Health and safety policy for schools

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Kent County Council
Children, Young
People and
Education

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Health and Safety Policy Statement Of

St Katharine's Knockholt Church of England Primary School

Reviewed October 2026

A3: Statement of intent:

The headteacher and governors are committed to establishing and implementing arrangements that will:

- Ensure staff and pupils are safeguarded when on school premises, or engaged in off-site activities (e.g., school trips, sports events etc.).
- Ensure the premises for which they are responsible have safe access and egress for all staff, pupils and visitors.
- Provide adequate facilities and arrangements for welfare.
- Provide and maintain safe plant and safe systems of work without risks to health.
- Ensure safe use, handling, storage and transport of articles.
- Provide suitable information, training, instruction and supervision to keep all staff, pupils and visitors safe.

Signed:	Signed:
Headteacher	Chair of Governors
Date:	Date:

Section B – Organisation

B1: Employer responsibilities

The governors as the employer have a statutory duty in respect of health and safety in voluntary aided schools to ensure that premises and people are healthy and safe.

Day to day management is delegated to the headteachers, who are responsible for staff, pupils and others as 'officer in charge' of the premises.

The head teacher will ensure the overall implementation of this policy.

B2: Headteacher responsibilities

- To ensure this policy is reviewed annually or earlier if there are any changes in circumstances.
- To ensure that employee responsibilities regarding health and safety are included in their job descriptions and that it is adequately received and understood.
- To include health and safety issues in the school improvement plan, if necessary.
- To carry out regular health and safety inspections (at least three times a year) and take remedial action as appropriate.
- To undertake risk assessments, record significant findings, and review annually or sooner if there is a change in circumstance.
- To receive and deal promptly with raised issues or complaints about unsafe premises, equipment, or work practices.
- To liaise with KCC property and infrastructure support and/or the building maintenance consultants and/or with contractors to resolve property maintenance issues.
- To ensure that the requirements of any enforcement officer (e.g., HSE Inspector, Environmental Health Officer, Fire Liaison Officer, or Environmental Agency Inspector) are properly addressed.
- To ensure that emergency evacuation procedures are in place and tested to ensure validity.
- To ensure that adequate first aid provision is available and kept up to date at all times.
- To report health and safety issues to the governing body on a regular basis.
- To monitor and review all health and safety policies and procedures.
- Seek advice from other organisations or professionals, such as the Health and Safety Executive, safety advisers etc. as and when necessary.

N.B: Tasks can be delegated to other members of staff the Governing Body, as employer, retains overall legal accountability for health and safety. The headteachers are responsible for day to day implementation under the Governing Body's arrangements.

B3: Governors' responsibilities

- Responsibility for the health and safety of pupils lies with the governing body of the school, either as the employer of school staff or because it controls school premises (or both).
- The governing body will promote a strategic overview for health and safety.
- The governing body will take all reasonable measures to ensure that the premises and equipment on site are safe and do not put the health or safety of staff, pupils, or visitors at risk while they are on the premises.
- The governing body will make adequate provision for maintenance of the school premises and equipment, either within the KCC 'Class care' scheme or within the school's delegated budget.
- The governing body will support and monitor health and safety within the school.

- Review and monitor the effectiveness of this policy.
- The governing body can consider appointing a governor to co-ordinate health and safety from a strategic point of view.

B4: Staff responsibilities

- To read and fully co-operate with this policy.
- Must take reasonable care of their own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by their actions.
- Will co-operate with their employer on health and safety matters.
- Will not interfere with anything provided to safeguard their health and safety or that of others.
- Report practices, equipment or physical conditions that may be hazardous to their line manager and/or the appropriate member of staff.
- Have a duty to report all health and safety concerns to the head teacher or their line manager.

B5: Site manager responsibilities

The Site manager holds responsibility for the day-to-day maintenance and other buildings / grounds issues.

They will:

- Ensure that any work that has health and safety implications is prioritised.
- Report any concerns regarding unresolved hazards in school to the senior management team immediately.
- Ensure that all work under their control is undertaken in a safe manner.
- Carry out a daily check of the grounds and building to spot any disrepair or other hazards such as broken glass etc. in the play areas.
- Ensure that all cleaning staff are aware of safe working practices, especially regarding reporting of hazards, the use of hazardous substances and manual handling.
- Carry out a weekly test of the fire alarm.
- Ensure all contractors are 'inducted' and shown the relevant risk assessments, asbestos records and are made aware of any fragile roofs or other hazards in the areas where they will be working.
- Fully co-operate with health and safety arrangements during larger building projects.

B6: Kent County Council Infrastructure

- Where the school commissions KCC Property and Infrastructure Support or other competent contractors, they will support the school with agreed property maintenance, inspection and testing services. The Governing Body remains the employer for health and safety purposes. They will ensure that property matters within the scope of the commissioned services e.g., regular maintenance and testing of fixed electrical wiring or fixed gas appliances are properly dealt with, (if necessary, by taking premises or fixed equipment out of use). The head teacher is responsible for liaising with Infrastructure, and/or the building consultants and/or with contractors from KCC preferred contractors list, to resolve property maintenance issues.

B7: Safety Representatives

Safety representatives of a recognised Trade Union have the following functions:

- Represent employees generally and when you consult them about specific matters that

will affect the health, safety and welfare of the employees.
- Represent employees when Health and Safety Inspectors from HSE or Local Authorities consult them.
- Investigate accidents, near misses, and other potential hazards and dangerous occurrences in the workplace.
- Investigate complaints made by an employee they represent about their health, safety, or welfare in the workplace.
- Present the findings of investigations to the Headteacher.
- Inspect the workplace.
- With at least one other appointed representative, request in writing that you set up a health and safety committee and attend Health and Safety Committee and meetings as a representative of your employees.

Names of Trade Union Representatives:	
Contact details:	

Alternative Consultation Arrangements:

Name of Employee Representative:	
Contact details:	

B8: Consultation with employees

It is a legal requirement to consult with employees on health and safety issues. A Safety Committee is where formal consultation with employees takes place, but individual and group staff meetings are also appropriate forums for communication on health and safety matters and concerns.

Health and Safety is a standing item on all staff meeting agendas.

B9: Information, Instruction and Supervision

Under health and safety law it is a legal requirement to display or provide a leaflet version of the Health and Safety Law poster.

- A copy of the Health and Safety Law Poster is located at:
- supervision of young workers/trainees will be arranged/undertaken/monitored by the head teacher or other delegated key members of staff
- the head teacher will supply adequate information, instruction and supervision for all staff, pupils and visitors to ensure their health and safety.

B10: Competency for health and safety tasks and training

- The Headteacher will ensure that all staff undertake induction training.
- Training will be identified arranged and monitored by the head teacher and the governing body.
- Staff are also responsible for identifying their own personal training needs and feeding this back to the headteacher.
- Training records will be easily accessible for audit purposes and will be kept up to date.

B11: Monitoring

- The head teacher will check working conditions and ensure that safe working practices are being followed. Regular inspections will be undertaken of the school building and grounds three times a year.
- Sarah Jane Tormey and Xanthe Veneziani are responsible for investigating accidents although the accountability remains with the head teacher.
- Sarah Jane Tormey and Xanthe Veneziani is responsible for investigating work-related sickness and absences, although the accountability remains with the head teacher.
- The head teachers are responsible and accountable for acting on investigation findings in order to prevent any reoccurrences.

Section C – Arrangements

C1: School activities

- The head teachers will ensure that risk assessments are undertaken.
- The significant findings of all risk assessments will be reported to the governing body and to all relevant staff, contractors, visitors and all of those who may be affected.
- Any actions that are required to remove or control risks will be approved by the head teacher or their delegated responsible person.
- The head teachers or delegated responsible person will check that the implemented actions remain effective, and that all risk assessments are reviewed on an annual basis or when the work activity changes, whichever is the soonest.

C2: Visitors

- All visitors shall be directed by clear signage to the reception and must report to reception, where appropriate arrangements for the signing in and out and identity badges will be provided.
- All visitors shall be made aware of the school's fire arrangements in the event of a fire.
- All visitors shall be made aware of the school's emergency procedures, including evacuation points.

C3: Fire and emergency procedures

- The headteachers are responsible for ensuring the fire risk assessment are undertaken, controls are implemented and that it is reviewed annually and kept up to date.
- Emergency exits, assembly points and assembly point instructions are clearly identified by safety signs and notices.
- Instructions to employees are posted at strategic points around the building.
- Emergency evacuation will be practiced at least three times a year and records will be retained.
- Regular testing of fire alarms will occur weekly and will be carried out by: Graham Brookes and SJT/XV
- A record of these tests will be kept by: Louise Dancy

C4: Fire fighting

- Staff should only use fire extinguishers if trained in how to operate them safely. If trained, they should only use the extinguisher if they feel confident to do so and not put themselves or others at undue risk. There should always be a clear escape available. Ensure the alarm is raised before attempting to tackle a fire. All chemicals will be stored in accordance with the

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) assessment. List of hazardous substances will be provided to a fire officer in the event of a fire.

C5: Maintenance of fire equipment

The headteachers will ensure regular maintenance of:

- fire extinguishers
- fire alarms
- fire doors
- fire safety signs and identification of escape routes
- emergency lighting and other emergency equipment.

C6: Bomb/suspect package alerts

Bomb alerts/ suspect packages will be dealt with in accordance with the school's emergency planning arrangements.

- The headteachers are responsible for ensuring the bomb alert procedures are undertaken and implemented.
- Guidance on bombs/suspicious devices or packages will be circulated to staff annually.

C7: First aid arrangements

- The head teachers will ensure that there are an appropriate number of designated and trained first aiders in school.
- The head teachers will ensure that there are an appropriate number of first aid boxes, with basic instructions and locations clearly marked. A first aid risk assessment will be carried out by the head teacher to determine the above factors.
- The school will follow the procedure for completion of incident / accident records HS157, HS160, F2508
- All reportable incidents under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR) will be reported to the HSE by the school. Advice should be sought if any doubt whether an incident is reportable.
- Parents will be invited to complete the consent form for medical treatment in accordance with school policy and DFE guidance.

C8: Information Communication Technology

- The headteachers will ensure that suitable arrangements are in place for the safe use of information communication technology.
- Information communication technology will be installed safely, with due consideration given to ventilation for server rooms and computer suites and to hazards such as asbestos and working at height.
- Where laptops are used, safe systems of work including charging and use of trolleys will be devised and implemented.
- Assessments for users of Display Screen Equipment (DSE) will be carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety (DSE) Regulations 1992 (as amended in 2002).
- The KCC guidance on interactive whiteboards will be followed.

C9: Legal requirements for premises

- The school will comply with the requirements of the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 with regard to facilities for staff such as lighting, heating,

ventilation, space, condition of floors and general welfare facilities.
- The school will comply with the arrangements of the School Premises England Regulations 2012 with regard to school facilities such as washrooms for pupils and staff, medical accommodation and indoor temperatures.

C10: Safe handling and use of substances

- The head teachers are responsible for identifying all substances which need an assessment under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002.
- The head teachers or delegated responsible person will be responsible for undertaking COSHH assessments.
- The head teachers will be responsible for ensuring that all relevant employees are informed about the presence of the COSHH assessments.
- The head teachers will be responsible for checking and ensuring they are satisfied that all new substances can be used safely before they are purchasing them.
- COSHH assessments will be reviewed on an annual basis or when the work activity changes, whichever is the soonest.

C11: Inspection of premises, plant and equipment

- The headteachers will arrange for formal inspections of the premises, plant and equipment to take place three times a year and draw up an effective maintenance and improvement programme.
- All identified maintenance will be implemented.
- Routine checks may be undertaken by a combination of class teachers, governors, caretaking staff and the head teacher/deputy head using the example checklists.
- Access to storerooms; boiler rooms; tank and plant rooms should also be checked, including checking for inappropriate storage of ladders and other equipment, in particular in and around intake cupboards.
- Where damaged asbestos is encountered, or damage is suspected procedures as laid down in the KCC asbestos policy will be followed.

C12: Asbestos management

Property and Infrastructure Support will arrange for an asbestos management survey to be carried out every three years in line with KCC policy. The headteacher will ensure that the KCC asbestos management policy is followed. An asbestos docubox will be kept on reception and staff will ask all contractors to check the survey and sign to say that they are aware of where the asbestos is within the building. The headteachers or the designated responsible person will monitor areas where asbestos material is present, record significant findings and arrange for remedial works to be carried out if necessary. All works undertaken will be updated in the asbestos survey on completion.

C13: Legionella management

Property and Infrastructure Support will arrange for a water hygiene risk assessment to be carried out every two years. Such assessments will identify if there are areas where conditions exist which could support legionella bacteria growth and pose a risk to building occupants, the survey will also list any works required; and include details of future monitoring requirements that the school is responsible for. Therefore, all identified remedial works will be incorporated into the school's maintenance programme.

Monitoring of the water system is also a statutory requirement, and the school will ensure this is undertaken. This will include taking temperature readings, recording these in the logbook and de-scaling spray outlets as necessary.

C17: List of risk assessments, policies and procedures to complement this policy

- asbestos management
- bomb alerts
- control of chemicals hazardous to health (COSHH)
- display screen equipment (DSE)
- drugs and alcohol
- electricity at work including portable appliance testing
- emergency planning
- fire – including responsibilities of the fire wardens
- first aid requirements
- infection control
- legionella
- lone working
- managing contractors
- manual handling
- off-site visits
- pedestrian and people movement
- playground supervision
- school events
- school facilities (swimming pools)
- slips, trips and falls
- stress management
- violence and aggression
- working at height.

E1: Useful contacts

Kent County Council Health and Safety Unit
Email: healthandsafety@kent.gov.uk
Health and Safety Advice Line: Tel: 03000 418456
Location: Room 1.04 Sessions House, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ

Outdoor Education Unit
Tel: 03000 410901
Email:Outdoor.Education@theeducationpeople.org
Location: The Swattenden Outdoor Centre, Swattenden Lane,Cranbrook, TN17 3PS

Insurance and Risk Management
Lee Manser - Insurance Manager.
Tel: 03000416428, Email: lee.manser@kent.gov.uk
Location: Room 2.53 Sessions House. Maidstone. ME14 1XQ

Staff Care Services
Occupational Health, Mediation Services, and Support Line. Tel: 03000 411411 Email: occupational.health@kent.gov.uk
Location: Park House, 110-112 Mill Street, East Malling, ME19 6BU

Classcare
Email: classcare.enquiries@kent.gov.uk
Location: Room 1.44, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ

Health and Safety Executive
Location: International House, Dover Place, Ashford, TN24 1HU

Kent Fire & Rescue Service
The Godlands
Straw Mill Hill
Tovil
Maidstone
ME15 6XB
Tel: 01622 692 121

RIDDOR Incident Contact Centre
Website: https://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/reporting

Employment Medical Advisory Service (EMAS)
The Executive's Employment Medical Advisory Service (EMAS).

Tel: 02089 958503
Location: PO Box 3087, London W4 4ZP

Association for Physical Education.
Tel: 01905 855584, Email: enquiries@afpe.org.uk Website: http://www.afpe.org.uk/
Location: 117 Bredon, University of Worcester, Henwick Grove, Worcester. WR2 6AJ

Sustainability & Climate Change Team
Deborah Kapaj – Sustainable Estates Programme Manager
Tel: 03000 410237
Location: 2nd Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone. ME14 1XX