

Health and Safety Policy

Meare Village Primary



Approved by:	Headteacher	Date: December 2022
Last reviewed on:	December 2022	
Next review due by:	December 2023	

THE LAW

Health and safety in schools is governed by legislation and associated regulations, which are enforced by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

In **community schools, community special schools and voluntary controlled schools** statutory health and safety responsibilities fall on the Local Authority (LA) (as the employer) and on the headteacher and other school staff (as employees).

As the management body, **the governing body** must ensure that school staff and premises comply with the LA's health and safety policy and practices (e.g., reporting accidents, first aid provision), and:

- Implement a health and safety policy and advise employees of it;
- Have a Critical Incident/Business Continuity plan that considers emergency scenarios;
- Ensure, **so far as is reasonably practicable**, the health, safety and welfare of teachers and other education staff; the health and safety of pupils in school and on off-site visits; and the health and safety of visitors to schools, and volunteers involved in any school activity;
- Assess the risk of all activities, both in school and off-site; introduce measures to manage those risks, and tell employees about those measures;
- Ensure that staff are competent and trained in their health and safety responsibilities; and are actively involved in health and safety;
- Take reasonable steps to make sure that the buildings, equipment and materials are safe and do not put the health of users and visitors at risk.

In practice, the governing body may delegate specific health and safety tasks to others at the school.

The governing body, and headteacher, must comply with any direction given to them by the LA concerning the health and safety of persons on the school's premises or taking part in any school activities elsewhere.

In practice, the governing body may delegate specific health and safety tasks to others at the school. **However, the governing body retains the ultimate responsibility no matter who carries out the tasks.**

THE ROLE OF EMPLOYEES IN ANY SCHOOL

Employees must take reasonable care of their own health and safety, and that of anyone else who may be affected by what they do at work. They must also cooperate with others who have duties for health and safety by carrying out instructions and reporting unsafe practices. The headteacher, who has delegated responsibility for the day-to-day management of the school, has a particular role in seeing that the governing body's health and safety policies and procedures are carried out.

COVERAGE

A list of all the issues to be covered by a school's health and safety policy is given on pages 6 - 8 of this document with electronic links to the relevant County Council or other appropriate guidance.

MODEL HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

1. THE GOVERNORS OF Meare Village Primary School will:

- 1.1 Provide as far as reasonably practicable a safe and healthy environment for all persons who work at, attend or visit the school.
- 1.2 Ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, the health and safety of pupils, staff and volunteers on off-site visits and activities.
- 1.3 Endorse and support the safety policy of Somerset County Council, and to assist the Council to discharge those responsibilities, which it holds as employer.
- 1.4 Seek improvement to working conditions according to priorities within existing resources.
- 1.5 Recognise their responsibilities when they make available premises or equipment for hire, and will ensure that risks to the safety or health of hirers and other persons are adequately controlled as far as possible.
- 1.6 Ensure that Risk Assessments are carried out within the school using an identified method for recording (e.g., EEC Safety Suite) and to review as appropriate.
- 1.7 Encourage informal meetings and ensure time is made available in staff meetings where health and safety issues can be raised.
- 1.8 Ensure that staff can access training to ensure their competence for their tasks.
- 1.9 Accept the duties that they may hold as a client where they arrange for work through contractors or volunteers. Follow the Council's guidance for the selection of competent contractors and **will** seek assistance from the Council's Property Services when necessary. Ensure that volunteers receive adequate instruction and supervision to work safely.
- 1.10 Report all incidents/accidents, using the Accident Reporting Module in EEC Safety Suite and ensure appropriate follow up action has been carried out.
- 1.11 Review on an annual basis, all accidents and incidents reported to identify trends.
- 1.12 Consult with the school council and inform pupils of their responsibilities for Health and Safety.
- 1.13 Recognise the role of safety representatives appointed by recognised trade unions and co-operate with them so that they may undertake their health and safety related functions, including reasonable paid time off for consultation inspection and investigations.

The following individuals are recognised as safety representatives at the school.

Name (1) Headteacher - Abi Isherwood (2) Governor - Emma Mitchell

Trade Union

The Governors and Headteacher will draw this policy to the attention of all staff, and review annually.

Signed: Chair of Governors:

Dated:

Signed: Headteacher:

Dated:

2. ORGANISATION IN SUPPORT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 2.1 Schools can be organised in a variety of ways, i.e., on a Headteacher/ Governing Body/Senior Management Team/Departmental basis. The key members are responsible for seeing that their Area of responsibility/Department staff follow the school's policy, and in particular in respect of:
 - 2.1.1 Identification and control of risks associated with any hazardous or dangerous substances.
 - 2.1.2 Selection of equipment suitable for its purpose, and ensuring that it is properly used.
 - 2.1.3 Identifying and securing the training needs of members of their Area/Department
 - 2.1.4 Provision of suitable personal protective equipment when required and ensuring that it is properly used.
- 2.2 The Headteacher and Governors recognise the importance of all staff being competent and possessing the necessary current skills, knowledge and qualifications for the use of specialist equipment or facilities.
- 2.3 The Governors will monitor safety performance within the school against the standards of Somerset County Council and provide an annual summary of their findings.
- 2.4 With regard to premises issues this will include a check of the school buildings, in conjunction with their property surveyor and prioritisation of needs on the school's Asset Management Plan (AMP). Also ensuring that appropriate training needs of person responsible for premises is delivered.
- 2.5 Governors to agree delegation for approval of off-site visits and activities and review on an annual basis. [Model policy](#) included in Burgundy Pack.
- 2.6 The Governors have appointed the following Governor to have a watching brief for health and safety issues, and bring to their notice such issues that require their attention

Assistance on health and safety issues is provided by
The Corporate Health and Safety Unit, Somerset County Council

3. Appointment of Appropriate Persons

Schools should appoint appropriate persons for their delegated areas of responsibility within the school (see Table A for areas which need including in your policy). They should ensure that new staff have the necessary skills and qualifications on appointment, or are able to receive the necessary training and certification, after appointment or on change of responsibilities or work methods.

4. Guidance for Schools

The following guidance, produced by the Local Authority, is available for schools to use for their own standards:

- [Guidance for Schools Volume 4](#)
- [Outdoor Education and External Visits Website](#)

4.1 The Governors adopt the standards of the following publications, which are endorsed by Somerset County Councils Learning and Achievement service as standards for its schools:

- Association for Physical Education - AfPE, published 2012 (reprinted 2014)
- Health and Safety: advice on legal duties and powers - February 2014:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/335111/DfE_Health_and_Safety_Advice_06_02_14.pdf
- Building Bulletin 100: Design for Fire Safety in Schools (March 2014) - Gov.UK link:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/building-bulletin-100-design-for-fire-safety-in-schools>
- Learning Outside of the Classroom: <http://www.lotc.org.uk/>
- Guidance on First Aid for Schools: first published August 2000, latest update - 12 February 2014, link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/first-aid-in-schools>
- Statutory Guidance on Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions: published by Department for Education, 2014; link:
[https://slp.somerset.org.uk/ipost/iPost%20Documents/Statutory_guidance_on_supporting_pupils_at_school_with_medical_conditions\[1\].pdf](https://slp.somerset.org.uk/ipost/iPost%20Documents/Statutory_guidance_on_supporting_pupils_at_school_with_medical_conditions[1].pdf)

The School has established its own policies on:
Medical Policy

DELEGATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN THE SCHOOL

Name of School: Meare Village Primary School

Headteacher	Abi Isherwood
Delegated Senior Manager:	Bea Taylor
Business and Premises Manager:	Abi Attree

Area	Location of Policy/Guidance	Name of person responsible
ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS (NEAR MISSES):		
Incidents/Injuries	Accident Reporting (EEC Safety Suite)	Abi/Glenda With First Aider
EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:		
Emergency Procedures	School Closures	Abi I/Abi A
Critical/Major Incidents and updating your Contingency Plan	Updating your Contingency Plan	Abi I/Abi A
	Critical Incidents in Schools	Abi I/Abi A/Bea
EXTERNAL VISITS:		
External Visit Co-ordinator	Outdoor Education and External Visits Website	Abi I /Glenda
	EEC Safety Suite>External Visits Management	Abi I /Glenda
	Policy for Offsite Visits and Activities - in school	Abi I /Glenda
MEDICAL:		
Hygiene Control	Guidance for Schools: Volume 4	Abi A/Caretaker
Infection Control	Public Health England Guidance	Abi A/Caretaker
Medicines in school	Guidance for Schools: Volume 4	Abi I /Abi A/Bea
Needlestick Injuries	H & S Policy Manual - HS007	First Aiders
New and Expectant Mothers	H & S Policy Manual - HS017	Abi A

Area	Location of Policy/Guidance	Name of person responsible
Pupils with medical needs	Statutory guidance on supporting pupils with medical needs Supporting pupils with medical conditions - templates	Kate R (SENCO)
RISK MANAGEMENT:		
Computer Use	DSE Assessment Form - HS030 Managers Guide, User Guide and also training course and descriptions	Abi A
COSHH	H & S Policy Manual - HS008 Hazardous substances COSHH Assessment Form (F08)	Abi A/Caretaker
Employee or Volunteer Driver	Driver Risk Assessment HS014	Abi I/Abi
First Aid	H & S Policy Manual HS012	First Aiders
SITES AND BUILDINGS:		
SCC Overarching Guidance document	Corporate Property Standards and Guidance including construction work/contractors on school site	Abi I/Abi A With Clive Tighe - County Building Surveyor
Asbestos	Asbestos Register - in School	Abi I/Abi A/Caretaker
Electrical Safety • Portable Appliance Testing	Guidance for Schools: Volume 4	Caretaker (PAT Tester trained)
Equipment Maintenance • Lifting Equipment • PE Equipment • CDT Equipment • LEV	Contact Property Services - Contracts available for purchase by schools.	Arranged via SSE bought in services.
Fire Safety • Arson Prevention	Fire H&S010 Contact insurance for more advice https://slp.somerset.org.uk/sites/insurance/	Abi A/Caretaker
Gas Appliances • Boilers • Kitchen	Contact Property Services: Contracts available for purchase. School responsibility unless Special.	N/A - No gas on site.
Minibus Safety	Outdoor Education Advisors Panel - National Guidance	N/A
Pressure systems - eg, steam ovens/stills	School responsibility - contact Insurance https://slp.somerset.org.uk/sites/insurance/	N/A
Safety Glazing	http://www.six.somerset.gov.uk/sixv3/content_view.asp?did=13346	Property Services/Caretaker

ESTABLISHMENT Meare Village Primary School

Documents relating to this Policy are listed below along with the locations in which they can be found:

Document	Location (Eg, office, web address)
First aid/medical needs policy	Office and school website
E-safety policy	Office and school website
Off site visits and activities policy	Office and school website
Critical incident plan	Staff room and office
Business continuity plan	Staff room

Document Prepared by _____ (Signature)

(Print Name) Abi Attree

Title: School Business and Premises Manager
(eg, Headteacher/Governor)

Date: March 2023

The monitoring/review arrangements in place are summarised below:

External Monitoring

Safety Audit
Inspection Report (CHSU)
Accident/Incident Report
Safety Representation Reports (Recognised Trade Union/Professional Association)
Property Services Report - Capital Support
Fire Risk Assessment
Legionella Risk Assessment

Internal Monitoring

Governors Annual Report
H & S Committee Inspection
Annual Safety Self review
Self-Audits