

## THE FOREST SCHOOL

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	<b>Health and Safety Policy</b>
<b>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR POLICY</b>	Health and Safety Officer

### WHO IS GOVERNED BY THIS POLICY

Governors, Staff, Pupils, Parents and Visitors

### POINT (S) OF CONTACT

Headteacher, Health and Safety Officer, Departmental Health and Safety representatives

### LINKS TO THE FOLLOWING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

Behaviour For Learning, First Aid, Child Protection, Safe Guarding, Lettings, Drugs And Substance Abuse, Staff Discipline Conduct And Grievance, Smoke Free Policy, Lone Working, Educational Visits, Fire Policy, Emergency Fire Plan, Invacuation Policy

### Statement of Intent

The Governing Body acknowledges West Sussex County Council's (WSSCC) Corporate Health and Safety Policy, acting as Local Education Authority and employer, and provides the following additional statement of intent to cover all school buildings, activities and undertakings for which it is responsible.

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Governing Body accepts that it has the responsibility to take all reasonably practicable steps to secure the health and safety of staff, pupils and others visiting and using the school premises.

The Governing Body 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. It will be the governors' policy to encourage, where practicable, the co-operation of all users of the establishment by monitoring, review, discussion and consultation to promote and develop measures which ensure health and safety at work.

Chair of Governors

## **THE ORGANISATION FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **Health and safety responsibilities**

The Governing Body has strategic responsibility for health and safety within all areas of the school undertakings and is answerable to the LA for its actions, on behalf of whom it makes decisions. The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that advice from competent health and safety advisers is available on health and safety matters in order to comply with regulatory controls.

The Head Teacher has responsibility for the day-to-day operation of health and safety and welfare policies and practices, as delegated by the Governing Body, within all areas of the schools undertakings. The Head Teacher is responsible for ensuring that advice from competent health and safety advisers is sought on health and safety matters in order to comply with regulatory controls.

Subject Team Leaders and Department Heads are responsible for ensuring that safe working conditions are maintained for all pupils, employees, visitors, members of the public and, where applicable, contractors throughout their individual work areas, as delegated by the Head Teacher or Governing Body and detailed in the organisation section of the policy. Subject team leaders and department heads are responsible for ensuring that advice from competent curriculum and health & safety advisers is sought on health and safety matters in order to comply with regulatory controls.

Employees are responsible for their own health and safety, that of their colleagues and members of the public who may be affected by their work activities.

## **ARRANGEMENTS FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **Accident and Incident Reporting**

All accidents and incidents, to staff, visitors and contractors are reported to WSCC using the online accident reporting system. Minor incidents to pupils are recorded locally. Major injuries and direct visits to hospital are also reported to WSCC using the online system.

The office manager is responsible for reporting accidents using the online accident reporting system. The Business Manager will monitor accidents and incidents in order to identify trends and report to the Governing Body.

### **Administering medicines**

Managing Medicines is included in the school's First Aid Policy. It details the procedures followed by the school and is based on WSCC policy and procedures. The lead for the administration of medicines is the office manager. A copy of the policy is available from the school website.

## **Asbestos**

The school holds an asbestos register and follows the WSCC Code of Practice regarding monitoring and record keeping. All contractors working on the building are made aware of the location of asbestos and sign the register. Staff are made aware of the location of asbestos and the procedures to follow if discovering disturbed asbestos. The Site Manager is responsible for asbestos management.

## **Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)**

All hazardous substances stored and used within the school are to be risk assessed and the precautions identified by the risk assessment shall be communicated to staff and implemented. These assessments will be held in the school's COSHH risk assessment file, along with the relevant data sheets and made available to all employees who are required to use these substances in their work.

The Site Manager and department representatives are the designated persons for ensuring that the COSHH risk assessment files are kept up to date and communicated to relevant staff.

## **Contractors**

Maintenance and servicing contractors receive an induction to the school site (including asbestos), its facilities and emergency arrangements. Contractors undertaking large scale building work receive all of the above and an induction pack which includes relevant school policies, procedures and risk assessments. The school adheres to the WSCC self-managed process. Contractors are continuously monitored whilst on site. The Business Manager is responsible for the management of contractors.

## **Curriculum Safety**

The governors recognise that some curriculum areas represent an increase in risk; these departments hold department specific health and safety policies and arrangements, which are regularly reviewed and communicated to the relevant staff.

- Subject team leader – responsible for Design and Technology
- Subject team leader – responsible for Drama and Theatre Arts
- Subject team leader – responsible for Physical Education
- Subject team leader – responsible for Science

## **Display Screen Equipment (DSE)**

Every DSE user will complete the online WSCC training Using Display Screen Equipment Safely and fill out the display screen equipment self-assessment (risk assessment) to make sure they know how to adjust and set up the workstation correctly. The risk assessment can be carried out by the workstation user through the e-Learning programme and assessment checklist. This is available on Health and Safety A-Z pages of the West Sussex Services for School website. It is the responsibility of the Assistant Head in charge of new staff induction to ensure assessments are completed by relevant staff.

DSE user risk assessments will be reviewed periodically by the Business Manager, at least annually, or if there have been any significant changes to the workstation. A review of the original assessment must be undertaken as soon as practicable by the line manager when an employee complains of musculoskeletal or other health issues that could be attributed to, or aggravated by, working with DSE.

### **Electricity**

All portable electrical equipment within the school is to be tested annually and records of these tests will be held at the school.

Private portable electrical equipment brought into the establishment must not be used without the appropriate checks carried out by the site team.

A 5 yearly check of the fixed electrical installation is completed and records kept. Electrical safety is managed by the Site Manager.

### **Emergency Provision/Business Continuity**

The Emergency Plan details procedures and arrangements to be used in the event of an emergency. This includes liaison with WSCC and the emergency services, provision for the continuation of school business and arrangements to contact interested parties i.e. parents and the press. Staff are trained in the procedures contained within the emergency plan and are able to take the appropriate action if required. The emergency plan is regularly monitored and reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team.

### **Fire Safety**

The Business Manager is the designated person for fire safety within the establishment. The designated person will ensure that:

- The school's fire risk assessment is kept up-to-date by annual review or in response to significant changes to premises or work arrangements.
- There is reasonable fire-fighting equipment in the school, it is maintained and maintenance records are kept.
- The fire safety equipment, e.g. fire alarm, emergency lighting, etc. is regularly checked, maintained and records are kept.
- There are no general fire hazards around the building, particularly near escape routes, escape routes are unobstructed and that there is access for fire fighters.
- Staff and pupils are practised in evacuating the premises by performing termly drills, monitoring their effectiveness and keeping records.
- Develop personal emergency evacuation plans (PEEP) for those staff and/or pupils who require additional assistance to evacuate the premises.

They will also ensure that the establishment has in place an up to date **Emergency Fire Plan**, which details the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire. The plan must be prepared to ensure that people within the establishment know the action to take if there is a fire, and to ensure the establishment can be safely evacuated.

Where necessary, the Emergency Fire Plan will include the following features:

- Action on discovering a fire and calling the fire service (these notices will also be displayed throughout the establishment)
- The location of the assembly point for roll call
- Liaison with emergency services
- Identification of key escape routes
- The type and location of fire-fighting equipment provided
- Specific responsibilities in the event of fire (adequate number of fire wardens to assist with the evacuation)
- Training (in house fire safety awareness training is carried out annually for all staff).
- Any need to co-operate or co-ordinate with other responsible persons that will be operating within the premises.

### **First Aid**

The lead First Aider is the office manager. She/he keeps a detailed list of all staff that are trained First Aiders. Details of the school's first aid trained staff are displayed in the medical/first aid room. The office manager monitors first aid training to ensure certification remains in date.

A first aid risk assessment has been completed and provision is in place based on the findings of the risk assessment. Suitable and appropriate first aid cover is provided at all times during the working day and after hours to cover breakfast and after school clubs and all staff members are aware of the arrangements in place.

The librarian is the designated person for ensuring the first aid kits are kept fully stocked and items are within date, checks of first aid kits are recorded as completed. Food

### **Food Safety**

The lead for Food Safety is Business Manger in conjunction with the Catering Manager from Sodexo. The Food Safety lead will ensure that there are arrangements for safely and hygienically receiving food from suppliers and preparing it for serving to pupils. The kitchen, servery and dining area are to be cleaned daily and after each use.

A risk assessment is in place for lunchtime meals (hot and cold). Supervisors must cordoned off a spillage, cleared up immediately and the floor surface left clean and dry before being opened up to pupils again.

All incidents are to be reported to the Food Safety Lead.

## **Glazing**

The school holds an up to date Glazing Survey and regularly monitors glazing as part of the premises inspection. The Site Manager is responsible for glazing management.

## **Gas Safety**

The school ensures that the gas boilers and other gas appliances are serviced and maintained regularly. The Site Manager is responsible for gas safety.

## **Induction**

All new employees are informed of the school's health and safety arrangements and procedures using the induction checklist available within the Health and Safety A-Z on the West Sussex Services for School website. Staff will also complete the eLearning 'Your Own and Others' and records will be kept. An Assistant Head is responsible for the induction of all staff.

## **Infection Control**

The school seeks to manage the spread of infection to prevent ill health from disease i.e. coronavirus, norovirus, hepatitis etc. The school follows the exclusion periods for all infectious diseases set by Public Health England and these are communicated to parents. Risk assessments are completed for infection control and specific diseases and communicated to staff. These risk assessments are supported by infection control procedures i.e. hand washing, increased hygiene and cleaning protocols and where identified by risk assessment personal protective equipment (PPE) is worn by staff. Where the school is aware of a risk of transmission of an infectious disease specific arrangements are in place for the administration of first aid to a potentially infectious pupil, visitor or member of staff. As required under the Reporting of Incidences Diseases Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) infectious diseases that meet the RIDDOR criteria are reported via the online accident reporting system and onto the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) by the WSCC.

## **Lone Working**

Lone working is discouraged; however where employees are required to work alone, the risks should be assessed and adequate controls put in place.

The Site Manager is responsible for risk assessing and producing lone working procedures.

## **Play equipment**

External and internal play and physical education (P.E.) equipment is serviced by Universal Services. P.E. equipment is checked prior to every use by the teaching staff and any defects are reported immediately to the Site Manager. The Site Manager regularly monitors external play equipment and defects are reported immediately using the online system. Faulty equipment is immediately decommissioned.

## **Premises Maintenance**

The internal and external premises will be inspected at regular intervals by the Site Manager, the inspections are recorded and resulting issues reported to the Senior Leadership Team. The school is to be kept clean, tidy and free from hazardous obstacles. Staff must report any defective equipment, furniture or premises issues to the Site Manager using the online reporting system. The site team will sign off and date completed actions in the online log.

## **Monitoring, audit and review**

The Governing Body shall receive termly reports on Health and Safety and will regularly inspect and monitor the premises. Regular review of procedure shall be undertaken in the light of operational practice, new laws and new policy/directives of the Local Authority. The operational practice and procedure shall be constantly monitored by the subject team leaders and department heads/local safety officer. The Governing Body shall prepare an annual action plan to address deficiencies in health and safety arising from the Headteacher's annual report as part of the Premises Development Plan PDP.

## **Moving and Handling of Customers and the Manual Handling of Inanimate Loads**

Manual handling is defined as the transporting or supporting of a load (including the lifting, putting down, pushing, pulling, carrying or moving thereof) by hand or bodily force. Consequently, the Manual Handling Operations Regulations apply to a wide range of operations; in this context it applies to both the moving of inanimate loads (manual handling) and the moving and handling of children where they are unable to do this unaided (moving and handling).

Where manual handling or moving and handling tasks are undertaken, The Governing Body will designate suitably competent staff to undertake risk assessments of the activities, and ensure staff working in these areas receive the necessary training and instruction. The Site Manager is responsible for developing and reviewing moving and manual handling risk assessment.

## **New and Expectant Mothers**

Any staff member who becomes pregnant is to inform the Headteacher of this and an appropriate risk assessment is to be undertaken following the guidance contained within the Health and Safety A-Z on the West Sussex Services for School website. The school recognises the changing nature of pregnancy and will regularly review risk assessments to ensure that working at the school will not pose any risk to their health and safety and that of their unborn child.

## **Off site activities**

All off site activities are risk assessed using the WSCC Evolve system. The schools systems are audited by WSCC Outdoor Education Advisor. A member of the SLT is the schools Educational Visit Co-ordinator (EVC)

### **Risk Assessments**

Risk assessments are a legal requirement under health and safety law and the Headteacher will assess all risks arising out of the curriculum and associated work which the school undertakes. In accordance with corporate guidance risk assessments will be recorded in writing and reviewed annually or following a significant accident and or incident.

### **Staff Welfare/Stress**

The Governing Body considers staff welfare of paramount importance, and seeks to promote a work/life balance amongst their staff. The Headteacher is constantly monitoring staff workload and every effort is made to make effective changes if staff are experiencing stress either at home or work. The school also utilises the services of Right Management and Occupational Health.

### **Training**

The school ensures that all staff are provided with adequate information, instruction and training to perform their roles. Training requirements are discussed during induction, professional development reviews and one to one supervision. Training records are kept on SIMs and reviewed by SLT.

### **Transport**

The school's minibus is checked daily by all drivers before every use and weekly by the site team, records are kept. It is maintained and serviced in accordance with the law and records kept. Only staff that have completed WSCC minibus training are permitted to drive the mini bus and are made aware of WSCC driving policy. Procedures are in place in the event of an emergency involving the minibus which are regularly reviewed, updated and communicated to staff.

### **Water quality**

The Site Manager is responsible for monitoring and recording water temperatures at the school to ensure water quality is maintained. A bi-annual water quality risk assessment is produced and reviewed by 3 C Environmental.

### **Working at height**

Teaching staff are not permitted to work at height to put up displays unless they have been ladder trained. Ladders, step stools and other access equipment are kept on a ladder register and regularly inspected and maintained.

## **Role of Governors**

Monitoring and Review of Policy

Approved by the Governing Body at their October 2020 meeting

To be reviewed annually, review date Autumn Term 2021.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair of Governors)

Date: 22.10.20