



Health & Safety Policy

September 2024

General Statement of Policy

Introduction

Newham Bridge Primary School recognises and accepts that every one of its employees, pupils and visitors is entitled to a safe and healthy environment.

It is the intention of the Governing Body of Newham Bridge Primary School that all appropriate steps will be taken to meet statutory requirements, recognised codes of practice and guidance notes in establishing a safe and healthy environment, in particular:

- To maintain the Primary School in a condition that is safe and without risk to health, with safe means of access and egress.
- To provide and maintain a safe working environment for staff, pupils and visitors, without risk to health, with adequate facilities and arrangements for their welfare at Newham Bridge Primary School.
- To provide plant and equipment that is safe, without risk and is adequately maintained and serviced.
- To provide staff and pupils with information, training and supervision as is necessary to promote health and safety throughout the school site.
- To ensure the use, handling, storage and transportation of articles and substances are safe and without risk to themselves or others.
- To carry out risk assessments and continuous monitoring to ascertain potential risks to the environment in conjunction with health and safety throughout the school.

Declaration of Intent

Newham Bridge Primary School's policies and procedures will be reviewed as circumstances require to reflect best practice in all aspects of health and safety.

Newham Bridge Primary School and its Governing Body recognise and accept these responsibilities and will ensure they remain a priority and an integral part of all the school activities.

Newham Bridge Primary School's Health and Safety Policy will be reviewed annually and updated as often as is necessary to ensure compliance with all relevant legislation, codes of practice, guidance and best practice.

It is the intention of the Governing Board of the school that all appropriate steps will be taken to meet statutory requirements, recognised codes of practice and guidance notes in establishing a safe and healthy environment.

Organisation

General Responsibilities

It is the policy of the school to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of all its employees, pupils and other persons who may be affected by its operations.

Responsibilities of the Governing Body

In discharging its responsibilities, the Governing Board will:

- make itself familiar with the requirements of the appropriate legislation and codes of practice;
- create and monitor a management structure for Health and Safety;
- ensure that there is an effective and enforceable policy for the provision of health and safety throughout the school, and that it is implemented;
- periodically assess the effectiveness of the policy and ensure that any necessary changes are made;
- identify and evaluate risks relating to possible accidents and incidents connected with the Primary School's activities, including work experience.

In particular, the Governing Body undertakes to provide as far as is reasonably practicable:

- safe and healthy working conditions that take account of appropriate statutory requirements, code of practice and guidance;
- supervision, training and instruction so that all staff and pupils can perform their activities in a healthy and safe manner; and
- provide safety and protective equipment and clothing, with associated guidance, instruction supervision.

The school will appoint a governor responsible for health and safety who will work alongside the Head Teacher & School Business Manager to make regular health and safety inspections of the premises and keep the governing body informed of health and safety issues.

Responsibilities of the Head Teacher

The Head Teacher or their delegated representative(s) have responsibility for the day-to-day development and implementation of safe working practices and conditions for all staff, pupils and visitors. The Head Teacher will take all reasonably practicable steps to ensure that the Health and Safety Policy is implemented.

They are responsible for ensuring risk assessments are undertaken, appropriate control measures are put in place and accurate measures are maintained.

They will be given training, support and sufficient time to undertake duties.

Responsibility for aspects of Health and Safety are written into the Job Descriptions of the school's staff.

Responsibilities of Senior Leadership Team

All of Newham Bridge Primary School Senior Leaders will make themselves familiar with the requirements of health and safety legislation and codes of practice that are relevant to the work of their area of responsibility.

In addition to the general duties that all members of staff have, they will be directly responsible to the Head Teacher for the implementation and operation of the Newham Bridge Primary School's Health and Safety Policy within their relevant classrooms and areas of responsibility.

School leaders will take a direct interest in the Newham Bridge Primary School's Health and Safety Policy and in ensuring that staff, pupils and others comply with its requirements.

The day-to-day health and safety responsibilities of the Primary School have been delegated to be dealt with by the Health and Safety Team which includes the School Business Manager, the Headteacher, the Site Supervisor, the person in charge of First Aid and a Governor.

Health & Safety responsibilities include:

Responsibilities of the School Business Manager

- repairs and maintenance records;
- risk assessments including COSHH, DSE, MHO;
- provision of personal protective equipment;
- ensuring follow up action on health and safety reports is completed;
- provision of health and safety information;
- management of asbestos
- educational visits coordination
- reporting hazards and near misses

Responsibilities of the Headteacher

- coordinating the provision of the health and safety training needs
- reporting hazards and near misses
-

Responsibilities of the Site Supervisor

- arranging, recording and monitoring fire drills;
- ensuring PAT is carried out

Responsibilities of the persons in charge of First Aid

- accident reporting procedures;
- reporting hazards and near misses;
- first aid provision

Responsibilities of Governing Board

- Delegate a representative
- Representative to feedback to Governors
- The school will ensure that health and safety is a standard agenda item at the Local Governing Board, who will monitor issues within the school.
- The Headteacher will report on issues such as children, staff and Educational Visits, the School Business Manager will report on other issues such as premises.

Responsibilities of all members of staff

All staff are expected to familiarise themselves with the Health and Safety aspects of their work and avoid conduct which would put themselves or anyone else at risk.

In particular, members of staff will:

- be familiar with the Health and Safety Policy and all safety requirements laid down by the Governing Board
- ensure that staff, pupils, visitors and contractors are applying Health and Safety regulations, rules, routines and procedures effectively;
- see that all plant, machinery and equipment are in good and safe working order and adequately guarded, and not make or allow improper use of such plant, machinery and equipment;
- use the correct equipment and tools for the job and any protective equipment or safety devices that may be supplied;
- ensure that toxic, hazardous and highly flammable substances are correctly used, stored and labelled;
- report any defects in the premises, plant, equipment and facilities that they observe to the Head Teacher or nominated deputy; and
- take an active interest in promoting Health and Safety and suggest ways of reducing risks.
- report hazards and near misses to Headteacher, School Business Manager or Site Supervisor
- Carry out risk assessments e.g. educational visits, activities within classrooms

Health & Safety Arrangements

Fire Safety

Appropriate procedures for ensuring that safety precautions are properly managed will be formulated and disseminated to all staff. These procedures will include fire drills and the use of firefighting equipment.

The Primary School's evacuation procedure will be prominently displayed in all teaching rooms, offices and curriculum areas. All staff and pupils must be fully conversant with the procedures for evacuation of the premises in case of a fire.

Evacuation procedures will be tested each term. The person responsible for arranging, recording and monitoring fire drills at least once a term is the School Business Manager and Site Supervisor.

All firefighting equipment will be checked annually by an approved contractor and records maintained in the fire logbook.

The fire alarm will be tested weekly by the Site Supervisor, from different points when the site is not in use and records maintained in the fire logbook.

All emergency lighting will be tested monthly and records maintained.

Risk Assessments

Risk assessments are carried out for the potential hazard in the school. Risk assessments are carried out for, amongst other things;

- Display Screen Equipment
- Fire risk assessment
- Manual handling
- Violence to Staff
- Working at height
- COSHH
- Pregnant workers
- Accessibility
- Evacuation
- EYFS
- Educational visits.

Risk assessment are carried out by an appropriately competent person.

Reporting Accidents

All accidents to staff, pupils and visitors will be reported, in writing, using the school's accident report forms. Completed forms should be given to the School Business Manager, who will manage the Primary School accident records.

Certain accidents must be reported to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR). The Head Teacher will ensure that the HSE is informed of reportable incidents.

Reporting Hazards and Near Misses

All employees and governors must report any hazards that could be a cause of serious or imminent danger, e.g. damaged electrical sockets, broken windows, suspected gas leaks, wet or slippery floors, immediately. Reports should be made to the Director of Resources, who will then complete an urgent review with other members of the school team as necessary. All reported hazards and near misses are recorded and reported to the Health and Safety Committee and if necessary the Finance & Resources Committee for review and discussion.

Repairs and Maintenance

A person encountering any damage or wear and tear of the premises which may constitute a hazard should report it to the School Business Manager or Site Manager by means of the hazard reporting procedure. Defective furniture should be taken out of use immediately and reported to the Site Supervisor who will arrange for its replacement or repair.

Severe Weather

During periods of severe weather, arrangements for maintaining safe access to, from and within the premises (e.g. clearing snow and ice) will be determined by the Head Teacher in consultation with the Site Supervisor.

LA guidance on school closure procedures will be followed.

Health and Safety Training

The person responsible for drawing to the attention of all employees the following health and safety matters as part of their induction training is the Headteacher:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Educational Visits Policy Document
- Premises Asbestos Log
- Risk Assessments
- Fire and other Emergency Arrangements
- Accident Reporting Arrangements

- First Aid Arrangements
- Safe Use of Work Equipment
- Procedures for Hazardous Substances
- Good Housekeeping, Waste Disposal and Cleaning Arrangements
- Hazard Reporting and Maintenance Procedures
- Special Hazards/Responsibilities Associated with their Work Activity
- Special Needs of Young Employees (e.g. Work Experience Placements)

These are included in the Staff Handbook which is available to all staff. The person responsible for coordinating the provision of the health and safety training needs of teaching staff and other employees is the School Business Manager.

Portable Electrical Appliances

The person responsible for ensuring portable electrical appliance testing is carried out at appropriate intervals and recorded is the School Business Manager. Staff must not bring onto the premises any portable electrical appliances unless they have been authorised to do so and the appliances have been portable appliance tested. The person responsible for authorising their use on the premises is the School Business Manager.

Manual Handling

Manual handling assessments will be conducted by an appropriately competent person. Manual handling assessments will involve those individuals who carry out the tasks via their consultation during the assessments. Manual handling assessments will be reviewed whenever there is cause to suspect that they are no longer valid, or at a maximum time interval of one year, whichever applies soonest.

Work at Height

Working at height means, work in any place, including a place at or below ground level where, if measures are not taken, a person could fall a distance liable to cause personal injury. The school will ensure:

- every effort is made to avoid working at height.
- that where work at height cannot be avoided a suitable and sufficient risk assessment is carried out.
- suitable work equipment or other measures to prevent falls where work at height cannot be avoided.
- equipment used while working at height is properly inspected and maintained.
- all staff working at height are aware of this policy, understand its contents and comply with local procedures.
- all staff who work at height are fit to do so.

- all staff who work at height have received and understood appropriate information instruction and training and supervision.

Asbestos

The presence of asbestos containing materials (ACMs) does not in itself constitute a danger. However, it is hazardous when disturbed or damaged and must be treated accordingly. Activities which give rise to airborne dust, e.g. abrasion, breaking, sawing, cutting, drilling or machining ACMs, are most likely to present risks.

The school will

- produce and maintain an asbestos register and make this available to staff, contractors and others who may be brought into contact with asbestos as part of their activities.
- promote awareness of the hazards of asbestos and the management procedures through information and training.
- prevent exposure to hazards associated with asbestos.

Responsibility for the implementation of this policy and the management of asbestos for all parts of the school is delegated to the School Business Manager.

Display Screen Equipment (DSE)

All employees who use a computer are classified as users of display screen equipment and an assessment will be made of their workstations by an independent qualified person. The person responsible for arranging this is the School Business Manager.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Suitable PPE will be provided free of charge, where identified as necessary in a risk assessment.

All employees are responsible for informing the School Business Manager as soon as they become aware of a need to repair or replace PPE, which they use.

COSHH (Hazardous Substances)

Inventories of hazardous substances used in the school are maintained by the School Business Manager.

An independent qualified person will be responsible for undertaking and updating the COSHH risk assessments.

Equipment, materials and chemicals must be stored in the appropriate storage containers and specified storage areas.

Health and Safety Inspections

The person responsible for organising and carrying out termly safety inspections, including planning and inspection is the School Business Manager. Members of the Governing Body will participate with safety inspections where practicable. A report will be submitted to the Finance & Resources Committee and Full Governing Body Committee as necessary.

The persons responsible for ensuring follow up action on the report is completed is the Head Teacher and School Business Manager.

Provision of Information

The person responsible for distributing all health and safety information and for the maintenance of a health and safety information reference system is the School Business Manager.

New employees will be informed of all relevant health and safety information as part of the induction process.

The Health and Safety Policy is available to all staff.

Risk Management documentation will be held electronically.

The person responsible for ensuring documents are available and up to date is the School Business Manager.

Educational Visits

The person responsible for ensuring that the appropriate policy, procedures, risk assessment and approval is obtained for educational visits is the Educational Visits Coordinator (EVC).

All extra-curricular activities must be recorded with the Head Teacher/EVC along with a list of participating pupils.

Educational trips and visits must be organised in accordance with the school's Educational Visits Procedures.

First Aid

The school will ensure that there are adequate and appropriate equipment and facilities for providing first aid. The School Business Manager will ensure that the number of certified first-aiders and paediatric first-aiders will not, at any time, be less than the number required by law.

In addition, supplies of first aid material will be held at various locations throughout the school.

Outdoor Play Equipment

The outdoor play equipment is provided for the use of school pupils only. All equipment will be used under appropriate supervision. The equipment is inspected by a competent contractor, quarterly and a detailed inspection report sent to the school.

The person responsible for the selection and siting of outdoor play equipment is the Head Teacher.

Visitors to the Newham Bridge Primary School Site

All visitors to the school will sign in at the reception. Visitors will be collected from reception by the member of staff concerned or escorted to the appropriate area of the school.

No contractor may undertake work on the school site without permission from the School Business Manager. Contractors, include Middlesbrough Council Catering staff are responsible for the Health and Safety of their employees and for their safe working practices, which must not constitute a hazard to staff, pupils and visitors to the Primary School. Contractors should, where necessary comply with any local Primary School health and safety procedures (i.e. fire evacuation procedure).

Whilst on site, all visitors and contractors must wear a Primary School visitor's badge.

Any contractor's employees must wear an identifiable uniform and an identity badge at all times.

Peripatetic or temporary teaching staff will be required to indicate their presence in the Primary School by reporting to reception.

If a member of staff meets someone on site who they do not recognise and is not wearing a visitors badge, they should, if they do not feel threatened, enquire if the person needs assistance and direct them either to the reception or off the site, as appropriate.

Regular visitors will be given a brief induction.

Contractors

The person responsible for selecting contractors and vetting contractors health and safety, policies, procedures, risk assessments, method statements and past health and safety performance is the Head Teacher/ School Business Manager. Contractors will be required to complete a permit to work form prior to carrying out any work.

The person in control of contractors will be the Site Manager.

Security

All staff should be conscious of all aspects of the security of people and property. In particular, the emergency exit doors on the outer perimeter of the buildings should only be used in the event of emergencies and kept secure at all other times.

Maintaining security is aimed at reducing the opportunity for unauthorised persons to enter the buildings through non-designated access points. It is also necessary to be alert to the possible presence of unauthorised persons on site who may constitute a threat to staff, pupils and bona-fide visitors and contractors.

Stress and Well-being

The person responsible for monitoring absence owing to stress related illness is the Director of Resources. The Primary School will support individuals who have stress and all staff will have access to workplace counsellors or specialist agencies as required.

Lone Working

Newham Bridge Primary School is responsible for ensuring risk assessments are prepared and implemented for lone working activities.

Critical Incidents

As part of its commitment for the well being of staff, pupils and visitors, the Primary School will set out a procedure which is to be adopted in the event of a critical incident occurring either on the Primary School premises or on an activity away from the Primary School site.

Emergency Plan

The Head Teacher has developed an emergency plan which covers all foreseeable major incidents which could put at risk the occupants or users of the Primary School. The plan indicates the actions to be taken in the event of a major incident.

Other Policies

The following policies cover aspects of Health and Safety in greater depth:

- Child Protection policy and procedures
- Educational Visits Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions Policy
- Safeguarding & Staff Code of Conduct

Information can also be found in the staff handbook.

Audit, Review, Performance Measurement and Action Plan

The person responsible for carrying out an annual review of the Statement and its implementation in the Primary School is the Head Teacher.

Signed  Head Teacher	Date October 2024
Signed Chair of Governors	Date October 2024