



Health and Safety Policy

Monkfrith School

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At Monkfrith School, we are committed to the health and safety of our staff, pupils and visitors. Ensuring the safety of our community is of paramount importance and this policy reflects our dedication to creating a safe learning environment.

We are committed to:

- Providing a productive and safe learning environment.
- Preventing accidents and any work-related illnesses.
- Compliance with all statutory requirements.
- Minimising risks via assessment and policy.
- Providing safe working equipment and ensuring safe working methods.
- Including all staff and representatives in health and safety decisions.
- Monitoring and reviewing our policies to ensure effectiveness.
- Setting high targets and objectives to develop the school's culture of continuous improvement.
- Ensuring adequate welfare facilities are available throughout our school.
- Ensuring adequate resources are available to address health and safety issues, so far as is reasonably practicable.

1. Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- The Food Information (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2019 (Natasha's Law)

This policy has due regard to national guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2022) 'Health and safety: responsibilities and duties for schools'
- DfE (2017) 'Safe storage and disposal of hazardous materials and chemicals'
- HSE (2021) 'Sensible health and safety management in schools'
- DfE (2022) 'First aid in schools, early years and colleges'
- UK Health Security Agency (2022) 'Health protection in children and young people settings, including education'

This policy operates in conjunction with other school policies.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

The governing board, in conjunction with the headteacher, will:

- Ensure it provides a safe place for all users of the site, including staff, pupils and visitors.
- Oversee that staff receive training and instruction so that they can perform their duties in a healthy and safe manner.
- Ensure whole-school familiarity with the requirements of the appropriate legislation and codes of practice.

- Create and monitor a management structure responsible for health and safety in the school.
- Ensure there is a detailed and enforceable policy for health and safety, and that the policy is implemented by all.
- Assess the effectiveness of the policy and ensure any necessary changes are made annually.
- Identify the risks relating to possible accidents and injuries and make reasonable adjustments to prevent them occurring.
- Ensure the school has secured safe means of entry and exit for all site users.
- Ensure the school can provide equipment, grounds and systems of work which are safe.
- Ensure safe arrangements are made for the handling, storage and transportation of any articles and substances.
- Ensure staff have safe and healthy working conditions that comply with statutory requirements, codes of practice and guidance.
- Where necessary, ensure the school can provide protective equipment and clothing, along with any necessary guidance and instruction for safe use.

The headteacher will:

- Have overall responsibility for the day-to-day development and implementation of safe working practices and conditions for all staff, pupils and visitors.
- Set the direction for effective health and safety management.
- Introduce management systems and practices that ensure risks are dealt with sensibly, responsibly and proportionately.
- Review this policy and its effectiveness annually.
- Take all reasonably practicable steps to ensure this policy is implemented by the heads of the appropriate departments and other members of staff.
- Designate a competent person who will be responsible for ensuring the school meets its health and safety duties – the competent person will be the health and safety officer (the Site Manager)

The health and safety officer will:

- Assist with the creation and implementation of this policy.
- Be responsible for investigating accidents and incidents, to understand causes and amend risk assessments as required.
- Be the designated contact with the Local Authority and the HSE where necessary.
- Support staff with any queries or concerns regarding health and safety.
- Identify hazards by conducting risk assessments.

All members of staff will:

- Take reasonable care of their own health and safety, and that of others who may be affected by what they do at work.
- Cooperate with their employers on health and safety matters.
- Carry out their work in accordance with training and instructions.
- Inform the employer of any work situation representing a serious and immediate danger, so that remedial action can be taken.

- Familiarise themselves with the Health and Safety Policy and aspects of their work related to health and safety.
- Avoid any conduct which puts themselves or others at risk.
- Be familiar with all requirements laid down by the governing board.
- Ensure that all staff, pupils and visitors are applying health and safety regulations and adhering to any rules, routines and procedures in place.
- Ensure all machinery and equipment is in good working order and safe to use, including adequate guards, and ensure such equipment is not used improperly.
- Use the correct equipment and tools for the job and any protective clothing supplied.
- Ensure any toxic, hazardous or flammable substances are used correctly, and stored and labelled as appropriate.
- Report any defects in equipment or facilities to the designated health and safety officer.
- Take an interest in health and safety matters, and suggest any changes that they feel are appropriate.
- Make suggestions as to how the school can reduce the risk of injuries, illnesses and accidents.
- Exercise good standards of housekeeping and cleanliness.
- Adhere to their common law duty to act as a prudent parent would when in charge of pupils.

3. Training and First Aid

The school will ensure that staff are provided with the health and safety training they need for their job. This may not always mean attendance at training courses; it may simply involve providing staff with basic instructions and information about health and safety in the school.

Staff will be provided with regular training opportunities and have access to support where needed. Staff are expected to undertake appropriate CPD in order to further contribute to the running and success of the school.

The school will act in accordance with the First Aid Policy at all times. The school will ensure that ample provision is made for both trained personnel and first-aid equipment on-site.

The school will carry out a first aid needs assessment in order to help inform the First Aid Policy and to assess the first aid needs appropriate to the circumstances of the school.

When conducting a first aid needs assessment, the school will consider:

- The school site.
- Pupils and staff members.
- The hazards and risks present.

The school will teach Health Education to pupils, including basic first aid, such as dealing with common injuries.

The headteacher will ensure that there is an appropriate number of first-aid trained staff members working within in each classroom.

4. Contacting the emergency services

The headteacher will certify that procedures for ensuring safety precautions are properly managed are discussed, formulated and effectively disseminated to all staff.

5. Accident reporting and investigation

All accidents and incidents, including near-misses or dangerous occurrences, will be reported as soon as possible to the headteacher.

Significant accidents, as defined in the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013, will be reported to the HSE at the earliest opportunity.

The school will always report 'specified injuries' to the HSE without delay. These injuries include the following:

- Accidents to employees causing either death or major injury
- Accidents resulting in employees being away from work or being unable to perform their normal work duties for more than seven consecutive days (this seven-day period does not include the day of the accident)
- Fractures, other than to fingers, thumbs and toes
- Amputation of an arm, hand, finger, thumb, leg, foot or toe
- Any injury likely to lead to permanent loss of sight or reduction in sight in one or both eyes
- Any crush injury to the head or torso, causing damage to the brain or internal organs
- Serious burn injuries (including scalding) which cover more than 10 percent of the whole body's surface area or cause significant damage to the eyes, respiratory system or other vital organs
- Any scalping requiring hospital treatment
- Any loss of consciousness caused by head injury or asphyxia
- Any other injury arising from working in an enclosed space which leads to hypothermia or heat-induced illness, or that requires resuscitation or admittance to hospital for more than 24 hours

Additional reportable occurrences include the following:

- The collapse, overturning or failure of any load-bearing part of any lifting equipment
- The explosion, collapse or bursting of any closed vessel or pipe work
- Electrical short circuit or overload resulting in a fire or explosion
- Unintentional explosion, misfire or failure of demolition to cause the intended collapse, projection of material beyond a site boundary, or injury caused by an explosion
- Any accidental release of a biological agent likely to cause severe human illness
- Any collapse or partial collapse of scaffolding over five metres in height
- When a dangerous substance being conveyed by road is involved in a fire or is released
- The unintended collapse of any building or structure under construction, alteration or demolition, including walls or floors
- Any explosion or fire resulting in the suspension of normal work for over 24 hours
- Any sudden, uncontrolled release in a building of: 200kg or more of flammable liquid, 10kg or more of flammable liquid above its boiling point, 10kg or more of flammable gas, or 500kg or more of these substances if the release is in the open air

- Accidental release of any substances which may damage health
- Serious gas incidents
- Poisonings
- Skin diseases including, but not limited to: occupational dermatitis, skin cancer, chrome ulcer, or oil folliculitis/acne
- Lung diseases including, but not limited to: occupational asthma, farmer's lung, asbestosis, or mesothelioma
- Infections including, but not limited to: leptospirosis, hepatitis, anthrax, legionellosis, or tetanus
- Other conditions such as occupational cancer, certain musculoskeletal disorders, decompression illness and hand-arm vibration syndrome

The school will also report occupational diseases upon receipt of a written diagnosis from a doctor that a staff member has a reportable disease linked to occupational exposure. These include the following:

- Carpel tunnel syndrome
- Severe cramp of the hand or forearm
- Occupational dermatitis, e.g. from work involving strong acids or alkalis
- Hand-arm vibration syndrome
- Occupational asthma, e.g. from wood dust and soldering using rosin flux
- Tendonitis or tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm
- Any occupational cancer
- Any disease attributed to an occupational exposure to a biological agent

Work-related stress and stress-related illnesses will not be reported due to the fact that they are not usually just one distinct event. RIDDOR stipulates that to be reportable, an injury must have resulted from an accident arising out of or in connection with work.

The school will only report accidents that are:

- Discrete.
- Identifiable.
- Unintended incidents which cause physical injury.

Reporting Procedures

Should an incident require reporting to the Incident Control Centre (ICC) (part of the HSE), the headteacher, or a person appointed on their behalf, will file a report as soon as is reasonably possible.

Reporting hazards

Staff, pupils, contractors and visitors have a legal duty to report any condition or practice they deem to be a hazard. In most cases, reporting should be conducted verbally to the site manager as soon as possible, who will then inform the headteacher as appropriate.

Accident Investigations

All accidents, however minor, will be investigated by the health and safety officer and the outcomes recorded. The length of time dedicated to each investigation will vary on the

seriousness of the accident. After an investigation takes place, a risk assessment will be carried out, or the existing assessment amended, to avoid reoccurrence of the accident.

6. Active Monitoring Systems

The school's procedure for actively monitoring its system will include:

- Annual audits, including fire risk assessments and health and safety audits.
- Termly examination of documents to ensure compliance with standards.
- Termly inspection of premises, plants and equipment.
- Monthly reports and updates to the headteacher.
- External measures, such as surveys by contractors and service providers, along with visits from Environmental Health and Ofsted.

7. Risk Assessments

The headteacher has overall responsibility for ensuring potential hazards are identified and risk assessments are completed for all areas in the school. The health and safety officer will be consulted when risk assessments are being carried out.

defects and potential risks along with the necessary solutions or control measures.

Risk assessments will be reviewed if:

- There is any reason to suspect that they are no longer valid.
- There has been a significant change in related matters.
- The governing board will be informed of risk assessments, allowing issues to be prioritised and actions to be authorised, along with funds and resources.

The school will record any significant findings of any risk assessments, including the following:

- The identified hazards
- How people might be harmed by them
- What the school has implemented to control the risk

The school will appoint an educational visits coordinator and ensure they receive the training necessary to carry out the role. Where there is no educational visits coordinator, the headteacher will perform this duty. The educational visits coordinator will ensure risk assessments are completed by staff leading day trips or residential stays.

8. Slips and trips

In line with HSE guidance, control measures are in place to effectively control slip and trip risks.

The school will remain especially vigilant to the following hazards:

- Members of staff or pupils running or carrying heavy or awkward items
- Wearing unsuitable footwear
- Poor lighting – particularly where there are uneven surfaces and level changes
- Contamination
- Obstructions, e.g. bags and trailing cables

9. Fire Safety

All staff fully understand and effectively implement the fire evacuation plan, which will be implemented in the event of a fire.

The headteacher is responsible for certifying that procedures for ensuring that safety precautions are properly managed will be discussed, formulated and effectively disseminated to all staff. Staff will receive fire safety training to ensure they understand the procedure for fire drills and the use of fire extinguishers.

The school will test equipment on a regular basis using an approved contractor where appropriate.

The evacuation of visitors and contractors will be the responsibility of the person they are visiting or working for.

10. Sharps

For the purposes of this policy, “**sharps**” is defined as sharp objects such as needles, scalpels, razor blades and broken glass which pose a risk of an accidental penetrating injury or laceration or puncture to skin.

Sharps are not likely to be found commonly on school premises; however, staff will be vigilant towards the following circumstances in which sharps may be found:

- During school-based vaccination programmes
- Where an individual within the school requires injections to manage a health condition
- Where a pupil brings a sharp into the school
- Where glass is broken within the school, or broken glass is found on or around the school premises
- Where drug paraphernalia, e.g. heroin needles, is found on or around the school premises

Where an individual brings a sharp onto the school premises, e.g. a needle to manage a health condition, they will be responsible for its disposal. The use of needles for medication for an individual on the school premises will be managed in line with the Administering Medication Policy.

11. Evacuation, invacuation and lockdown procedure

The school will follow the procedure outlined in the Invacuation, Lockdown and Evacuation Policy in the event that the situation arises.

12. Visitors and contractors

The relevant procedures for visitors and contractors will be shared on arrival by the member of staff they have come to visit.

13. Construction and maintenance

When undertaking construction or maintenance work, the school will do so in accordance with The Construction (Design and Management) (CDM) Regulations 2015. Construction work means the carrying out of any building, civil engineering or engineering construction work, including:

- The construction, alteration, conversion, fitting out, commission, renovation, repair, upkeep, redecoration, or other maintenance, decommissioning, demolition or dismantling of a structure;
- The preparation for an intended structure, including site clearance, exploration, investigation (but not site survey) and excavation (but not pre-construction archaeological investigations), and the clearance or preparation of the site or structure for use or occupation at its conclusion;
- The installation, commission, maintenance, repair or removal of mechanical, electrical, gas, compressed air, hydraulic, telecommunications, computer or similar services which are normally fixed within or to a structure;
- The assembly on site of prefabricated elements to form a structure or the disassembly on site of the prefabricated elements which, immediately before such disassembly, formed a structure;
- The removal of a structure, or of any product or waste resulting from demolition or dismantling of a structure, or from disassembly of prefabricated elements which immediately before such disassembly formed such a structure.

The headteacher will ensure that all construction and maintenance projects have a formally appointed principal designer and principal contractor. The headteacher will liaise with the principal contractor to identify if the scope of the project means that it should be notified to the HSE.

14. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The school will provide employees and pupils who are exposed to a hazard at the school, which cannot be controlled by other means, with PPE where appropriate.

The school will always use PPE in line with UK Health Security Agency guidance.

15. Work related hazards

Manual handling

The school will, as far as practicable, will reduce the need for members of staff to carry out any manual handling tasks that involve a risk of injury.

The capability and circumstances, e.g. age, of staff will be taken into account where manual handling tasks are required. Where there is an unacceptable risk of injury or harm, no manual handling tasks will take place.

All members of staff will receive manual handling information and training as needed.

Stress management

Staff will be aware of the symptoms of stress, including sleeping problems, dietary problems, mood swings, feeling lethargic, fatigue, emotional problems, chest pains and elevated heart rate, lack of focus, inability to concentrate and increased sweating. Staff members who suffer from any of these symptoms are advised to consult their GP as soon as possible. All staff wellbeing matters are managed in line with the Staff Wellbeing Policy.

16. Maintaining Equipment

The school will ensure that staff and pupils can expect that any equipment they use is suitable for its intended use and is properly maintained. Inspectors, or a trained health and safety technician, will inspect the following equipment for health and safety issues annually:

- All electrical appliances
- All fixed gymnasium equipment

It will be the responsibility of the health and safety officer to ensure new equipment meets the appropriate standards and conforms to all health and safety requirements. A health and safety technician will be consulted if necessary.

17. Hazardous materials

The school will only purchase hazardous materials from a reputable source, making sure that the relevant material safety data sheet (MSDS) is provided by the retailer on delivery. The school will only order supplies of hazardous materials when existing stocks are no longer adequate, and in quantities that are no larger than necessary. No chemicals or other hazardous materials will be used without the permission of the headteacher.

18. Asbestos Management

The most recent survey of the school found there was no asbestos.

19. Cleaning

Contract cleaners will be monitored by the site manager. The standard required will be clear in the service level agreement held with the contracted cleaners. Special consideration will be given to hygiene areas.

20. Infection Control

The school will actively prevent the spread of infection through the following measures:

- Routine immunisation
- Maintaining high standards of personal hygiene and practice
- Maintaining a clean environment

The school will keep up-to-date with national and local immunisation scheduling and advice. All pupils' immunisation status is checked at school entry and at the time of any vaccination. The school encourages parents to have their children immunised.

All staff will be subject to a full occupational health check before starting employment at the school.

21. Allergens and anaphylaxis

Parents will be required to provide the school with up-to-date information relating to their children's allergies, as well as the necessary action to be taken in the event of an allergic reaction, such as any medication required. Staff will also be required to provide the headteacher with a list of their allergies. Information regarding pupils' and staff members' allergies will be collated and stored securely.

Staff will receive appropriate training and support relevant to their level of responsibility, in order to assist pupils with managing their allergies.

22. Medication

The school's Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy will be read, understood and adhered to at all times. A record will be kept of any medication that pupils take – this will be checked prior to administering any non-prescription medication.

23. Smoking and Vaping

The school is a non-smoking premises and no smoking or vaping will be permitted on the grounds.

24. Security and Theft

Money will be held in a safe and banked on a regular basis to ensure large amounts are not held on site

Staff and pupils will be responsible for their personal belongings and the school accepts no responsibility for loss or damage. Thefts will be reported to the police and staff will be expected to assist police with their investigation.

All staff will be expected to take reasonable measures to ensure the security of school equipment being used. Missing or believed stolen equipment will be reported immediately to a senior staff member.

25. Severe weather

The headteacher, in liaison with the governing board, will make a decision on school closure due to severe weather on the grounds of health and safety. If a closure takes place, the governing board will be promptly informed.

26. School trips and visits

Health and safety policy and procedures concerning school trips and visits, including residential are contained in the school's Educational Visits and School Trips Policy.

27. Near misses

A 'near miss' is an event not causing harm, but has the potential to cause injury or ill health.

If staff members, pupils, contractors or visitors see or are involved in a near miss, they will report it in order to allow consideration of how to prevent a possible accident happening in the future.

Reporting will be conducted verbally to the health and safety officer as soon as possible, who will then inform the headteacher as appropriate.

This policy was written in December 2022.

It will be reviewed in December 2023.