- Chickenpox can affect the pregnancy if a woman has not already had the infection. Expectant mothers should report exposure to antenatal carer and GP at any stage of exposure. Shingles is caused by the same virus as chickenpox, so anyone who has not had chickenpox is potentially vulnerable to the infection if they have close contact with a case of shingles
- If a pregnant woman comes into contact with measles or German measles (rubella), she should inform her antenatal carer and GP immediately to ensure investigation
- Slapped cheek disease (parvovirus B19) can occasionally affect an unborn child. If exposed early in pregnancy (before 20 weeks), the pregnant woman should inform her antenatal care and GP as this must be investigated promptly

17 Occupational stress

We are committed to promoting high levels of health and wellbeing and recognise the importance of identifying and reducing workplace stressors through risk assessment.

Systems are in place within the school for responding to individual concerns and monitoring staff workloads.

The School considers its staff wellbeing to be of most importance and further policies are in place like the Managing Attendance policy to support staff. This policy ensures appropriate risk assessments and welfare meetings are regularly completed and If necessary co-ordinate any referrals to occupational health for advice and guidance on a return to work and reasonable adjustments.

The school has a designated senior leader for mental health, which is the headteacher, Mrs Catherine Smith.

18 Accident reporting

18.1 Accident Records

An accident form will be completed as soon as possible after the accident occurs by the member of staff or first aider who deals with it. Accident forms are available from the SBM in the main school office.

As much detail as possible will be supplied when reporting an accident

If the accident was a pupil, information about injuries will also be kept in the pupil's educational record.

Records held in the first aid and accident book will be retained by the school for a minimum of 3 years, in accordance with regulation 25 of the Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1979, and then securely disposed of.

All accident forms are to be sent to Birmingham City Council.

18.2 Reporting to the Health and Safety Executive

The Head Teacher will keep a record of any accident which results in a reportable injury, disease, or dangerous occurrence as defined in the RIDDOR 2013 legislation (regulations 4, 5, 6 and 7).

The Head Teacher will report these to the Health and Safety Executive as soon as is reasonably practicable and in any event within 10 days of the incident.

Reportable injuries, diseases or dangerous occurrences include:

- Death
- Specified injuries. These are:
 - Fractures, other than to fingers, thumbs and toes
 - Amputations
 - Any injury likely to lead to permanent loss of sight or reduction in sight
 - Any crush injury to the head or torso causing damage to the brain or internal organs

- Serious burns (including scalding)
- Any scalping requiring hospital treatment
- Any loss of consciousness caused by head injury or asphyxia
- Any other injury arising from working in an enclosed space which leads to hypothermia or heat-induced illness, or requires resuscitation or admittance to hospital for more than 24 hours
- Injuries where an employee is away from work or unable to perform their normal work duties for more than 7 consecutive days
- Where an accident leads to someone being taken to hospital
- Where something happens that does not result in an injury, but could have done
- Near-miss events that do not result in an injury, but could have done. Examples of near-miss events relevant to schools include, but are not limited to:
 - The collapse or failure of load-bearing parts of lifts and lifting equipment
 - The accidental release of a biological agent likely to cause severe human illness
 - The accidental release or escape of any substance that may cause a serious injury or damage to health
 - An electrical short circuit or overload causing a fire or explosion

Information on how to make a RIDDOR report is available here:

[How to make a RIDDOR report, HSE](#)

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/report.htm>

18.3 Notifying parents

- Where an accident has led to first aid being administered, First Aiders complete the first aid book. Tear off duplicate slips detailing the injury and any treatment given are sent home with the child to notify parents.
- In the case of more serious accident, the class teacher will inform parents directly at the end of the day and in the case of bumped heads or a child needing to go home or to receive medical treatment, the parent will be notified by phone by the office staff as soon as possible.

18.4 Reporting to Ofsted and child protection agencies

- The Head Teacher will notify Ofsted of any serious accident, illness or injury to, or death of, a pupil while in the school's care. This will happen as soon as is reasonably practicable, and no later than 14 days after the incident.
- The Head Teacher will also notify the child protection agencies and Local Authority of any serious accident or injury to, or the death of, a pupil while in the school's care.

19 Training

- Our staff are provided with health and safety training as part of their induction process.
- Staff receive additional specific training where it is applicable to their role e.g. catering team, BSS.

20 Monitoring

- This policy will be reviewed by the Whole Governing Board Annually

21 Links with other policies

This health and safety policy links to the following policies:

- First aid
- Fire Evacuation Plan
- Fire Safety Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy
- Accessibility plan