



Sacred Heart Primary School

Health and Safety Policy

HEALTH & SAFETY MANUAL FOR SCHOOLS

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This policy is based on a Model Health and Safety Organisation and Arrangements Statement for Schools taking account of:

Health & Safety at Work Act 1974

Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999

This policy was reviewed:	Autumn 2022
This policy will be reviewed again:	Autumn 2023
Governor Committee Responsibility:	Premises Committee
Statutory policy:	Yes
Source:	Headteacher



Statement of General Policy

It is the policy of Sacred heart School to maintain high health and safety standards in order to protect pupils, members of staff, visitors or others who may be affected by school activities. Sacred Heart School operates within the overall health and safety policies of the Royal Boroughs of Richmond and Kingston ("Borough Policy"), which specify the required standards of health and safety for schools. In particular it is the school's policy to ensure so far as is reasonably practicable that:

- There is a safe and healthy environment throughout the school.
- Working practices which ensure health and safety are established for staff pupils and others (such as contractors and volunteers) who visit or work on the premises
- Sufficient health and safety information, instruction supervision and training is provided for staff, pupils, contractors, volunteers, and visitors so as to ensure the health and safety of all who may be affected by their work or activities.
- Health and Safety standards and practices are regularly monitored and reviewed and where deficiencies are identified they are promptly rectified.

The Governing Body of a Voluntary Aided school is the employer of staff within the school and is responsible for the health and safety of staff and students. The Governing Body has appointed the RBK Occupational Health & Safety Team as its competent source of health and safety and fire safety advice, and a Service Level Agreement is in place setting out the terms and conditions of this appointment.

1. Sacred Heart School

a) Responsibilities of the Governors

The school governors have responsibility for keeping under review standards of health and safety within the school. Where deficiencies are identified the governors have responsibility for ensuring that corrective action is taken. The governors also have particular responsibility for:

- ensuring that decisions of the governing body take account of, and comply with, the health and safety policy of the Borough;
- ensuring that sufficient resources are allocated to meeting the mandatory minimum standards of the Borough Health and Safety Policy and any legal requirements relating to health and safety;
- ensuring that health and safety standards in the school are monitored and reviewing the standards achieved by considering reports from the headteacher annually;
- ensuring that school premises, buildings and equipment for which they are responsible, are adequately maintained and inspected so as to ensure the health and safety of staff, pupils, visitors and contractors who may visit, use or work on the premises;
- ensuring that where contractors are engaged to undertake work on school premises or buildings, an adequate assessment of the prospective contractors involved is undertaken in order to ensure that any contractor selected has adequate resources and competence to undertake the work safely and without putting the contractor's employees, or school staff, or pupils at risk;
- ensuring that where volunteers are used to give assistance to the school activities, or undertake work in school premises, such work is adequately planned, organised and supervised, and the volunteers used have sufficient competence so as to ensure the health and safety of both of those undertaking the work and anyone who may be affected by it



b) Headteacher

The headteacher has overall responsibility for the day to day management of health and safety in the school. In particular, the headteacher has the following responsibilities:

- To ensure that the health and safety standards detailed in the Health and Safety Handbook for Schools available via the Kingston extranet (Service Centre) are implemented and maintained at the school.
- To ensure that school staff receive adequate health and safety training appropriate for their responsibilities and, in particular, that minimum staff training is implemented for relevant staff.
- To ensure that staff are adequately consulted on health and safety matters directly and that staff to be allocated health and safety responsibilities are adequately consulted on the type and nature of the duties allocated.
- To ensure that the standards of health and safety are formally monitored and that a health and safety report covering the minimum items specified in is presented to the Governors at least annually.
- Attend any required health and safety training
- Arranging necessary refresher training for first aiders;
- To ensure that health and safety monitoring and inspection arrangements as outlined in the Kingston extranet are implemented.
- To ensure that where new staff are recruited, the selection process takes adequate account of the training and competence of the prospective staff member to undertake the work safely, having regard to the degree of supervision they will receive.
- To ensure for any off-site event or trip, organised by, or on behalf of, the school, that adequate arrangements are made for the supervision of the pupils involved and the safety of the staff and pupils, and that these arrangements at least meet any minimum standards specified by the Borough.
- To ensure that, where required, school specific risk assessments are undertaken and recorded.
- To ensure that the health and safety requirements identified, either in the school specific risk assessments or in relevant Borough risk assessments, are implemented.
- To ensure there are adequate arrangements for first aid, both on school premises and on school outings, or activities, in accordance with the Local Authority guidelines.
- ensuring that records are kept of pupils undertaking school trips and outings, together with the names and responsibilities of supervising staff accompanying the pupils;
- ensuring that where school visits or holidays involving adventure activities are planned, written confirmation and evidence is obtained from the centre involved that a current licence, issued under the Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations, is held for the activities involved

c) Fire Safety Manager (Head teacher & Premises Manager)

The Fire Safety Manager will have responsibility for overall planning and organisation of fire safety matters within the school. In particular he or she will:

- ensure that fire precautions in the school premises are maintained in accordance with the standards detailed in the Health and Safety Handbook for Schools and that practice fire evacuation drills are undertaken at least every term;
- ensure that all staff are aware of their particular responsibilities in the event of fire;
- ensure that there are arrangements made for nominated members of staff to call the fire brigade and meet them on arrival;
- ensure a check is made at least every term that the inspection and maintenance arrangements for fire alarm and detection systems, emergency lighting, and fire extinguishers are being undertaken correctly and that a report is provided on the results of this check



d) Teaching Staff

Teachers within the school have a responsibility for the health and safety of themselves and pupils under their control. In particular teachers are responsible for:

- undertaking lessons and school activities in accordance with any national or school guidelines relevant to the health and safety of the staff and pupils;
- ensuring that they are familiar with the school fire procedure and their role in it;
- maintaining good standards of housekeeping and cleanliness in the activities under their control;
- ensuring where pupils need to wear any protective clothing or equipment for particular lessons or activities, that the use of such clothing or equipment is rigorously enforced;
- ensuring that any special equipment for which they have particular responsibility is maintained in a safe condition and is suitable for the purpose for which it is used;
- ensuring that where there are health and safety considerations in relation to a particular lesson or activity, the lesson plan addresses these issues and is adhered to;
- ensuring that any off-site outing or activity for which they are responsible, only takes place following authorisation by the headteacher and in accordance with a plan which specifies an adequate level of supervision and health and safety arrangements to ensure that pupils or others are not put at risk
- Outings involving overnight stays, hazardous activities or trips abroad are also subject to RBK approval with details and risk assessments submitted to RBK's Outdoor Education Adviser.
- attending any required health and safety training provided by the school;
- undertaking, as required by the headteacher, any formal health and safety monitoring or inspections, in order to assist the school maintain adequate health and safety standards;
- reporting, promptly, any deficiencies in health and safety standards they are not able to correct, either to the headteacher, or the Premises Manager as appropriate

e) Premises Manager

The Premises Manager is responsible to the headteacher for:

- ensuring that fire equipment and systems are adequately maintained and tested in accordance with the standards specified in the Health and Safety Handbook for Schools and that records are kept;
- ensuring that a record of practice fire evacuation drills is kept, showing the date of the fire evacuation and the time taken to evacuate the premises;
- acting as the school representative in any dealings with contractors who are to work at the school;
- assisting the school to assess the competence of any contractors who it is intended to use for undertaking work at the school, and monitoring the standards of health and safety whilst the work is undertaken and that there is compliance with our 'Hot Works Policy'.
- ensuring that the day to day maintenance of the school premises is undertaken and that serious deficiencies which cannot be quickly corrected are notified to the headteacher;
- ensuring that statutory inspections of school plant, equipment (including playground equipment) and systems are undertaken using competent staff or contractors in accordance with Borough policies and procedures and that any corrective action identified as necessary is promptly implemented and the required records are kept;
- ensuring that inspections of portable electrical equipment, the fixed electrical installation, ladders, stepladders, playground equipment and gas equipment are undertaken in accordance with the standards in the Health and Safety Management and that records are kept;
- arranging any necessary corrective action identified by health and safety inspections detailed above;
- maintaining a register of dangerous and hazardous substances used or stored at the school and ensuring that this register contains copies of up to date material safety data sheets;



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- Carry out weekly flushing of the water system and monthly water temperature checks to prevent Legionnaires disease.
- Ensure contractors (Hydrotech) attend site when scheduled to carry out maintenance of the water system to further prevent Legionnaires Disease.
- ensuring that COSHH assessments are available for materials used or generated in the maintenance and cleaning of the school and for the control of legionella in school water systems;
- ensuring relevant work is undertaken and controls maintained in accordance with the appropriate COSHH assessments;
- ensuring that weekly walk through inspections of the standards of housekeeping in the school premises are undertaken and that deficiencies which cannot be promptly corrected are reported to the headteacher;
- ensuring that he/she only undertakes work which is within his/her training or competence and, in particular, that he/she does not undertake work on roofs, scaffolding, or in confined spaces such as drains or tanks, unless he/she is both trained and authorised to do so.
- Attend any required health and safety training
- To ensure that health and safety monitoring and inspection arrangements as outlined in the Kingston extranet are implemented.
- ensuring that regular maintenance and inspections are being carried out on the water systems and to keep records of any work that has been carried out or any testing that has taken place
- To ensure that the school minibus is safe and that regular inspections are carried out prior to it being used.
- To ensure that the training relating to the safe and competent completion of this role is to be kept current

f) School Secretary/Administrator

The school secretary/ administrator is responsible for:

- ensuring that a list of first aiders is maintained, together with the dates for refresher training;
- maintaining records of health and safety training undertaken for school staff;
- maintaining a list of staff trained to undertake risk assessments required for manual handling, display screen equipment, the use and storage of hazardous substances and general risk assessments;
- ensuring that there is a nominated person and deputy for calling the fire brigade in the event of fire and that a clear notice of the procedure for calling the fire brigade is displayed;
- ensuring that assessments are undertaken of display screen equipment workstations used in the school by employed staff and that records of the assessments are kept;
- ensuring that eye and eye sight tests are offered to school staff who are regular users of display screen equipment;

g) Welfare Officer

The school welfare officer is responsible for:

- reporting to the headteacher the need to train further first aiders in order to meet the minimum required for the school;
- ensuring that notices displaying the name and location of first aiders are kept up to date;
- maintaining the school accident book and arranging for statutory accident reports to be completed using the Ross Incident form in accordance with the procedure in the Health and Safety Handbook for Schools;



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h) Other School Staff

All school staff have a responsibility for undertaking their work in accordance with any instructions or training provided by the school and for drawing to the schools attention any equipment or situation which could create a danger to themselves or others. All staff are also required to ensure their work is carried out in a way which avoids risks to themselves or others.

i) School Pupils

All pupils at the school are required, having regard to their age and maturity, to act in accordance with any school health and safety instructions, rules and procedures and not to behave in a way which would put themselves or others in danger. Pupils are also required not to interfere with, or misuse, any safety or fire equipment.



Sacred Heart School Arrangements

1. STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE

Mandatory common standards and guidance are contained in the Health and Safety Handbook for Schools available via the Kingston extranet (Service Centre), which gives information on a number of health and safety issues of relevance to the school. Where internal guidance does not cover a specific issue, the school will adopt the practices or standards recommended in Health and Safety Executive, or Department of Education publications, or relevant British or European Standards.

2. COMPETENT PROFESSIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE

Competent advice on health and safety issues is available to the school through the Health Safety and Welfare Unit of the RBK Occupational Health & Safety Team through a Service Level Agreement that details the terms and conditions of this appointment.

3. HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health and Safety at the school is monitored by the Premises and Personnel Committee. This committee is chaired by a governor and meets at least three times a year.

4. FIRE SAFETY AND FIRE PROCEDURE

The fire procedure is displayed on the notice boards and next to fire alarm call points. New members of staff will be instructed in the fire procedure and their responsibilities by the fire safety manager, or a member of staff nominated to deputise for the fire safety manager, on their first day of employment.

Fire evacuation drills will be held at least once a term. Fire extinguishers and the fire alarm system are subject to regular inspection and maintenance, which is organised by the Premises Manager.

Self-closing fire doors are provided in the school to delay the spread of fire and smoke and must not be wedged or left open. Such doors are labelled "fire door keep shut". Automatic fire doors are also provided which will shut in the event of the fire alarm being actuated. Such doors are labelled "automatic fire door keep clear".

A copy of the fire safety risk assessment for the school is held by the Fire Safety Manager. Included with the fire safety risk assessment is the overall fire safety plan for the school, which designates responsibilities to individual members of staff.

5. ACCIDENTS AND FIRST AID

The school has a trained first aider allocated to each class. The designated first aiders' names must be displayed on the standard first aid signs. Any injuries to pupils or staff must be reported to a first aider, who will ensure that appropriate action is taken. Records of such injuries must be entered in the class accident log. These accident logs are monitored termly and a report provided for the governing body committee allocated with responsibility for monitoring this aspect of the school's operation. The contents of first aid boxes are maintained by the first aiders to whom they are allocated. Our dedicated medical officer also has oversight of these medical boxes on a half termly basis to ensure they are up to date, and that the information sheets relating to the accident logs are updated. Accidents, ill health conditions and dangerous occurrences which fall within statutory reporting requirements, will be reported using the online Accident Management System. All reports made using this system are available for review by senior and identified members of staff.



6. CONTRACTORS

Standard arrangements exist for the assessment of competence and the control and monitoring of contractors. The school also has a standard set of rules for contractors which are notified to the contractor and form part of the contractual arrangements. These arrangements are documented in the Health and Safety Handbook for Schools and are operated by the Premises Manager, or another member of staff, who has been allocated to deputise for this role. Where staff or pupils become aware of dangers caused by contractors, these should be immediately reported to the Premises Manager.

7. HEALTH AND SAFETY TRAINING

Minimum standards of health and safety training are specified in the Health and Safety Handbook for Schools and this training is provided for all relevant staff. Specialist training, for particular purposes not covered in the Health and Safety Handbook for Schools, will be specified by the relevant department head or the headteacher.

8. SCHOOL TRIPS AND VISITS

Off-site visits and trips will only be undertaken where a written plan for the trip, the health and safety arrangements and the level of supervision has been produced and approved by the headteacher. Outings involving overnight stays, hazardous activities or trips abroad are also subject to RBK approval with details and risk assessments submitted to RBK's Outdoor Education Adviser. Adventure holidays organised by the school will only be undertaken at centres holding a current licence under the Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations. Further advice regarding off site visits are contained in RBK's Guidelines for Educational Visits and Outdoor Activities.

9. SCHOOL AND PUPIL SECURITY

A risk assessment has been undertaken for the school to establish the necessary security measures required for pupil safety. Measures in relation to building fabric for which the Diocese are responsible are implemented on a progressive basis through LCVAP applications. All staff and pupils are required to assist in maintaining good standards of security on school premises.

10. SMOKING

No smoking is allowed on school premises.

11. MEDICAL SUITABILITY FOR WORK AND MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS

Pre-employment medical surveillance is undertaken for all new staff, usually by means of a confidential questionnaire, by the Occupational Health Medical Adviser. Confidential medical details are held in the strictest confidence and will only be disclosed to the school with the prior consent of the staff member. However, information such as restrictions on particular types of work, or special precautions necessary for health and safety reasons, will be provided to the school to avoid putting the employee or others at risk. Where a staff member becomes pregnant or suffers from an ill health condition which is likely to effect their work, they should notify the school as soon as possible to enable any special precautions needed to be implemented.

12. EVENING EVENTS AND USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES BY EXTERNAL BODIES

Where events are planned to take place out of normal school hours, within school premises, this must be authorised by the headteacher and a health and safety plan for the event will be drawn up to be approved by the Fire Safety Manager, in conjunction with the teacher responsible for the event, or with the external body responsible for the activity. The health and safety plan will particularly address fire safety issues, the safety of equipment brought on to the premises, first aid arrangements and any arrangements for serving food. Where a number of events of the same



type are held, one plan covering all the events may be used. Where external bodies are responsible for the event, or activity, then the relevant requirements of the health and safety plan will be agreed, in writing, with the body concerned as a condition of using or hiring the premises.

13. ELECTRICAL SAFETY

The safety and maintenance of the school electrical installation is of great importance in order to ensure the health and safety of pupils and staff. The fixed electrical installation will be subject to an electrical inspection and test by an NICEIC contractor at least every five years and this will be organised by the Premises Manager who will keep records of the inspection. Any deficiencies identified by the inspection will be promptly corrected, or, where this is not possible, the relevant part of the installation will be electrically isolated.

All portable electrical equipment and equipment connected to the electrical installation by means of a plug and socket, will be subject to a combined electrical inspection and test and a formal visual inspection. The frequency of such inspections will be those specified in the Health and Safety Handbook for Schools appropriate to the type of equipment concerned. Such equipment will be labelled with the date of inspection and a date of the next inspection due. The Premises Manager will be responsible for organising these tests, using an NICEIC electrical contractor. Mains powered electrical equipment belonging to staff or pupils must not be used on school premises unless it has been electrically inspected and tested.

Work on the electrical installation, or minor repairs such as fitting or changing plugs, or changing bulbs or tubes in lighting units, will be organised or undertaken by the Premises Manager. Such work will only be undertaken when the relevant part of the installation has been isolated.

Volunteers will not be permitted to undertake work on the electrical installation or repairs to portable electrical equipment unless they are an NICEIC approved contractor and can provide a Certificate of completion when the work is finished. Pupils and staff will not be permitted to undertake work on the fixed electrical installation of the building.

Where portable mains electrical equipment is to be used outside the school buildings, this will only be permitted if the equipment has been approved by the Premises Manager as suitable for the intended use and it is adequately protected from mechanical damage, the weather, contact or splashing with water and is in any case protected by a 30mA RCD.

Work on the school electrical installation by contractors will be undertaken in accordance with the schools standard rules for contractors.

14. WORK AT HEIGHTS

Work at heights, necessitating the use of ladders, step ladders exceeding 3 metres in height or in areas where there is a risk from falling, will only be undertaken by, or when approved by, the Premises Manager. School pupils must not be permitted to undertake work at heights (for example when arranging lighting for plays or similar events) unless there is safe and secure access to the area where the work is undertaken and guard-rails and toe boards are provided to physically prevent a fall.

15. WORK ON MAINTENANCE OR IMPROVEMENT OF SCHOOL PREMISES OR FACILITIES BY VOLUNTEERS

The school relies on, and greatly appreciates, assistance from parents and other volunteers in support of school activities. Where, however, work on school buildings or facilities is proposed to be undertaken by volunteers, a health and safety plan will be developed in conjunction with the Premises Manager, to ensure the work can be undertaken safely. The health and safety plan must show how the work is to be supervised, the competence and experience of those involved and any



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necessary health and safety arrangements for the work.

16. HEALTH AND SAFETY INSPECTION, MONITORING AND AUDITING

In order to ensure that health and safety standards are maintained and deficiencies are identified, a system of regular monitoring and inspection operates at the school and is co-ordinated by the headteacher.

Inspections will be undertaken termly and will cover each area of the school. The inspections will be undertaken by a team consisting of the head, a governor and the Premises Manager. The outcome is reported to the Personnel and Premises committee and necessary actions followed up. A summary of the results are also reported to the FGB. Where problems identified by inspections cannot be satisfactorily resolved at school level, the headteacher will raise the matter with the Borough.

The Personnel and Premises committee and the FGB also receive from the headteacher a health and safety report including details of at least the matters specified for such reports in the Health and Safety Handbook for Schools.

The Borough will undertake periodic health and safety audits of the school. Reports on Borough Health and Safety Audits will be provided to the governors for consideration and action.

Addendum Covid

The school operates under a continually updated risk assessment in relation to COVID arrangements. The assessment is developed in line with guidance from Kingston Health and Safety team and the updated government guidance. It is reviewed and updated with any change in guidance.

In the first instance it is updated by the Headteacher and then shared with staff. All stakeholders have access to an abridged version of the risk assessment (on the school website and send via email) as it relates to safe operation and the aspect that they are required to know.

Under the COVID risk assessment and revision of practice, the premises manager is required to clean high touch areas and toilets three times a day. In addition, staff are required to clean down tables five times a day with a cleaning rota in the classrooms. These form part of the school's risk assessment under the guidance of government's system of controls: Prevention and Response.

The school also operates during this time under an illness protocol: Cold vs COVID.

Introduction of Hot Works Policy reviewed by the school: **December 2022**

Reviewed by the school: **Dec 2022**

Approved by Premises and Personnel committee:

For ratification by FGB:

Reviewed by Personnel and Premises committee: