

**St Mary's Catholic Primary School  
Bognor Regis**



**Model WSCC Health and Safety Policy  
Adapted for St Mary's Catholic Primary School**

**Reviewed Autumn Term 2024**

**Health and Safety Policy issued by the governors of St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Bognor Regis**

---

**Effective from: September 2024**

---

**Signed by: Mr Tony Lucas, Chair of Governors and Mrs Kathryn Cole, Head of School**

---

**Next review date: Sept 2025**

**Statement of Intent**

St Mary's Catholic Primary School governing body acknowledges West Sussex County Council's (WSCC) Corporate Health and Safety Policy, acting as Local Education Authority and employer, and provides the following additional statement of intent to cover all school buildings, activities and undertakings for which it is responsible.

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the governing body accepts that it has the responsibility to take all reasonably practicable steps to secure the health and safety of staff, pupils and others visiting and using the school premises.

The governing body believes that the prevention of accidents, injury or loss is essential to the efficient operation of the school and is part of the good education of its pupils. It will be the governors' policy to encourage, where practicable, the co-operation of all users of the establishment by monitoring, review, discussion and consultation to promote and develop measures which ensure health and safety at work.

Chair of Governors

## **THE ORGANISATION FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **Health and safety responsibilities**

The Governing Body has strategic responsibility for health and safety within all areas of the schools undertakings and is answerable to the LEA for its actions, on behalf of whom it makes decisions. The governing body is responsible for ensuring that advice from competent health and safety advisers is available on relevant matters in order to comply with regulatory controls.

The Head of School/Executive Head has responsibility for the day-to-day operation of health and safety and welfare policies and practices, as delegated by the governing body, within all areas of the school's undertakings. The Head of School/Executive Head are responsible for ensuring that advice from competent health and safety advisers is sought on relevant matters in order to comply with regulatory controls.

Senior Leadership Team are responsible for ensuring that safe working conditions are maintained for all pupils, employees, visitors, members of the public and, where applicable, contractors throughout their individual work areas, as delegated by the Head of School/Executive Head or governing body and detailed in the organisation section of the policy. SLT are responsible for ensuring that advice from competent curriculum and health & safety advisers is sought on health and safety matters in order to comply with regulatory controls.

Employees are responsible for their own health and safety, that of their colleagues and members of the public who may be affected by their work activities.

## **ARRANGEMENTS FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **Accident and Incident Reporting**

All accidents and incidents, to staff, visitors and contractors are reported to WSCC using the online accident reporting system. Minor incidents to pupils are recorded locally, major injuries and direct visits to hospital are also reported to WSCC using the online system.

Mrs R Boniface is responsible for reporting accidents.

The Head of School/Executive Head will monitor accidents and incidents in order to identify trends and report to the governing body.

### **Administering medicines**

The school's Managing Medicines Policy details the procedures followed by the school and is based on WSCC policy and procedures. The lead for the administration of medicines is Mrs R Boniface. A copy of the policy is available from the school office.

### **Asbestos**

The school holds an asbestos register and follows the WSCC Code of Practice regarding monitoring and record keeping. All contractors working on the building are made aware of the location of asbestos and sign the register. Staff are made aware of the location of asbestos and the procedures to follow if discovering disturbed asbestos. Mrs A Winstanley is responsible for asbestos management.

### **Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)**

All hazardous substances stored and used within the school are to be risk assessed and the precautions identified by the risk assessment shall be communicated to staff and implemented. These assessments

will be held in the school's COSHH risk assessment file, along with the relevant data sheets and made available to all employees who are required to use these substances in their work.

Mr W Robinson (Premises Officer) and Mrs A Winstanley (SBM) are the designated persons for ensuring that the COSHH risk assessment file is kept up to date and communicated to relevant staff.

## **Contractors**

Maintenance and servicing contractors receive an induction to the school site (including asbestos), its facilities and emergency arrangements. Contractors undertaking large scale building work receive all of the above and an induction pack which includes relevant school policies, procedures and risk assessments. The school adheres to WSCC self-managed process and uses only WSCC approved contractors. Contractors are continuously monitored whilst on site. Mrs A Winstanley/Mr W Robinson are responsible for the management of contractors

## **Curriculum Safety**

The governors recognise that some curriculum areas represent an increase in risk; these departments hold department specific health and safety policies and arrangements, which are regularly reviewed and communicated to the relevant staff.

Mr A Plymen – responsible for Physical Education

Mrs N Edge – responsible for Science

Miss Howells – responsible for DT

## **Display Screen Equipment (DSE)**

Every DSE user will have a risk assessment completed to make sure they know how to adjust and set up the workstation correctly. It is the responsibility of ICT Contractors to ensure assessments are completed by relevant staff. The risk assessment can be carried out by the workstation user through the e-Learning programme and assessment checklist. This is available on Health and Safety A-Z pages of the WSSfS website.

DSE user risk assessments will be reviewed periodically by Mrs A Winstanley (SBM), at least annually, or if there have been any significant changes to the workstation. A review of the original assessment must be undertaken as soon as practicable by the line manager when an employee complains of musculoskeletal or other health issues that could be attributed to, or aggravated by, working with DSE

## **Electricity**

All portable electrical equipment within the school is to be tested regularly and records of these tests will be held at the school. Private portable electrical equipment must not be brought into the establishment and used without the appropriate checks.

A 5 yearly check of the fixed electrical installation is completed and records kept. Electrical safety is managed by Mrs A Winstanley.

## **Emergency Provision/Business Continuity**

The Emergency Plan details procedures and arrangements to be used in the event of an emergency. This includes liaison with WSCC and the emergency services, provision for the continuation of school business and arrangements to contact interested parties i.e. parents and the press. All staff are trained in the procedures contained within the Emergency Plan and are able to take the appropriate action if required. The Emergency Plan is regularly monitored and reviewed by Mrs A Winstanley and the Head of School/Executive Head.

## **Fire Safety**

The Head of School/Executive Head and Mrs A Winstanley, are the designated persons for fire safety within the establishment. The designated person will ensure that:

- The school's fire risk assessment is kept up-to-date by annual review or in response to significant changes to premises or work arrangements.
- There is reasonable fire-fighting equipment in the school, it is maintained and maintenance records are kept.
- The fire safety equipment, e.g. fire alarm, emergency lighting, etc. is regularly checked, maintained and records are kept.
- There are no general fire hazards around the building, particularly near escape routes, escape routes are unobstructed and that there is access for fire fighters.
- Staff and pupils are practised in evacuating the premises by performing termly drills, monitoring their effectiveness and keeping records.
- Develop personal emergency evacuation plans (PEEP) for those staff and/or pupils who require additional assistance to evacuate the premises.

They will also ensure that the establishment has in place an up to date **Emergency Fire Plan**, which details the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire. The plan must be prepared to ensure that people within the establishment know the action to take if there is a fire, and to ensure the establishment can be safely evacuated.

Where necessary, the Emergency Fire Plan will include the following features:

- Action on discovering a fire and calling the fire service (these notices will also be displayed throughout the establishment)
- The location of the assembly point for roll call;
- Liaison with emergency services;
- Identification of key escape routes;
- The type and location of fire-fighting equipment provided;
- Specific responsibilities in the event of fire (adequate number of fire wardens to assist with the evacuation);
- Training (in house fire safety awareness training is carried out annually for all staff);
- Any need to co-operate or co-ordinate with other responsible persons that will be operating within the premises.

## **First Aid**

Mrs R Boniface oversees medical needs. Details of the school's first aid trained staff is displayed in the school office and staff room. Mrs R Boniface monitors first aid training to ensure certification remains in date.

A first aid risk assessment has been completed and provision is in place, following the findings of the risk assessment. Suitable and appropriate first aid cover is provided at all times during the working day and after hours to cover breakfast and after school clubs and all staff members are aware of the arrangements in place.

Mrs R Boniface is the designated person for ensuring the first aid kits are kept fully stocked and items are within date, checks of first aid kits are recorded as completed.

## **Food Safety**

A risk assessment is in place for lunchtime meals (hot and cold). Midday Meals Supervisors must cordon off a spillage, clear it up immediately and ensure the floor surface is left clean and dry before being opened up to pupils again.

All incidents are to be reported to Mrs A Winstanley.

## **Glazing**

The school regularly monitors glazing as part of the premises inspection. Mr W Robinson is responsible for glazing management.

## **Gas Safety**

The school ensures that the gas boilers and other gas appliances are serviced and maintained regularly. Mr W Robinson is responsible for gas safety.

## **Induction**

All new employees are informed of the school's health and safety arrangements and procedures using the induction checklist available within the Health and Safety A-Z on the WSSfS website. Mrs A Winstanley and Mrs K Cole are responsible for the induction of staff.

## **Infection Control**

The school seeks to manage the spread of infection to prevent ill health from disease i.e. coronavirus, norovirus, hepatitis etc. The school follows the exclusion periods for all infectious diseases set by Public Health England and these are communicated to parents. Risk assessments are completed for infection control and specific diseases and communicated to staff. These risk assessments are supported by infection control procedures i.e. hand washing, increased hygiene and cleaning protocols and where identified by risk assessment personal protective equipment (PPE) is worn by staff. Where the school is aware of the risk of transmission of an infectious disease specific arrangements are in place for the administration of first aid to a potentially infectious pupil, visitor or member of staff. As required under the Reporting of Incidences Diseases Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) infectious diseases that meet the RIDDOR criteria are reported via the online accident reporting system and onto the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) by the WSCC.

## **Lone Working**

Lone working is discouraged, however where employees are required to work alone, the risks should be assessed and adequate controls put in place. The Head of School/Executive Head are responsible for risk assessing and producing lone working procedures.

## **Play equipment**

External and internal play and physical education (P.E.) equipment is serviced by LA grounds maintenance. P.E. equipment is checked prior to every use by the teaching staff any defects are reported immediately to the Head of School or School Business Manager. Mr W Robinson regularly monitors external play equipment and defects are reported immediately to the Head of School or School Business Manager. Faulty equipment is immediately decommissioned.

## **Premises Maintenance**

The internal and external premises will be inspected at regular intervals by Mr W Robinson alongside Mrs A Winstanley, the inspections are recorded and resulting issues reported to the Head of School. In addition a governor and Mr W Robinson undertake a full inspection 6 monthly. The school is to be kept clean, tidy and free from hazardous obstacles. Staff must report any defective equipment, furniture or premises issues to Mrs A Winstanley using the defects log kept in the SBM Office. Mr Robinson will sign and date completed actions in the log.

## **Monitoring, audit and review**

The governing body shall receive termly reports on Health and Safety and will regularly inspect and monitor the premises. Regular review of procedure shall be undertaken in the light of operational practice, new laws and new policy/directives of the Local Authority. The operational practice and procedure shall be constantly monitored by the Head/local safety officer. The governing body shall prepare an annual action plan to address deficiencies in health and safety arising from the Headteachers' annual report.

## **Moving and Handling of Customers and the Manual Handling of Inanimate Loads**

Manual handling is defined as the transporting or supporting of a load (including the lifting, putting down, pushing, pulling, carrying or moving thereof) by hand or bodily force. Consequently, the Manual Handling Operations Regulations apply to a wide range of operations; in this context it applies to both the moving of inanimate loads (manual handling) and the moving and handling of children where they are unable to do this unaided (moving and handling).

Where manual handling or moving and handling tasks are undertaken, the SLT will designate suitably competent staff to undertake risk assessments of the activities, and ensure staff working in these areas receive the necessary training and instruction. Mr W Robinson is responsible for developing and reviewing moving and manual handling risk assessment.

## **New and Expectant Mothers**

Any staff member who becomes pregnant is to inform the Head of School of this and an appropriate risk assessment is to be undertaken following the guidance contained within the Health and Safety A-Z on the WSSfS website. The school recognises the changing nature of pregnancy and will regularly review risk assessments to ensure that working at the school will not pose any risk to their health and safety and that of their unborn child.

## **Off site activities**

All off site activities are risk assessed using the WSCC system. The schools systems are audited by WSCC Outdoor Education Advisor. The Executive Head and Miss Howells are the schools Educational Visit Co-ordinator's (EVC).

## **Risk Assessments**

Risk assessments are a legal requirement under health and safety law and the Head of School/Executive Head will assess all risks arising out of the curriculum and associated work which the school undertakes. In accordance with corporate guidance, risk assessments will be recorded in writing and reviewed annually or following a significant accident or incident.

## **Staff Welfare/Stress**

The governing body considers staff welfare of paramount importance, and seeks to promote a work/life balance amongst their staff. The Head of School/Executive Head are constantly monitoring staff workload and every effort is made to make effective changes if staff are experiencing stress either at home or work. The school also utilizes the services of the Employee Assistance Programme.

## **Training**

The school ensures that all staff are provided with adequate information, instruction and training to perform their roles. Training requirements are discussed during induction, professional development

reviews and one to one supervision. Training records are kept and reviewed by the Head of School/Executive Head and Mrs A Winstanley.

### **Violence and Aggression**

The Head of School/Executive Head and Mrs A Winstanley ensure that there is a suitable and sufficient violence at work risk assessment for staff drawing upon the violence at work corporate guidance. Guidance can be found under the Violence and aggression section, A-Z health and safety pages, WSSfS.

The Head of School/Executive Head must also ensure that appropriate behaviour management plans are implemented for children with known behaviour issues. Appropriate training must be undertaken to manage violence and aggression. Training records and reviews of risk assessments must be clearly recorded and kept within retention schedules. Further information can be found under the Health and Safety Management section, A-Z health and safety pages, WSSfS.

### **Water quality**

Mr W Robinson is responsible for monitoring and recording water temperatures at the school to ensure water quality is maintained. A bi-annual water quality risk assessment is produced and reviewed by AIRTECH Premier Ltd, arrange via RB Commercial.

### **Working at height**

Premises officer, Mr W Robinson has completed WaH training. All other staff have completed WaH for displays and shelves (up to 1m).

Working at height will be avoided if possible by changing the way the work is carried out (for example having displays where possible at a height that can be reached from the floor, by using gutter suctioning to clear leaves or sourcing a contractor to carry out the work). If the work at height cannot be avoided steps will be taken to prevent a fall from occurring and to mitigate the severity of the outcome.

- School staff are instructed never to climb on chairs, tables, or any other equipment not specifically designed for working at height. They are reminded of this during training / INSET days / staff meetings.
- All of the school's access equipment is listed on a register, stored securely, and is subject to regular inspection and maintenance. This register is managed by the Premises Officer, Mr W Robinson.
- Risk assessments for work at height will include emergency arrangements such as how those working at height can get help if needed and how they will be aware of emergencies on site.