

Health and Safety Policy



Governors Meeting:	27 February 2023
Safeguarding Governor:	Jane Owens
Chair of Governors:	Gail Webb
Review:	27 February 2024

Policy Statement

Huxley CE Primary School recognises its duty of care for the health, safety and well-being of its pupils and visitors. It will take effective steps to ensure that this is achieved, so far as is reasonably practicable. In discharging this responsibility, it will take into account its parallel obligations for the Health and Safety of visitors and others who might be affected by its operations.

The provisions in this policy are intended to ensure that Health and Safety is an integral part of the general process of risk management which the school operates. Thus, Health and Safety will be included in the school's review and planning process as an issue essential to the development and maintenance of the School's management systems.

The purpose of the Policy is:

- To provide the necessary authority and support for staff as they make their respective contributions to health and safety.
- To set out duties and responsibilities.
- To recognise the partnership necessary with the LA to ensure that all statutory duties in this field are met.
- To emphasise the importance of keeping hazards under control by making an assessment of operating risks.

The Interim Executive Board (IEB) is committed to securing the health, safety and well-being of employees, pupils and others affected by the school's activities, including visitors and contractors. Everyone has a part to play in bringing this into effect and full co-operation is therefore expected. For employees, this is not only a matter of common sense, but also as a legal duty.

All employees, regardless of seniority, have a duty to take care of themselves and others that might be affected by their acts or omissions. Staff should use equipment and working methods approved by their supervisor/senior colleague. Special care should be taken with the health and safety issues of any new venture.

ORGANISATION AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for the implementation of this Policy. To facilitate this, the school has designated the Headteacher, Rachel Gourley, and SMO Andy Thelwell to be the Health and Safety Coordinators. Each member of staff will recognise and accept a personal role in ensuring that arrangements for Health and Safety are effective within his or her respective area. Collectively, the IEB requires Health and Safety to be taken into account in the proposals which come before it and will seek to encourage a positive climate in which Health and Safety can flourish.

Risk Assessment

The underlying process, which secures this Policy, is risk assessment. Assessments of significant risks will be made in conjunction with those affected and recorded in writing. It will be the responsibility of the Headteacher, and member of staff to ensure that relevant risk assessments are maintained and kept up to date. Risk assessment documentation for educational visits is uploaded onto *Evo/ve*.

This documentation is then approved by the Headteacher (or the Local Authority where appropriate). Where no guidance exists on a specific topic, staff will follow the LA risk assessment process.

Covid-19

Robust risk assessments are implemented to ensure the health and safety of staff and children during the pandemic. Risk assessments are updated when new guidance is released by the Department of Education.

Consultation

Employees with concerns should normally raise them with the Headteacher or Health and Safety Coordinator. However, the IEB welcomes the support of trades unions in health and safety matters and staff should feel free to contact the appropriate trade union appointed safety representative. Requests for external help should be raised initially with the Headteacher or Health and Safety Coordinator, who will seek advice from the Departmental Health and Safety Adviser, on any concerns of employees, which cannot be resolved locally.

Contractors and School Partnerships

Contractors carrying out work for the School will be vetted for their Health and Safety performance prior to commencing work. They will be required to act in accordance with this Policy and the School's specified local arrangements. Contractors will be required to assess the risks to anyone who might be affected as a result of the performance of the contract. In particular, they will be required to make appropriate arrangements with the Headteacher to ensure that the School's IEB and users are sufficiently and suitably informed and consulted on issues relevant to risk control. Contractors sign in and out of school on the day they are working.

School linked partners and hirers, where appropriate, will exchange health and safety policies and procedures with the School. They must ensure that the health and safety of all school staff and users will be protected to a level which is reasonably practicable and equivalent in standard to the School. In particular, partners will be required to provide school staff and others who might be directly affected with sufficient guidance and advice on any risks or procedures which will be new or unusual in comparison with school's activities.

Inspection and Monitoring

The Headteacher/Health and Safety Coordinator will undertake the necessary arrangements for procedures to be examined and workplaces to be inspected to ensure that precautions remain suitable and sufficient by conducting a whole school Annual Risk Assessment and Safety Review. Feedback from this process will be referred to the IEB.

Accident/Incident Reporting

Every injury should be reported in the school accident book, located in the staffroom. All injuries must be investigated by the person in charge of the area of activity. Where the accident falls within the LA Accident reporting criteria, the LA Accident Form must be completed by the relevant member of staff, signed by the Headteacher and sent to the Health and Safety Team.

Training and Information

Training and development needs will be evaluated annually by the Health & Safety Coordinator and appropriate briefing and training provided. Health and Safety training will be available to employees and records maintained by the Health and Safety Coordinator. The Departmental Health and Safety Manual will be made readily available to employees with relevant notes held on the Intranet for the employees to refer to them.