

# **Diss High School**

## **Health & Safety Policy**

# Health & Safety Policy

This policy is adopted by Diss High School from the Norfolk County Council recommended template. Any additions or amendments to this policy are done so in consultation with the School's Health & Safety Committee and Governors.

## 1 Statement of Intent

Action

Effective health and safety management is integral to delivering our ambition for excellence in education and our performance as a school. Our overall objective is to provide and maintain a safe and healthy environment for our staff and pupils and others with whom we work.

We will achieve this by:

- ◉ Developing and Maintaining a positive Health and Safety culture with an emphasis on continually improving our performance taking into account human and cultural factors;
- ◉ Ensuring that health and safety management is an integral part of decision making and organisational processes;
- ◉ Adopting a sensible and proportionate approach to managing risks, with well informed decision making processes for higher risk activities and ensuring a disproportionate amount of time is not spent on trivial or everyday risks;
- ◉ Providing a safe and healthy working environment for our staff, pupils and others working in the school;
- ◉ Ensuring safe working methods are in place and providing safe equipment;
- ◉ Communicating and consulting with our staff and their trade union representatives;
- ◉ Complying with statutory requirements and where possible best practice;
- ◉ Investigating and learning the lessons from accidents and work related ill health incidents;
  
- ◉ Providing effective information, instruction and training to enable our staff to be competent in their roles;
- ◉ Monitoring and reviewing systems and preventative measures to make sure they are suitable, efficient and effective;
- ◉ Ensuring adequate resources are made available to fulfil our health and safety responsibilities and objectives;
- ◉ Working with and monitoring our contractors to ensure consistent and comparable health and safety standards.

We recognise that overall responsibility for health and safety lies with all levels of management having direct responsibility for activities and staff under their control. However, all staff have a legal and moral responsibility to take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and for others who may be affected by their acts or omissions.

## **2 Responsibilities and Organisation**

### **Introduction**

To comply with the Governing Body's Statement of Intent the following responsibilities have been assigned:

#### **(i) The Governing Body**

The Governing Body has responsibility for ensuring that suitable and adequate organisation and arrangements are in place for the management and control of health and safety within the school. In particular, we will ensure that:

- ☐ A written policy statement is created and communicated which promotes a positive attitude towards health and safety in staff and pupils;
- ☐ Responsibilities for health, safety and welfare are allocated to specific people and those people are informed of these responsibilities;
- ☐ A lead governor for health and safety is nominated;
- ☐ People have sufficient experience, knowledge and training to perform the tasks required of them;
- ☐ Clear procedures are created which assess the risk from hazards and produce safe systems of work;
- ☐ Sufficient funds are set aside with which to operate safe systems of work;
- ☐ Health and safety performance is monitored and targets for improvement are set;
- ☐ The School's health and safety policy is reviewed every year;
- ☐ Our management of health and safety considers the needs of anyone with a protected characteristic under the Equalities Act.

#### **(ii) The Headteacher**

Responsible for all staff and activities under their control and will ensure that the requirements of relevant safety policies and procedures are implemented and complied with. In particular, they will:

- ☐ Be fully and visibly committed to the Governing Body's Statement of Intent, ensuring that a positive health and safety culture is actively demonstrated and promoted through their leadership;
- ☐ Ensure that appropriate risk assessments are undertaken as appropriate by competent persons and that suitable control measures are taken on a risk basis to manage the health and safety risks to staff and any other people who may be affected by the school's activities;
- ☐ Monitor and review health and safety performance through:

- ☐ Undertaking health and safety inspections of work areas/practices in line with relevant policy;
- ☐ Setting health and safety targets and objectives through appraisals and other supervisory reviews;
- ☐ Reviewing incidents and accidents;
- ☐ Monitoring commissioned and contracted work under their control for compliance;
- ☐ Ensure that the management of health and safety in the areas under their control considers the needs of anyone with a protected characteristic under the Equalities Act;
  - ☐ Develop safe systems of work and procedures and ensure that they are implemented;
  - ☐ Ensure prompt action is taken to resolve any situations that may adversely affect the health and safety of staff or other people;
- ☐ Ensure that they undertake all relevant training and staff are given adequate information, instruction, training and supervision to carry out their duties, paying particular attention to new/inexperienced employees and trainees;
- ☐ Ensure that all plant and work equipment provided is:
  - ☐ Selected through a risk assessment process;
  - ☐ Suitable;
  - ☐ Properly maintained;
  - ☐ Subject to all necessary tests and examinations;
- ☐ Ensure that accidents and incidents (including near misses and violence and aggression) are properly reported and investigated and the findings acted upon without delay;
- ☐ Ensure there are meaningful arrangements in place for consulting employees and their trade union representatives on health and safety matters that affect them;
- ☐ Ensure information that may assist safety representatives in their role is provided to them.
- ☐ When commissioning work through partners and contractors, ensure that they are selected and managed in line with statutory requirements and Council policy;
- ☐ Ensure that they seek timely assistance and advice where expert help is required from the Health, Safety and Well-being Team;
- ☐ Report to the Governing Body at least annually on the School's health and safety performance.

### **(iii) Lead Governor for Health and Safety**

The Lead Governor for Health and Safety has the following responsibilities:

- ☐ To be fully and visibly committed to the Governing Body's Statement of Intent for health and safety;
- ☐ To scrutinise and review health and safety performance
- ☐ To provide support and challenge to the Headteacher and the Governing Body in fulfilling their health and safety responsibilities;
- ☐ To ensure in particular that risk assessments of the premises and working practices are carried out and documented

#### **(iv) School Health and Safety Co-ordinator**

The School Health and Safety Co-ordinator has the following responsibilities:

- To co-ordinate and manage the annual risk assessment process for the School;
- To co-ordinate performance monitoring processes;
- To make provision/liase with HOD for the inspection and maintenance of work equipment
  
- To manage the keeping of records of all health and safety activities including management of building fabric and building services in liaison with NPS and other contractors;
- To advise the Headteacher of situations or activities which are potentially hazardous to the health and safety of staff, pupils and visitors;
- To ensure that staff are adequately instructed in safety and welfare matters about their specific work place and the School generally;

#### **(v) Teaching and Support Staff Holding Positions of Special Responsibility**

This includes Deputy/Assistant Headteachers; Heads of Department; Technicians; Site Staff; Line Managers; SENCo; Medical Staff. They have the following responsibilities:

- ☑ Apply the school's Health and Safety Policy and the relevant Health and Safety Codes of Practice to their own department or area of work and be directly responsible to the Headteacher for the application of the health and safety procedures and arrangements;
- ☑ Carry out regular health and safety risk assessments of the activities for which they are responsible;
- ☑ Ensure that all staff under their supervision are familiar with the relevant health and safety Codes of Practice, for their area of work;
- ☑ Resolve health, safety and welfare problems members of staff refer to them, or refer to the Headteacher any problems to which they cannot achieve a satisfactory solution within the resources available;
- ☑ Carry out regular inspections of their areas of responsibility to ensure that equipment and activities are safe and record these inspections where required;
- ☑ Ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the provision of sufficient information, instruction, training and supervision to enable other staff and pupils to avoid hazards and contribute positively to their own health and safety;
- ☑ Investigate any incidents that occur within their area of responsibility.

#### **(vi) Class Teachers**

Class teachers are expected to:

- ☑ Exercise effective supervision of their pupils, to know the procedures for fire, first aid and other emergencies and to carry them out;
- ☑ Follow the particular health and safety measures to be adopted in their own teaching areas as laid down in the relevant Code of Practice;

- ☑ Give clear oral and written instructions and warnings to pupils when necessary in line with our CO – C4 consequences behaviour policy.
- ☑ Follow safe working procedures;
- ☑ Require the use of protective clothing and guards where necessary;
- ☑ Make recommendations to their Headteacher or Head of Department regarding equipment and improvements to plant, tools, equipment or machinery;
- ☑ Integrate all relevant aspects of safety into the teaching process;
- ☑ Report all accidents, defects and dangerous occurrences to their Head of Department.

### **(vii) Employee Consultation/Safety Representatives**

The Governing Body believes that consulting employees on health and safety matters is important in creating and maintaining a safe and healthy working environment.

Safety representatives of trade unions recognised by the School will be consulted on all matters of health and safety that may affect staff and on the provision of health and safety information and training. Non-union staff will also be consulted directly.

Before making any decisions which could have health and safety consequences for staff, the governing body will inform safety representatives about the proposed course of action and give them an opportunity to express their views.

### **(viii) Staff**

All staff have individual responsibility to take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and for others who may be affected by their acts or omissions. In particular they must:

- ☑ Comply with the School's health and safety policy and procedures at all times;
- ☑ Co-operate with managers in complying with relevant health and safety safe systems of work and procedures;
- ☑ Use all work equipment and substances in accordance with instruction, training and information received;
- ☑ Wear, use, store, maintain and replace personal protective equipment as appropriate;
- ☑ Not intentionally misuse anything provided in the interests of health, safety and welfare;
- ☑ Take part in and contribute to health and safety inspections, risk assessments etc. as appropriate
- ☑ Report all incidents (personal injury and vehicle), ill health, incidents of violence and aggression, near misses, hazardous situations, general health and safety concerns, defective equipment or premises;
- ☑ Attend all training relevant to their role.

### **(ix) Pupils**

Pupils, allowing for their age and aptitude, are expected to:

- ☑ Take personal responsibility for the health and safety of themselves and others;
- ☑ Observe standards of dress consistent with safety and/or hygiene;
- ☑ Observe all the health and safety rules of the school and in particular the instructions of staff given in an emergency;
- ☑ Use and not wilfully misuse, neglect or interfere with things provided for their health and safety.

### **3. Procedures and Arrangements**

The following procedures and arrangements have been adopted to ensure compliance with the Governing Body's Statement of Intent:

#### **(i) Lead Governor for Health & Safety**

The Lead Governor with responsibility for scrutiny of Health & Safety performance is our nominated Governor.

#### **(ii) Risk Assessment:**

##### **a) General Risk Assessment**

General risk assessment will be coordinated by the School Business Manager following guidance and templates available. They will be responsible for ensuring the actions required are implemented.

##### **b) Fire Safety**

A fire risk assessment will be carried out and local fire safety procedures developed for the premises by the School Business Manager/site team following guidance and templates available.

##### **c) Manual Handling**

Manual handling risk assessments will be carried out by the site team following guidance and templates available.

##### **d) Computers and Workstations**

Computer and workstation risk assessments will be carried out by the ICT support team. following guidance and templates available.

##### **e) Hazardous Substances**

The Site & Cleaning team identify hazardous substances for which no generic assessment exists in the Codes of Practice mentioned below, or in the Caretaking Health and Safety Code of Practice, following guidance and templates available.

##### **f) Violence to Staff**

Assessments of the risks of violence to staff will be carried out by the Headteacher following guidance and templates available. This assessment cross-refers to the school's Behaviour Policy.

##### **g) Lone Working**

Assessment of the risks of lone working will be carried out by the School Business Manager following guidance and templates available

##### **h) Risk Assessment of Curriculum Activities**

Risk assessments for curriculum activities will be carried out by relevant Heads of Department and subject teachers using Health & Safety Curriculum Codes of Practice available.

**i) Caretaking Code of Practice**

Assessment of the risks to Caretakers will be assessed by the Site team following the Caretaking Code of Practice guidance available.

**j) Driving for Work**

Assessment of the risks of driving for business will be carried out by the nominated drivers following guidance and templates available.

**k) Handling Money**

Assessment of the risks of handling money will be carried out by *Finance Manager* following guidance and templates available

**l) Homeworking**

Assessment of the risks of staff working from home will be carried out by the individual's line manager following guidance and templates available.

**(iii) Consultation with Employees**

Consultation with employees is provided through representatives on the Health &

Safety Committee – names available on request or meeting minutes.

**(iv) Safe Plant & Equipment**

Plant and equipment will be inspected, maintained and, where necessary, tested by appropriate contractors; a schedule for which is managed and maintained by the School Business Manager.

Routine local testing of emergency lighting, fire alarm call points, flushing of infrequently used water outlets and monthly water temperature monitoring will be carried out by the site officer and the caretakers.

Any problems or defects with plant and equipment should be reported to the Site team

**(v) Information, Instruction and Training**

**a) Information and Advice**

The Health & Safety Law poster is displayed in the staff room and the main school office.

Health and Safety advice is available from the Headteacher, Health & Safety

Coordinator and from <https://www.hrinfospace.org.uk/>

**b) Health & Safety Training Induction**

Health and safety induction training will be provided for all new employees and for work experience placement students by the individual's line manager following guidance and templates available on <https://www.hrinfospace.org.uk/>. This covers the following areas as a minimum:



- Fire arrangements for the workplace, including assembly point, exit routes, fire alarm sounder and specific details as they relate to the premises.
- First aid arrangements – first aid contacts and location of first aid equipment.
- Details of asbestos containing materials which are relevant to the place(s) of work
- Welfare facilities – toilets, kitchen, rest areas.
- Incident reporting requirements.
- Display Screen Equipment assessment
- Staff responsibilities (general, specific arrangements such as checking portable electrical equipment using the checklist, responsibility for pupil safety in lesson planning and delivery).
- Relevant risk assessments which apply to the work and safe working practice
- Arrangements for competency development such as mentoring, job shadowing, training courses and what work tasks cannot be carried out until the required competency level is achieved.
- Means to report building defects and Premises Headteacher/line manager information.
- Premises security and any lone working requirements.
- Pupil safety and safeguarding

Short health and safety e-learning modules are provided which cover core subjects including manual handling, display screen equipment and fire. Use of these courses may not necessarily replace the need for staff to attend a formal training course or receive further instruction and information, for example, lifting techniques for manual handling.

Employees and representatives named below have received or will receive health and safety training in the following areas:

**c) Strategic Health and Safety Management and Premises Management Training**

- The relevant colleagues - Leading Health & Safety for Governors ▪ Health & Safety Management for Headteachers ▪ Health & Safety for Managers:
  - Premises Management – General, Asbestos & Fire Safety Risk Assessment
- General Risk Assessment: The Site Team & Heads of Department

**d) Curriculum/Subject Specific Health & Safety Training Secondary Science**

- CLEAPSS Management of Health and Safety for Heads of Science or their Deputies – (refer all below to staff handbook listings)
- CLEAPSS Health, Safety and Risk Assessment for Classroom Teachers
- CLEAPSS Radiation Protection Supervisor Training
- CLEAPSS Technicians' Health & Safety

**Secondary Design & Technology**

- CLEAPSS Health and Safety Management for Heads of D&T Departments or their deputies

- CLEAPSS The D&T Technician: operating in the prep room and workshops safely and effectively
- Level 2 Award in Food Safety

#### **Secondary PE and School Sport**

- Risk Management in PE and School Sport

#### **Outdoor Education**

- Educational Visits Co-ordinator – refer to latest staff handbook listings

#### **e) Occupational Risks**

- First Aid at Work: List of current first aiders held in the school office
- Emergency First Aid at Work: List of current first aiders held in the school office & One Drive folder.
- Moving and Handling of Disabled Pupils: Learning Support
- Musculoskeletal Injuries Rehabilitation Scheme Referral Managers Training:
- Norfolk Steps (Team-Teach) training: Learning Support

#### **f) Caretaking/Site Management – via site team**

- Norse Commercial Services: IOSH Working Safely
- Norse Commercial Services: Ladder Use and Inspection

#### **g) Health & Well-Being**

- Wellbeing facilitators – Refer to staff handbook list

#### **h) Minibuses**

- Norfolk County Council Minibus driver training: A list of current minibus drivers is held and monitored by the school office.

#### **i) Training Records and Training Needs Identification**

- Training needs will be identified, arranged and monitored by the member of staff overseeing the specific area.

### **(vii) Incident Reporting and Investigation**

- All accidents and cases of work-related ill health involving employees (or non employees where the injury is caused by a defect in an activity, equipment or premises and where the non employee is taken directly to hospital) must be recorded in the incident book.
- Minor injuries to non-employees (i.e. pupils and visitors) where first aid is given will be reported via Sims – medical section or if a visitor on the paper form.
- Line Managers/Heads of Year will investigate all incidents and act on findings to prevent a recurrence.

### **(viii) First Aid**

- First aid boxes have been placed in appropriate places around the school, please see annexe 1 – First Aid Box Location Map.
- A list of first aiders is available from the school office. ▪ First Aid posters are displayed around the school.

▪ **Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions**

- Prescribed medication will be administered to pupils following guidance and documentation on <https://www.hrinfospace.org.uk/> and in line with School policy. Reception staff are responsible for control of administration of medicines to pupils.

**(ix) Site Security and Visitors**

- All visitors must report to reception where they will be asked to sign the visitors' book and wear a visitor's badge.
- All visitors are requested to read the School's Safeguarding Policy leaflet.
- Any person on site who is not wearing an appropriate identity badge is classed as an intruder and should be challenged/reported.

**a) On Site Vehicle Movements**

- The risks of persons and vehicles coming into contact will be controlled by the following measures:
- Staff duties – use of cones and traffic control; supervision of children
- Deliveries and collections – where possible restricted to out of school hours

**b) Selection and Management of Contractors**

Contractors are required to:

- Either have an enhanced DBS check or must be supervised by site staff at all times.
- provide a Health & Safety Site Plan and be fully compliant with regulations set down by the HSE.
- provide a copy of their public liability insurance certificate

**(x) Management of Asbestos**

The asbestos register and asbestos management plan is held in the school office, an electronic copy is available on request and another copy is retained by the School Business Manager. The School Business Manager & the site team are responsible for ensuring that contractors who may be working in areas where asbestos has been identified sign the register and that any changes to the register are notified to NPS.

**(xi) Educational Visits**

Educational visits, including residential visits and any school-led adventure activities, will be organised following guidance produced by the Outdoor Education Advisers Panel and adopted by Norfolk County Council.

**(xii) Occupational Health**

Access to occupational health services is via an independent outside agency.

**(xiii) Emergency Procedures – Fire and Evacuation**

- Escape routes are checked by the *School Business Manager/ The Site Team* half-termly.
- Fire Extinguishers are maintained and checked by T&P Fire under an annual service agreement
- Alarms are tested weekly by the site team ▪ Emergency evacuation procedures are tested termly.

**(xiv) Monitoring**

- Routine inspections of the premises to ensure safe working practices are being followed will be carried out by the School Business Manager.
- Inspections of individual departments and specific work areas will be carried out by Heads of Department or nominated staff.

**4. Review of Policy**

This policy will be reviewed every 12 months and more frequently in the light of experience, or because of operational changes.