



Page number	Section	Details of change
October 2024 updates highlighted in yellow		
P3	Statement of intent	Annual H&S policy review recommended in line with DfE Governance guide
P9	Risk Assessment	Link to 2024 version of AfPE guide now available electronically.
P12	Fire evacuation	Paragraph added on PEEPs
P14	First Aid	added EYFS reference to paediatric 1 st aider requirements
P17	Accident reporting	HSE link to specified reportable injuries for employees added
P21	Personal Safety /lone working	Reiterated need to report violent incidents to the employer
P22	Premises and work equipment	Added reference to Electricity at work regs 1989 and customisable paragraph for personal items of equipment being brought into school
P22	Premises and work equipment	Header changed to PE and external play equipment
P24	COSHH	CLEAPPS doc L93 date of issue updated to Feb 2024 version
P25	Asbestos	Added 'asbestos register' (historically part of HCC's management plan) to documents that must be in place.
P28	DSE	Customisable paragraph for schools on eye tests for DSE users
P30	Minibuses	HCC minibus permit now valid for 3 years
P36	Infection Control	Paragraph on risks for new and expectant mothers added.
October 2023 updates		
P9	Risk Assessment	Updated reference to BS 4163 minor amendment in 2022
P10	Offsite Visits	Made clearer that use of Evolve is recommended for all visits, should be ensured school are clear on how its used locally.
P11	Monitoring	Cross reference to App 10 included for premises compliance issues
P14	First aid – AEDs	Minor update to reflect DfE guidance and recommendation schools register AEDs nationally
P22	Premises compliance	Minor change to wording and links to GEMS and HCC trackers updated
P24	Radioactive Sources	Updated reference to L93 to reflect Sept 2022 minor revision

P25	Asbestos	Link to incident procedure added, made clearer that an annual review of asbestos management plan required as a minimum
P31	Stress	Minor change to risk assessment wording
P32	Legionella	Minor change to risk assessment wording, assessments to be reviewed on a regular cycle and specifically where whenever there is reason to suspect it is no longer valid.
P33	Swimming	Hyperlink to Swim England training updated
August 2022 update		
P 6, 7	Responsibilities	Outline of considerations if there are 3 rd party providers on site, ensure H&S responsibilities are clear
P9	Risk assessment	Added retention of risk assessments for minimum of 5 years, any relevant risk assessments linked to pupil incidents to be retained for a minimum of 3 years after their 18 th birthday
P12	Fire	Added that Fire risk assessments are to be undertaken by a competent person
P14	First aid	Footnote updated to reflect DfE defibrillator scheme
P17	Accidents	Schools should aim to report pupil / non-employee RIDDOR reportable incidents to the HSE within 10 days of the incident occurring.
P24	COSHH	Added that Records of exposure to hazardous substances in the workplace should be kept for up to 40 years
P27	Work at height	Updated link to LA455 Safe Use of Ladders and Stepladders – new guidance jointly produced by the Ladder Association and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).
P29	Lettings	Hyperlink updated removed reference to COVID-19 supplementary conditions of hire
P31	Stress / wellbeing	Updated text and reference to DfE wellbeing Charter
P36	Infection Control	New section added, DfE H&S responsibilities and duties for schools suggests inclusion of ‘proportionate control measures for health infections’ within policy

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

PART 1. STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Directors of the St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust will strive to achieve the highest standards of health, safety, and welfare consistent with their responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and other statutory and common law duties.

The Local Governing Body of each school will actively work with the Headteacher and staff to identify hazards and where these cannot be removed ensure that they are adequately controlled. The Local Governing Body are responsible for ensuring health and safety management systems are in place and effective.

Overall responsibility for the day to day management of health and safety in accordance with the Board of Directors’ health and safety policy and procedures rests with the Headteacher. Specific roles and responsibilities for the Governing Body, Headteacher and employees of each school are found in Part 2.

This statement sets out how these duties will be conducted and includes a description of the school’s organisation and arrangements for dealing with different areas of risk. Details of how these areas of risk will be addressed are given in the arrangements section.

This policy will be brought to the attention of, and/or issued to, all members of staff and shared on the school and Trust website.

This policy statement and the accompanying organisation and arrangements will be reviewed every year.

This policy statement supplements include, where applicable in each school:

- Anaphylaxis Policy
- Asbestos Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- Emergency Management Plan
- Expedition Code of Practice
- Fire Evacuation Policy
- Government Guidance for Driving a Minibus
- Lone Working Policy Health and Safety Policy and Procedures Oct 23 (Issue 13)
- Minibus Policy
- Protocol for Dealing with Injuries on the Sports Field
- Snow Procedures
- Scheme for control of Legionella by frequency

Fr Peter Harris, Chair of St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust	Andrew Celano, CEO
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December 2024

December 2024

PART 2. ORGANISATION

In Academy schools the responsibility for health and safety rests with the Board of Directors as the employer. At a school level duties and responsibilities have been assigned to staff and governors as detailed below.

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Responsibilities of the Governing Body

The Director responsible for ensuring Health and Safety in the Trust (Fr Peter Harris) will work with the CEO, PSIEH and Lead Governors from each School Governing Body on Health and Safety matters. Trust full roles and responsibilities are listed within the Trust website within the Roles and Responsibilities document, contained [here](#).

The monitoring of the Trust will be via predominately a Dashboard-style approach to reviewing the risk areas in each school. Statlog is used to monitor compliance in all Trust schools and sporadic Health and Safety reviews.

At a school level, duties and responsibilities are set out as below:

Responsibilities of the Governing Body

The Governing Body are responsible for ensuring health and safety management systems are in place and effective. They fulfil a strategic role in health and safety and are not expected to be involved in day to day management of the school.

As a minimum these management systems should adhere to the LA's health and safety policy, procedures and standards as detailed on the H&S pages of the [Hertfordshire Grid](#) and follow the HSE's '[Managing for health and safety](#)' (HSG65) (hse.gov.uk), namely:

- **Plan**-set the strategic direction for effective H&S management.
- **Do**-ensure management systems deal with risks sensibly, responsibly and proportionately.
- **Check**-monitoring and reporting processes are in place to ensure the school is compliant.
- **Act**-undertake a formal review of health and safety performance.

A Health & Safety Governor at each school, *Magda Brewin* has been appointed to receive relevant information, monitor the implementation of policies and procedures and to feedback health and safety issues and identified actions to the Governing Body.

The Governing body will receive regular reports from the Headteacher or other nominated members of staff, school business manager etc. in order to enable them to provide and prioritise resources for health and safety issues.

Where required the Governing body will seek specialist advice on health and safety which the establishment may not feel competent to deal with.

The Trust as the employer provides access to competent H&S advice via James Ottery at HCC's Health and Safety Team, Tel: 01992 556478. healthandsafety@hertfordshire.gov.uk as required by the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.

Responsibilities of the Headteacher

Overall responsibility for the day-to-day management of health and safety in accordance with the Board of Directors' health and safety policy rest with the Headteacher.

The Headteacher has responsibility for:

- Co-operating with the LA and Governing Body to enable health and safety policy and procedures to be implemented and complied with.
- Communicating the policy and other appropriate health and safety information to all relevant people including contractors.
- Ensuring effective arrangements are in place to pro-actively manage health and safety by conducting and reviewing inspections and risk assessments and implementing required actions.
- Reporting to the Governing body on health and safety performance and any safety concerns/ issues which may need to be addressed by the allocation of funds.
- Ensuring that the premises, plant and equipment are maintained in a safe and serviceable condition.
- Reporting to the Governing Body any significant risks which cannot be rectified within the establishment's budget.
- Ensuring all staff are competent to carry out their roles and are provided with adequate information, instruction and training.
- Ensuring consultation arrangements are in place for staff and their trade union representatives (where appointed) and recognising the right of trade unions in the workplace to require a health and safety committee to be set up.
- Monitoring purchasing and contracting procedures to ensure health and safety is included in specifications & contract conditions.

Whilst overall responsibility for health and safety cannot be delegated the Headteacher may choose to delegate certain tasks to other members of staff.

Responsibilities of other staff holding posts of special responsibility:

- Apply the school's health and safety policy to their own department or area of work.
- Ensure staff under their control are aware of and follow relevant published health and safety guidance (from sources such as CLEAPSS, AfPE etc.)
- Ensure health and safety risk assessments are undertaken for the activities for which they are responsible and that identified control measures are implemented.
- Ensure that appropriate safe working procedures are brought to the attention of all staff under their control.
- Take appropriate action on health, safety and welfare issues referred to them, informing the head of any problems they are unable to resolve within the resources available to them.
- Carry out regular inspections of their areas of responsibility and report / record these inspections.
- Ensure the provision of sufficient information, instruction, training and supervision to enable staff and pupils to avoid hazards and contribute positively to their own health and safety.
- Ensure that all accidents (including near misses) occurring within their area of responsibility are promptly reported and investigated.

Responsibilities of employees

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act etc. 1974 all employees have general health and safety responsibilities. All employees are obliged to take care of their own health and safety whilst at work along with that of others who may be affected by their actions.

All employees have responsibility to:

- Take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and others in undertaking their work.
- Comply with the school's health and safety policy and procedures at all times.
- Report all accidents and incidents in line with the reporting procedure.
- Co-operate with school management on all matters relating to health and safety.
- Not to intentionally interfere with or misuse any equipment or fittings provided in the interests of health safety and welfare.
- Report all defects in condition of premises or equipment and any health and safety concerns immediately to their line manager.
- Ensure that they only use equipment or machinery that they are competent / have been trained to use.
- Make use of all necessary control measures and personal protective equipment provided for safety or health reasons.

PART 3. LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS

Each Trust school will detail its own approach to the items list in these appendices. Necessary arrangements in each school should include managing topics listed in these appendices, but must not be limited to these topics alone. Schools may not reduce the breadth and effectiveness of the arrangements outlined in the appendices, but should personalise them as required. Each school will therefore form its own Part II to this overarching Health and Safety Policy. The Part II will consist of detailed arrangements for the following items and any other necessary matters to manage in respect of safety.

Further detailed information and guidance on the LA's expectations are provided via [Health and safety - Hertfordshire Grid for Learning \(thegrid.org.uk\)](http://thegrid.org.uk)

Appendix 1	-	Risk Assessments
Appendix 2	-	Offsite visits
Appendix 3	-	Health and Safety Monitoring and Inspections
Appendix 4	-	Fire Evacuation and other Emergency Arrangements
Appendix 5	-	Fire Prevention, Testing of Equipment
Appendix 6	-	First Aid and Medication
Appendix 7	-	Accident Reporting Procedures
Appendix 8	-	Health and Safety Information and Training
Appendix 9	-	Personal safety / lone Working
Appendix 10	-	Premises Work Equipment
Appendix 11	-	Flammable and Hazardous Substances (COSHH)
Appendix 12	-	Asbestos
Appendix 13	-	Contractors
Appendix 14	-	Work at Height
Appendix 15	-	Moving and Handling
Appendix 16	-	Display Screen Equipment
Appendix 17	-	Vehicles
Appendix 18	-	Lettings
Appendix 19	-	Minibuses
Appendix 20	-	Stress
Appendix 21	-	Legionella
Appendix 22	-	School Swimming and pools
Appendix 23	-	Work Experience
Appendix 24	-	Infectious diseases

RISK ASSESSMENTS

APPENDIX 1

General Risk Assessments

The school conducts and documents risk assessments for all activities presenting a significant risk. These are co-ordinated by each school, by their Departments and Estates Manager at St Mary's following guidance contained on the H&S pages of the [Hertfordshire Grid](http://thegrid.org.uk).

Risk assessments are available for all staff to view by request to the Estates manager or the Heads of Department. These assessments will be reviewed on an annual basis or when the work activity changes, whichever is the soonest. Staff will be made aware of any changes to risk assessments relating to their work.

As part of the review process previous versions of risk assessments are clearly dated, issued a unique reference number (RA123) and securely kept. Risk assessment records will be kept for a minimum of 5 years (any relevant risk assessments linked to pupil incidents and subsequent investigations will be retained for a minimum of 3 years after their 18th Birthday).

Individual Risk Assessments

Specific assessments relating to staff member(s) or pupil(s) are held on that individual's file and will be undertaken by line managers. Such risk assessments will be reviewed on a regular basis.

It is the responsibility of all staff to inform their line manager of any medical conditions (including pregnancy) which may impact upon their work.

Curriculum Activities

Risk assessments for curriculum activities will be carried out by Heads of Department/Subject Leaders using the relevant codes of practice and model risk assessments detailed below.

Whenever a new course is adopted or developed all activities are checked against these and significant findings incorporated into texts in daily use.

All LA schools have a subscription to [CLEAPSS](#) and their publications are used as sources of model risk assessment within Science, Art and DT.

See

- CLEAPSS technology site <http://dt.cleapss.org.uk/>; CLEAPSS science site <http://science.cleapss.org.uk/>; CLEAPSS primary school's site <http://primary.cleapss.org.uk/>

In addition, the following publications are used within the school as sources of model risk assessments:

[Secondary schools]

- [BS 4163:2021+A1:2002 Health and Safety for Design and Technology in Schools and Similar Establishments- Code of Practice]
- [ASE, Safeguards in the school laboratory, 2006 (11th Edition), <http://www.ase.org.uk/>] ISBN 978-0-86357-408-5]
- [Safe Practice in Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity 2024' Association of PE 'AfPE' <http://www.afpe.org.uk/>]

[Primary schools]

- [Be Safe! Health and Safety in primary science and technology, 4th Edition ASE] ISBN ISBN 978-0-86357-426-9]
- [Safe Practice in Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity 2024' Association of PE 'AfPE' <http://www.afpe.org.uk/>]

OFFSITE VISITS

APPENDIX 2

HCC has adopted the Outdoor Education Advisory Panel's (OEAP) [national guidance](#) for learning outside the classroom and offsite visits and all offsite visits will be planned following this guidance available via <https://oeapng.info/>

Responsibilities of key roles are outlined by the OEAP here:

[Visit leader](#)

[EVC](#)

See HCC's policy for the [management of Learning outside the classroom and offsite visits](#)

The LA's Offsite Visits Advisor must be notified of all level 3 trips, which include self-led adventurous activities, fieldwork trips to open or "wild" country, and all trips overseas. This will be done via the use of Evolve, the online notification and approvals system.

The Trust has approved the offsite visits arrangements in place in each school, but may eventually form an overarching policy.

Evolve is used for the planning and approval of offsite visits. Relevant risk assessments, participant's names etc. will be attached electronically as required. The school also have their own set of standard operating procedures and risk assessments for local learning areas (routine / low risk activities taking place near the school).

The member of staff planning the trip (visit leader) will submit all relevant paperwork and risk assessments relating to the trip to the school's Educational Visits Co-ordinator(s) who will check the documentation and planning of the trip and if acceptable refer the visit for approval to Senior Leadership Team.

HCC recommends that the EVC should attend training and refresher training every 3 -5 years.

HEALTH AND SAFETY MONITORING AND INSPECTION
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A formal inspection of the site will be conducted on a termly basis and be undertaken / co-ordinated by Headteacher/Estates Manager

Inspections of individual departments will be carried out by Heads of Department or nominated staff.

In both cases the person(s) undertaking inspection will complete a report in writing and submit this to the Headteacher/Estates Manager. Responsibility for following up items detailed in the safety inspection report will rest with Headteacher/Estates Manager.

A named governor , Magda Brewin, will be involved in monitoring the school's health and safety management systems on at least an annual basis and report back to both the relevant sub-committee and full governing body meetings.

Advice and pro forma inspection checklists to assist the monitoring process can be found on the [Grid](#).

Inspections will be conducted jointly with the establishment's health and safety representative(s) if possible.

See Appendix 10 for details of monitoring premises compliance issues.

FIRE EVACUATION AND OTHER EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring the school's fire risk assessment is undertaken by a competent person and implemented following guidance contained in ['Fire safety risk assessment; Educational premises'](#) and the [Grid](#).

The fire risk assessment is located in each school Estates Managers office and electronically in the fire folder and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Emergency Procedures

Fire and emergency evacuation procedures are detailed in each school and a summary posted in each classroom. These procedures will be reviewed at least annually and are made available to all staff as part of the school's induction process. This training is supported by regular termly drills.

Evacuation procedures are also made available to all other users of the building (contractors / visitors/ hirers etc.).

Emergency exits, fire alarm call points, assembly points etc. are clearly identified by safety signs and notices.

Emergency contact and key holder details are maintained as part of the school's emergency response plan and updated to the Trust as necessary.

The school has arrangements in place for the evacuation of people with specific needs and where required the Headteacher and SENCO is responsible for completing Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs) which are reviewed annually / sooner in the event of any significant changes.

Fire Drills

- Fire drills will be undertaken termly, and results recorded electronically in the fire folder.

Fire Fighting

- Staff must ensure the alarm is raised BEFORE attempting to tackle a fire.
- The safe evacuation of persons is an absolute priority. Staff may only attempt to deal with small fires, **if it is safe to do so without putting themselves at risk**, using portable firefighting equipment.
- Staff are made aware of the type and location of portable fire fighting equipment and receive basic instruction in its correct use at induction.

Details of service isolation points (i.e. gas, water, electricity) are held in each school *Estates Managers office Fire log book*.

Details of chemicals and flammable substances on site.

An inventory is held by each department where substances are held with a copy in the Estates Managers office COSHH folder. of these will be kept at each school as appropriate, for consultation. (See COSHH Appendix 11).

INSPECTION /MAINTENANCE OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT

The headteacher is responsible for ensuring that the school's fire log is kept up to date and that the following inspection / maintenance is undertaken and recorded in the fire logbook.

FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

Fire alarm call points will be tested weekly in rotation.

Any defects on the system will be reported immediately to the Fire alarm contractor / electrical engineer.

A fire alarm maintenance contract is in place for each school and the system tested annually for mains only systems / 6 monthly for all alarm systems with battery back-up by them. For St Mary's servicing is done 6th monthly

FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT

Weekly in-house checks are undertaken to ensure that all firefighting equipment remains available for use and operational.

Chubb undertakes an annual maintenance service of all firefighting equipment.

Defective equipment or extinguishers that need recharging should be taken out of service and reported direct to Site Team / Estates Manager who will contact Chubb

EMERGENCY LIGHTING SYSTEMS

Emergency lighting will be checked for operation monthly in house and these tests recorded.

Annually a full discharge test for the duration of the batteries and certification of the system will be undertaken by ANR Electrical

MEANS OF ESCAPE

General daily checks are undertaken for any obstructions on exit routes and ensures all final exit doors are operational and available for use.

FIRST AID AND MEDICATION

The school has assessed the need for first aid provision and identified the following staff to provide first aid (both on site and where required for trips/visits and extra-curricular activities).

TRAINED TO FIRST AID AT WORK LEVEL (3 days /18 hrs):

Diarmuid McGowan / 20.11.2023 / Ext. 242

Suzanne Harding / 10.09.2023 / Ext. 233

Natasha Hayden / 06.11.2023 / Ext. 287

Phoenix Harritt / 26.10.2023 / Ext. 209

TRAINED TO EYFS STANDARD (PAEDIATRIC FIRST AID, 2 days/ 12 hrs):

N/A

TRAINED TO EMERGENCY FIRST AID AT WORK (1 day / 6 hrs):

Ann Newman / 22.09.23 / Ext. 294

OTHER TRAINING IN EMERGENCY FIRST AID¹ (6 hr):

Nicola Conquest / 27.06.2022 / 210

Steve Eddleston / 27.06.2022 / 210

Leanne Massey / 27.06.2022 / 210

Daren Jones / 27.06.2022 / Radio

Nicola Goudie / 27.06.2022 / 259

Jo Knight / 27.06.2022 / 258

Ella Serdet / 13.03.2024 / 210

Will Lawn / 10.04.2022 / 210

Harry Packer / 07.03.2024 / 210

First aid qualifications remain valid for 3 years. The Heads PA will ensure that refresher training is organised to maintain competence and that new persons are trained should first aiders leave.

FIRST AID BOXES ARE LOCATED AT THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

First Aid Room

PE Office

Science Prep Room – Upstairs

Science Prep Room Downstairs

Store Room off H6

6th Form

C3

E3 – Resources Area

A2 – Workshop Sink Area

Main Staff Room

Library The Student Hub Officer is responsible for regularly checking (termly) that the contents of first aid boxes, (including travel kits/ those in vehicles) are complete and replenished as necessary.

[AEDs (automated external defibrillators) ARE LOCATED AT THE FOLLOWING POINTS²:

¹ Supplementary first aid training focussed on pupil needs and could include other specific risks e.g., sports first aid for PE staff etc.

² See [DfE guidance on AEDs](#) defibrillator provided to all schools without one by end of 22/23 academic year.

First Aid Room
PE Office
Main Reception
Main Staff Room

The Student Hub Officer checks the AED on a weekly basis (modern AEDs self-test and will indicate a problem via a warning light / audible alarm)

Defibrillators are registered on [The Circuit](#) to ensure they are visible to local ambulance services.

Transport to hospital: Where a first aider considers it necessary, the injured person will be sent directly to hospital (normally by ambulance). Parents / carers will be notified immediately of all major injuries to pupils.

No casualty will be allowed to travel to hospital unaccompanied and an accompanying adult will be designated in situations where the parents/carers cannot be contacted in time.

Where there is any doubt about the appropriate course of action, the first aider will consult with the Health Service helpline (NHS Direct 111) and, in the case of pupil with the parents/carers.

Nearest A&E

Princess Alexandra Hospital
Hamstel Road
Harlow
Essex
CM20 1QX Tel: 01279 444455

Nearest Minor Injuries

Herts and Essex Community Hospital
Haymeads Lane
Bishop's Stortford
CM23 5JH Tel: 01279 655191

Administration of medicines

All medication will be administered to pupils in accordance with the DfE document [Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions](#). Detailed arrangements are provided in a separate school policy.

No member of staff will administer **any** medication (prescribed or non-prescribed) to children under 16 without a parent's written consent except in exceptional circumstances.

The Student Hub Officer is responsible for accepting medication and checking all relevant information has been provided by parents / carers prior to administering.

Records of administration will be kept by The Student Hub Officer

All non-emergency medication kept in school is securely stored and clearly labelled in the First Aid Room which is monitored by the Student Hub Officer with access strictly controlled. All pupils know how to access their medication. Under no circumstances will medication be stored in first aid boxes.

Emergency medication and devices such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing meters and adrenaline pens are always readily available to children and not locked away. These are kept in the First Aid Room and clearly labelled.

The school have chosen to hold an emergency salbutamol inhaler for use by pupils who have been prescribed an inhaler and for whom parental consent for its use has been obtained. This emergency inhaler would be used if the prescribed inhaler is not available e.g., broken / empty.

The school have chosen to hold an emergency Adrenaline auto injector (AAI) e.g., EpiPen for emergency use on pupils who have been prescribed one and for whom parental consent for its use has been obtained. This emergency AAI would be used where their own device is unavailable or not working. In the event of a possible severe allergic reaction in a pupil without a prescribed device / parental consent, emergency services (999) would be contacted, and advice sought as to whether administration of the emergency AAI is appropriate.

Individual Health Care Plans (IHCP)

Parents / carers are responsible for providing the school with up to date information regarding their child's health care needs and providing appropriate medication.

IHCPs are in place for those pupils with significant medical needs e.g., chronic or ongoing medical conditions such as diabetes, epilepsy, anaphylaxis etc.

The IHCP is developed with the pupil (where appropriate), parent/carer, designated named member of school staff, specialist nurse (where appropriate) and relevant healthcare services. These plans will be completed at the beginning of the school year / when child enrolls / on diagnosis being communicated to the school and will be reviewed annually by the Student Hub Officer

All staff are made aware of any relevant health care needs and copies of health care plans are available in the Student Hub and on SIMS.

Staff will receive appropriate training related to health conditions of pupils and the administration of medicines by a health professional as appropriate.

ACCIDENT REPORTING PROCEDURES

Accidents to employees

Employees must report all accidents, violent incidents and near misses.

Where HCC is the employer then **all** employee incidents must be reported to HCC using the online accident/incident reporting system hosted on Solero. (We are not employed by HCC? – we have an accident book held by Student hub which has to be filled in. So do we need this section?)

Employee accident / incident forms are to be retained for a minimum of 3 years.

Accidents to pupils and other non-employees (members of public / visitors to site etc.)

A local accident book in Student Hub is used to record all minor incidents to non-employees, more significant incidents as detailed below must also reported to HCC using the online accident reporting system hosted on Solero.(I am not aware of this happening?)

- Major injuries.
- Accidents where significant first aid treatment has been provided.
- Accidents which result in the injured person being taken from the scene of the accident directly to hospital.
- Accidents arising from premises / equipment defects.

Parents / carers will be notified immediately of all major injuries.

Pupil / student accident forms are to be retained for a minimum of 3 years after their 18th Birthday.

All Accidents

All major incidents will be reported to the Headteacher and the Governing Body
Accidents will be monitored for trends and a report made to the Governing Body as necessary.

The Headteacher, or their nominee, will investigate accidents and take remedial steps to avoid similar instances recurring. Faulty equipment, systems of work etc. must be reported and attended to as soon as possible. Any relevant learning points will be communicated to relevant staff and pupils / students.

Reporting to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring all RIDDOR reportable incidents are reported.

Incidents involving a fatality or major injury (to employees, [see specified reportable injuries from HSE](#))(There is specific guidance form the HSC for incident reporting in schools) will be reported immediately to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on 0345 300 9923 and the Education Health and Safety team on 01992 556478.

Incidents resulting in the following outcomes must be reported to the HSE via their online reporting system <http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/>

- A pupil or other non-employee being taken directly to hospital for treatment and the accident arising as the result of the condition of the premises / equipment, due to the way equipment or substances were used or due to a lack of supervision / organisation etc. within 10 days of the incident occurring.
- Employee absence or inability to carry out their normal duties as the result of a work-related accident, for periods of 7 days or more (including W/E's and holidays), within 15 days of the incident occurring.

See the HSE information sheet ['Incident reporting in schools'](#) EDIS1 REV 3

For VC and Community schools any incident notified to the HSE must also be reported to the LA's Health and Safety Team.

APPENDIX 8

HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION & TRAINING

Consultation

Employees and/or their representatives will be consulted on all matters that affect their health, safety and welfare.

A meeting of the Health & Safety Committee is scheduled every term (has not been done every term).. The Health & Safety Committee consists of key staff (such as Science Technicians, Catering Manager, and Site team). This meeting is chaired by the Estates Manager (Incorrect this is chaired by the SLT responsible for H&S the Estates Manager is a participant)with Responsibility for H&S, with minutes kept and stored in the Premises Folder..

The School Business Committee meets termly to discuss health, safety and welfare issues affecting staff, pupils or visitors. Action points from meetings are brought forward for review by school management. The teaching Trade Unions appointed Safety Representative on the staff is not appointed at this time. Marcus Hunt is the staff Health and Safety Representative (voluntary)

Communication of Information

Information and guidance on how to comply with the LA's health and safety policy is given via the [H&S pages of the Grid](#) .

The Health and Safety Law poster is displayed in Main Reception, J Block Staff room & Student Hub.

In Academy schools, the Trust as the employer provides access to competent H & S advice via HCC's H & S Team (James Ottery) as required by the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.

Health and Safety Training

All employees will be provided with:

- a copy of and induction training in the requirements of this policy.
- update training in response to any significant change.
- training in specific skills needed for certain activities (e.g., use of hazardous substances, work at height etc.) matched to their work and responsibilities
- refresher training where required.

Any new instructions or restrictions will be communicated to all staff in writing via the staff bulletin and highlighted as part of the standard cycle of policy review.

Training records will be kept staff files and in the CPD folder in staff resources.

The Heads PA is responsible for co-ordinating health and safety training needs and for including details in the training and development plan. This includes a system for ensuring that refresher training is undertaken within the prescribed time limits.

The Headteacher will be responsible for assessing the effectiveness of training received and ensuring staff are competent to undertake their duties.

Each member of staff is also responsible for drawing the Headteacher's / line managers attention to their own personal needs for training and for not undertaking duties unless they are confident that they have the necessary competence.

PERSONAL SAFETY / LONE WORKING

The school believes that staff should not be expected to put themselves in danger and will not tolerate violent / threatening behaviour to its staff.

Staff will report any such incidents to the Headteacher.

These incidents will also be reported to:

The Local Governing Board and Trust.

The school will work in partnership with the LA and police where inappropriate behaviour/ individual conduct compromises the school's aims in providing an environment in which the pupils and staff feel safe.

Lone working

Staff are encouraged not to work alone in school. Work carried out unaccompanied or without immediate access to assistance should be risk assessed to determine if the activity is necessary.

Work involving potentially significant risks (for example work at height) must not be undertaken whilst working alone.

Staff working outside of normal school hours must obtain permission of the Headteacher / senior member of staff and sign in and out of the school premises. The Site team / Estates Manager will also need to be informed.

Where lone working cannot be avoided staff should ensure they have means to summon help in an emergency e.g., access to a telephone or mobile phone etc.

Responding to intruder alarm call outs

Arena Security are our nominated key holder when attending empty premises where there has been an alarm activation. Contact details are listed with the intruder alarm monitoring centre. They have the relevant keys and codes to access the site.

PREMISES AND WORK EQUIPMENT

All staff are required to report to the Site Team / Estates Manager any problems found with the premises or plant/equipment. Defective equipment will be clearly marked and taken out of service by storing in a secure location pending repair / disposal. Where premises defects are identified, a dynamic assessment is conducted to determine if the area should be isolated / cordoned off whilst awaiting repair.

The Estates Manager is responsible for identifying all plant and equipment in an equipment register and ensuring that any specific training or instruction needs, personal protective equipment requirements are identified and relevant risk assessments conducted where required.

Equipment restricted to those users who are authorised / have received specific training is detailed in the register.

Planned maintenance / inspection

Regular inspection and testing of school plant and equipment is conducted to legislative requirements by competent contractors.

Oversight of premises compliance issues is the responsibility of the Estates Manager. This is achieved by the use of a school based compliance tracker and Statlog.

Curriculum Areas

Heads of Departments are responsible for ensuring maintenance requirements for equipment in their areas are identified and implemented.

Electrical Safety

The Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 require electrical equipment in the workplace to be maintained, regardless of ownership (e.g. employee-owned, leased or hired).

All staff will conduct a basic visual inspection of plugs, cables and electrical equipment prior to use. Damaged /defective equipment must not be used and will be reported to the Site Team.

All portable items of electrical equipment will be subject to formal inspection and testing (Portable Appliance Testing (PAT)) on an identified cycle (dependent upon the type of equipment and the environment it is used in).

All earthed equipment (class 1) and cables attached to such equipment will be tested annually.

This inspection and testing will be conducted by Plowright Hinton on a yearly basis for all portable equipment.

the Estates Manager is responsible for keeping an up-to-date inventory of all relevant electrical appliances and for ensuring that all equipment is available for testing. I do not have a whole site inventory when testing is done there are over 3000 items. I have inventories for higher risk departments only i.e. site team cleaning, Science, Cleaning, D&T, Art, PE, Catering.

Personal items of equipment should not be brought into school without prior agreement. Whilst most equipment phone chargers etc. will be very low risk basic visual checks on condition prior to use must be undertaken. Higher risk items of equipment will also be checked by the site team and where relevant included in the schools PAT testing cycle.

An electrical installation condition report (fixed wire test) will be conducted by ANR Electrical or a competent electrical contractor, on a 5-year cycle.

Records of these inspections and certification will be maintained and remedial works arising acted upon in a timely manner.

PE and External play equipment

External play equipment will only be used when appropriately supervised.

COSHH (FLAMMABLE AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES)

Every attempt will be made to avoid, or choose the least harmful of, substances which fall under the **“Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002”** (COSHH Regulations).

Within curriculum areas (in-particular science and DT) Heads of Department are responsible for COSHH and ensuring that an up-to-date inventory and model risk assessments contained in the relevant national publications are in place. (CLEAPSS, Association for Science Education's "Topics in Safety" etc.)

In all other areas the establishments nominated person(s) responsible for substances hazardous to health are the Estates Manager, Evergreen Cleaning or Aspens Catering.

They shall ensure:

- an inventory of all hazardous substances used on site is compiled and regularly reviewed.
- material safety data sheets are obtained from the relevant supplier for all such materials.
- If required, full COSHH risk assessments are conducted and communicated to staff exposed to the product/substance.
- all substances are appropriately and securely stored out of the reach of children.
- all substances are kept in their original packaging and labelled (no decanting into unmarked containers).
- suitable personal protective equipment (PPE) has been identified and available for use. PPE is to be provided free of charge where the need is identified as part of the risk assessment.

Records of exposure to hazardous substances in the workplace should be kept for up to 40 years.

PPE

All staff required to wear PPE will be provided with suitable information, instruction and training in its use and will use PPE provided accordingly, reporting any defects to their manager.

Where persons may be affected by their use on site, the Estates Manager is responsible for ensuring that COSHH assessments are available from contractors (*this applies to both regular contracts such as cleaners and caterers and from builders, decorators, flooring specialists, etc*).

Secondary level only

RADIOACTIVE SOURCES

The school follows CLEAPSS guidance L93 in 'Managing Ionising radiations and Radioactive substances in schools and colleges' Feb 2024

- HCC's Radiation Protection Officer is the Curriculum Advisor for Science.
- CLEAPSS provide the Radiation Protection Adviser (RPA) service for HCC.

The member of staff with day-to-day responsibility for radioactive sources (the Radiation Protection Supervisor, RPS) is Diarmuid McGowan; they are responsible for ensuring that the radioactive source history and use log are kept up to date and that a leak test is conducted and recorded annually.

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An asbestos survey, register and management plan is in place for the school in accordance with [HCC's asbestos policy](#). The school's most recent asbestos management survey was conducted on last full survey done by Redhills 2014 with any changes being updated as work or projects provide localised surveys. The school's asbestos log (including school plans, asbestos survey data and a site-specific management plan) is held by the Estates Manager in the Estates Office and on the Shared Drive with the site team having a copy of plans & information.

The Headteacher will ensure that **all** school staff (and others such as catering and cleaning staff who may not be employed directly by the school) are made aware of the location of asbestos containing materials (ACM) within their work areas.

Under no circumstances must staff undertake any work which could disturb the fabric of the building or fixed equipment, e.g., affixing anything to walls without first obtaining approval from a the Site Team who has been trained to be an Asbestos Authorising Officer. (Even stapling / pushing a drawing pin into ACM may result in the release of fibres into the air.)

In the event of any damage occurring to materials known or suspected to contain asbestos this will be reported to one of the school's asbestos authorising officers and the area immediately evacuated and closed / locked off. (The school has a incident procedure for dealing with an unplanned disturbance of asbestos-containing materials see <https://thegrid.org.uk/Restricted-assets/asbestos-incident-management-july-2023.pdf>)

Professional advice will be sought and details of the incident reported to HCC's asbestos team asbestos@hertfordshire.gov.uk.

The school's asbestos authorising officers are Charlie Cage, Site Manager, Enzo Russo, Estates Manager and Site Staff, refresher training is required 3 yearly

Prior to **any** work commencing on the fabric of the building or fixed equipment (e.g., boilers, kilns etc.), either by contractors or school staff, one of the asbestos authorising officers **must** check the asbestos log and establish whether permission to work can be given.

The Headteacher / asbestos authorising officers shall ensure:

- That the asbestos log is consulted at the earliest possible opportunity and that **all** work affecting the fabric of the building or fixed equipment is entered in the permission to work log and signed by those undertaking the work.
- A visual inspection of asbestos containing materials remaining on site is conducted and recorded (legal requirement to do so annually as a minimum) as part of the school's asbestos management plan.
- The limitations of the management survey and areas of the building that have **not** been surveyed are understood and considered as part of the permission to work process e.g., areas above 3m in height, within ceiling voids (where panels / tiles are fixed), floor voids and ducts etc.
- All records pertaining to asbestos are effectively maintained and retained (legal requirement to do so for a period of 40 years).
- The school's asbestos management plan is kept up to date, reviewed at least annually and that any asbestos works (removal, new project specific surveys etc.) are notified to the LA via asbestos@hertfordshire.gov.uk.
- Where more invasive works and / or works which go beyond the limitations of the management survey are planned, a refurbishment / demolition survey will be commissioned to obtain a comprehensive assessment of all ACMs that could be affected prior to the works commencing.

CONTRACTORS

All contractors used by the school shall ensure compliance with relevant health and safety legislation, guidance and good practice.

All contractors must report to Reception where they will be asked to sign in and wear an identification badge. Contractors will be issued with guidance on emergency procedures, relevant risks, and local management arrangements.

The Estates Manager and Site Team are responsible for monitoring areas where the contractor's work may directly affect staff and pupils and checking whether expected controls are in place and working effectively.

School managed projects

The [Construction \(Design and Management\) Regulations 2015](#)³ applies to all building, demolition, repair and maintenance or refurbishment work.

Where the school undertakes projects direct the governing body are considered the 'client' and therefore have additional statutory obligations. These projects are managed by Barkers Associates on the school's behalf who will ensure landlords consent has been obtained and, where applicable, all statutory approvals, such as planning permission and building regulations have been sought.

To ensure contractor competency the school uses a property framework contractor as a method of procuring works. These contractors have satisfied the County Council that they understand and abide by health and safety regulations. Details can be found at [Property contractors and consultants - Hertfordshire Grid for Learning \(thegrid.org.uk\)](#)

When considering the appointment of contractors outside of Hertfordshire frameworks the Estates Manager will undertake appropriate competency checks prior to engaging a contractor i.e. they have sufficient skills, knowledge and experience) to do the job safely, the degree of competence required will depend on the work to be done.

Contractors will be required to provide a construction phase plan, risk assessments and method statements detailing the safe systems of work to be used prior to works commencing on site.

Risk assessments and method statements shall be specific to the site and all aspects of the works to be undertaken. The school, contractors and any subcontractors involved will exchange relevant information regarding the work activities and agree the risk assessments.

APPENDIX 14

WORK AT HEIGHT

Working at height can present a significant risk, where such activities cannot be avoided a **task specific** risk assessment will be conducted to ensure such risks are adequately controlled. A copy of this assessment will be provided to employees authorised to work at height.

³ Such projects are notifiable to the HSE where the work exceeds 30 days or involves more than 500 person days of work. In such instances and/ or if there will be more than 1 contractor on site at the same time (in which case a principal designer and principal contractor must be appointed in writing by the client) it is recommended that an agent be used to work on the school's behalf.

Storage above head height is minimised as far as possible, where this cannot be avoided only lightweight and rarely used items are stored there.

When working at height (including accessing storage or putting up displays) appropriate stepladders or kick stools are to be used. Staff must not climb onto chairs etc.

Only those persons who have been trained to use ladders safely may use them.

Basic instruction is provided to all staff who use ladders / stepladders.

Formal training on work at height, use of ladders, mobile tower scaffolds etc. will be provided where a significant risk is identified as part of an individual's role e.g. site staff, drama, ICT technician etc. See also [LA455 - The Ladder Association](#)

The establishments nominated person(s) responsible for work at height is (are) the Site Team

The nominated person(s) shall ensure:

- all work at height is properly planned and organised.
- the use of access equipment is restricted to authorised users.
- all those involved in work at height are trained and competent to do so.
- the risks from working at height are assessed and appropriate equipment selected.
- a register of access equipment is maintained, all equipment is regularly inspected and maintained with any defective equipment taken out of use until repaired / replaced.
- any risks from fragile surfaces is properly controlled.

APPENDIX 15

LIFTING AND HANDLING

Generic risk assessments for regular manual handling operations are undertaken and staff

provided with information on safe moving and handling techniques.

Staff should ensure they are not lifting heavy items and equipment unless they have received training and/or equipment in order to do so safely.

Those manual handling activities which present a significant risk to the health and safety of staff, will be reported to the Estates Manager and where such activities cannot be avoided a risk assessment will be conducted to ensure such risks are adequately controlled. A copy of this assessment will be provided to employees who must follow the instruction given when carrying out the task.

Paediatric Moving and Handling

All staff who move and handle pupils have received appropriate training (both in general moving and handling people techniques and specific training on any lifting equipment, hoists, slings etc. they are required to use).

All moving and handling of pupils has been risk assessed and recorded by a competent member of staff.

Equipment for moving and handling people (hoists, slings etc.) is subject to inspection on a 6 monthly basis by a competent contractor.

APPENDIX 16

DISPLAY SCREEN EQUIPMENT (DSE)

All staff who use computers daily, as a significant part of their normal work (*significant is taken to be continuous / near continuous spells of an hour or more at a time*) e.g., admin / office staff shall complete a DSE self-assessment.

Staff identified as DSE users are entitled to an eyesight test for DSE use every 2 years by a qualified optician

Advice on the use of DSE is available via the [Grid](#)

VEHICLES ON SITE

Vehicular access to the school is restricted to school staff and visitors only and not for general use by parents / carers when bringing children to school or collecting them.

Access to the school must be kept clear for emergency vehicles.

Separate pedestrian and vehicle gates are provided.

A risk assessment is in place for pedestrian / vehicle segregation.

There is a clear separation of pedestrians and vehicles access at the school entrance. There are separate pedestrian gates adjacent to both of the vehicle gates. Each pedestrian gate leads on to a path which enters the school site. One of the pathways crosses the entrance to the over-flow car park. Vehicle gates must not be used for pedestrian access. Access for Emergency Vehicles must be maintained (i.e. routes are clear that would allow an ambulance or fire engine to get access to the field and/or playground.

The main entrance vehicle gates are normally kept closed during school hours. The 'In' gate is electronically operated using an inter-com system in reception. This gate is opened at approximately 3pm to allow coaches to access site and is monitored by a member of site team to ensure no unauthorised vehicle access.

The school has a designated vehicle drop off/collection point (referred to as the 'Turning Circle'). This means students being dropped off/collected by coach do not have to cross any public roads to access the coaches. The Turning circle contains a number of 'lanes' with raised pedestrian 'islands' between each. Vehicles dropping off/picking up use these islands to enable pedestrians to safely navigate to the school site. Parents dropping off students must use these lanes/islands so that students are not unexpectedly walking in the paths of on-coming vehicles.

Students using the turning circle do have to use a pedestrian crossing that crosses part of the school carpark. During the morning and afternoon coach runs there is a member of staff on duty to ensure students cross the pedestrian crossing safely.

LETTINGS / SHARED USE OF PREMISES

Lettings are managed by the Estates Manager.

They will ensure a signed letting agreement is completed specifying the school's terms and conditions for hire. (See [Hiring agreements and third party access - Hertfordshire Grid for Learning \(thegrid.org.uk\)](https://www.thegrid.org.uk))
Relevant public liability cover must be in place and checked by the school.

The school will provide hirers with a site induction to ensure they are clear on emergency procedures and any specific risks or restrictions relating to the use of the site.

A risk assessment (proportionate to the activity) will be completed before the event, the school reserves the right to impose restrictions in order to ensure health and safety.

Where the booking group are not part of a formal organisation and do not have public liability insurance, they will be requested to sign a declaration to acknowledge this.
Any electrical equipment brought onto site must be PAT tested if it is not brand new. Depending on the activity a separate risk assessment may be needed.

MINIBUSES

The Estates Manager maintains a list of nominated drivers who have received training in order to drive a minibus and conducts an annual check of their driving licence via the DVLA.⁴

[On an annual basis individual staff will be required obtain a check code from the DVLA and provide this to The Estates Manager in order the school can see what vehicles they can drive and any penalty points or disqualifications on their licence]

All minibus drivers should hold a valid HCC minibus permit (valid for 5 years) Issued by the HCC Road Safety Unit.

[Minibus driver assessment scheme | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

The Site Team is responsible for the undertaking regular checks on the vehicles and the schools operation of minibuses following advice on the Grid [Minibuses in Hertfordshire | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

⁴ All drivers must be over 21 and hold a full Category B (car) licence, non-employees must have held this for at least two years. Employees must have category D1 entitlement, those who obtained their car licence after 1 January 1997 must additionally obtain Category D or D1 by passing a medical and the Passenger Carrying Vehicle (PCV) theory and practical driving tests. This also applies to all drivers with pre-1997 licences if they intend to drive a minibus abroad.

STRESS / WELLBEING

The school and governing body are committed to promoting high levels of health and well-being and recognise the importance of identifying and reducing workplace stressors in line with the [HSE management standards](#)

The school will

- demonstrate good practice through a step-by-step risk assessment approach, ensuring the systems in place to support school staff are reflected in a risk assessment.
- allow assessment of the current situation using pre-existing data, staff surveys etc.
- promote active discussion with staff and their UNION representatives, to help decide on practical improvements that can be made

The school's wellbeing / mental health lead⁵ is Magda Brewin.

[The school has signed up to the DfE's education staff wellbeing charter, which sets out commitments to the wellbeing and mental health of everyone working in education.

[Education staff wellbeing charter - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

For full details see School "Policy E39 – Staff Wellbeing"

The School takes a proactive approach to promote good well-being and management of stress among staff. This is inclusive of (but not limited to) some of the following examples of practice:

- Provide personal and professional development programmes that meet the specific needs of the staff and at the same time fulfil school priorities.
- Provide a range of strategies for involving staff in school decision making processes.
- Social opportunities for staff to relax and bond together, e.g. summer BBQ and Christmas party.
- Staff Masses to join together as part of a staff community in a Catholic setting.
- Celebrating staff achievements and personal milestones through the Staff Association.
- Having a clear line-management structure that encourages non-judgemental and confidential care procedures through, for instance, providing additional support, mentoring and coaching support programmes for staff.
- Constantly review the demands on teachers and support staff, e.g. the time spent on paperwork, and strive towards seeking out alternative solutions wherever possible through having open communication channels with staff.
- The provision of School Chaplaincy to provide pastoral care and support for staff as well as students.
- Prioritising of allocated staff time for spiritual reflection - briefing prayer and reflection weekly.
- Respond sensitively and flexibly to external pressures that impact on staff lives and offer support whilst at the same time ensuring the efficient running of the school.
- Staff voice through questionnaires and feedback through staff survey.
- Line Management structure always addresses departmental concerns to ensure staff wellbeing is an integral part of their management responsibility.

⁵ **consider suitable training for this role such as mental health first aid training or senior mental health training** The DfE have a grant application process to train a senior mental health lead in schools. See guidance on how to [access and apply for your grant. senior mental health training lead guidance.](#) This is a whole school approach with one of the learning outcomes being on staff development / supporting staff with their own mental wellbeing and the importance of staff looking after their own mental health.

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In the event of staff becoming unwell due to stress the following principles are applied:

- The member of staff communicates with their Line-manager to identify concerns, and work on an approach to best support the member of staff.
- If a member of staff is uncomfortable sharing with their immediate line-manager they are also able to speak to the line-manager of their immediate line-manager.
- In the event of long-term absence due to stress the school has an insurance policy in place to mitigate the financial costs of covering absence staff. This is held with the Schools Advisory Service.
- Furthermore, during a long-term absence the school can instigate a referral to Occupational
- Health in order to support colleagues in their return to work.

LEGIONELLA

A legionella risk assessment of the school has been completed on 03/04/2024 by Water Monitoring Ltd.

The Estates Manager is responsible for ensuring that the identified operational controls are being conducted and recorded in the school's water logbook.

This risk assessment will be reviewed on a regular cycle and specifically where whenever there is reason to suspect it is no longer valid, e.g., significant changes have occurred to the water system and/ or building footprint.

The risks from legionella are mitigated by basic operational controls and thus the following checks are undertaken and recorded.

- Water is heated and stored to 60 deg C at calorifiers (any vessel that generates heat within a mass of stored water).
- Weekly flushing of seldom used outlets and all showers (with all outlets flushed after school holiday periods).
- Monthly temperature checks on sentinel outlets (those nearest and furthest away from calorifiers).
- Quarterly disinfection / descaling of showers.
- Stored cold water tanks are inspected for compliance and safety on an annual basis by the Estates Manager & Water Monitoring Ltd and tank water temperature recorded.

All records relating to the management of Legionella must be kept for 5 years.

Water sampling is carried out on a 6th monthly basis by Water Monitoring Ltd.

SCHOOL SWIMMING

There is no swimming pool at St Mary's Catholic School

WORK RELATED LEARNING

Secondary level only

Where students are involved in 'non-qualification' activities as part of their study programme e.g., work shadowing, work experience or other work-related learning, enterprise activities, study visits etc. then the school retains a duty of care for all students undertaking such activities.

Claire McGrath is responsible for managing and co-ordinating such activities.

Work shadowing and work experience placements should be suitable and thus proportionate checks on health and safety and suitable insurance cover will be conducted.

Work experience

- All students are briefed before taking part in work experience on supervision arrangements and health and safety responsibilities.
- The school utilise YC Hertfordshire to assess the suitability of the placement and relevant supporting documentation. No work experience placement will go ahead if deemed unsuitable. Depending on the nature of the placement and risk this may necessitate a pre-placement visit undertaken by a competent person(s)⁶
- Where work placements form part of the vocational qualification offered by a FE college then the college is responsible for ensuring equivalent placement checks are conducted.
- Every student will receive a placement job description highlighting tasks to be undertaken and any necessary health and safety information which is passed onto the parent / carer.
- Arrangements will be in place to visit/monitor students during the placement.
- Emergency contact arrangements are in place (including out of school hours provision) in order that a member of school staff can be contacted should an incident occur.
- Any incidents involving students on work placement activities will be reported to the placement organiser / school employer at the earliest possible opportunity.

⁶ In order to be deemed competent an individual should hold a suitable nationally accredited/recognised qualification(s). E.g., IOSH (The Institute of Occupational Safety and Health) Managing Safely qualification. In addition to having occupational competence, knowledge and understanding in relation to sector specific placements. Particularly in high-risk placements such as construction, agriculture, equestrian etc.

INFECTION CONTROL

The school follows UKHSA guidance '[Health protection in education and childcare settings](#)' and the recommended [exclusion periods](#) for specific infectious diseases detailed in this guidance.

Risks for new and expectant mothers will be assessed and reviewed frequently, they will be notified of any known cases of infectious diseases that they may have been in contact with and that can affect pregnancy e.g., chickenpox, measles, rubella, slapped cheek etc. in order they can seek medical advice.

In the event of an outbreak the school will review and reinforce existing baseline infection prevention and control measures.

This will include:

- encouraging all staff and students who are unwell not to attend the setting.
- ensuring all eligible groups are enabled and supported to take up the offer of [national immunisation](#) programmes including coronavirus (COVID-19) and flu
- ensuring occupied spaces are well ventilated and let fresh air in
- reinforcing good hygiene practices such as frequent cleaning
- considering communications to raise awareness among parents and carers of the outbreak or incident and to reinforce key messages, including the use of clear hand and respiratory hygiene measures within the setting such as [E-Bug](#)

Specialist advice from UKHSA East of England Health Protection Team will be sought in the event of any outbreak or serious or unusual illness as listed in Chapter 4 of '[Health protection in education and childcare settings](#)' for example

- a higher than previously experienced and/or rapidly increasing number of staff or student absences due to acute respiratory infection or diarrhoea and vomiting.
- evidence of severe disease due to an infection, for example if a pupil, student, child, or staff member is admitted to hospital.
- more than one infection circulating in the same group of students and staff for example chicken pox and scarlet fever.