READ SCHOOL
HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY

1. Health and Safety Policy Statement

Read School aims to:

- Provide and maintain a safe and healthy working environment.
- Provide suitable and sufficient information, instruction, training and supervision to enable all staff to comply with health and safety procedures.
- Provide safe plant, equipment and systems of work
- Provide a safe process of movement of vehicles on site
- Establish and maintain safe working procedures amongst staff, pupils, contractors and all visitors to the school site
- Have robust procedures in place in case of emergencies.
- Appropriate arrangements to assess and control the risks associated with work and activities undertaken by employees, contractors, young people, volunteers and visitors.
- Ensure that the premises and equipment are maintained safely, and are regularly inspected
- Ensure all policies are kept up to date either annually or after any changes to legislation or personnel.

  This policy can only be successful with the active co-operation of all employees. Read School therefore reminds all employees that it is their responsibility to cooperate with the School by performing their assigned duties safely by following training and established safe working procedures, using any supplied safety equipment appropriately, by reporting or correcting unsafe acts or conditions and never undertaking a task that they are not qualified to do.

2. Legislation

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education on health and safety in schools and the following legislation:

- The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, which sets out the general duties employers have towards employees and duties relating to lettings
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992, which require employers to make an assessment of the risks to the health and safety of their employees
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, which require employers to carry out risk assessments, make arrangements to implement necessary measures, and arrange for appropriate information and training
- The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002, which require employers to control substances that are hazardous to health

- The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013, which state that some accidents must be reported to the Health and Safety Executive and set out the timeframe for this and how long records of such accidents must be kept
- The Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations 1992, which require employers to carry out digital screen equipment assessments and states users' entitlement to an eyesight test
- The Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998, which require work on gas fittings to be carried out by someone on the Gas Safe Register
- Electricity at work Regulations 1989, requires employers to ensure electrical equipment is suitable for the purpose it is intended, ensure equipment has undergone all necessary safety checks before use and ensure equipment is safely installed and regularly maintained by qualified engineer.
- The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, which requires employers to take general fire precautions to ensure the safety of their staff
- The Work at Height Regulations 2005, which requires employers to protect their staff from falls from height
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992, requires the employer, so far as reasonably practicable, avoid the need for their employees to undertake any manual handling operations at work which involve a risk of injury.
- Safe use of ladders and stepladders, the employer's duty is to ensure ladders or stepladders are both suitable for the work task and in good condition.

This list is not exhaustive

The school follows national guidance published by UK Health Security Agency (formerly Public Health England) and government guidance on living with COVID-19 when responding to infection control issues.

Sections of this policy are also based on the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 The governing board

The governing board has ultimate responsibility for health and safety matters in the School but will delegate day-to-day responsibility to the Head.

The governing board has a duty to take reasonable steps to ensure that staff and pupils are not exposed to risks to their health and safety. This applies to activities on or off the school premises.

The governing board, as the employer, also has a duty to:

- Assess the risks to staff and others affected by school activities in order to identify and introduce the health and safety measures necessary to manage those risks
- Inform employees about risks and the measures in place to manage them

- Ensure that adequate health and safety training is provided

The governors who oversee health and safety are Mr Ryan Dempsey and Mr James Dean..

3.2 Headteacher

The headteacher is responsible for health and safety day-to-day. This involves:

- Implementing the health and safety policy
- Ensuring there are enough staff to safely supervise pupils
- Ensuring that the school building and premises are safe and regularly inspected
- Providing adequate training for school staff
- Reporting to the governing board on health and safety matters
- Ensuring appropriate evacuation procedures are in place and regular fire drills are held
- Ensuring that in their absence, health and safety responsibilities are delegated to another member of staff
- Ensuring all risk assessments are completed and reviewed
- Monitoring cleaning contracts, and ensuring cleaners are appropriately trained and have access to personal protective equipment, where necessary

In the headteacher's absence, the Deputy Head assumes the above day-to-day health and safety responsibilities.

3.3 Health and safety lead

The nominated health and safety lead at Read School is the Domestic Bursar.

3.4 Staff

School staff have a duty to take care of pupils in the same way that a prudent parent would do so.

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
- Co-operate with the school on health and safety matters
- Work in accordance with training and instructions
- Inform the appropriate person of any work situation representing a serious and immediate danger so that remedial action can be taken
- Model safe and hygienic practice for pupils
- Understand emergency evacuation procedures and feel confident in implementing them

3.5 Pupils and parents

Pupils and parents are responsible for following the school's health and safety advice, on-site and off-site, and for reporting any health and safety incidents to a member of staff.

3.6 Contractors

Contractors will agree health and safety practices with the site team / Domestic Bursar before starting work. Before work begins, the contractor will submit risk assessments of planned work and complete a site induction.

4. Site security

The Site Manager and Head of Boarding are responsible for the security of the school site in and out of school hours. They are responsible for visual inspections of the site and for the intruder and fire alarm systems.

The Head, Bursar and Deputy Head are key holders and will respond to an emergency.

5. Fire

Emergency exits, assembly points and assembly point instructions are clearly identified by safety signs and notices. Fire risk assessment of the premises will be reviewed regularly.

Emergency evacuations are practised at least once a term.

The fire alarm is a loud continuous bell.

Fire alarm testing of multiple systems will take place once a week on a Tuesday, starting from 11am.

New staff will be trained in fire safety and all staff and pupils will be made aware of any new fire risks.

In the event of a fire:

- The alarm will be raised immediately by whoever discovers the fire and emergency services contacted. Evacuation procedures will also begin immediately
- Fire extinguishers may be used by staff only, and only then if staff are trained in how to operate them and are confident they can use them without putting themselves or others at risk
- Staff and pupils will congregate at the assembly points. These are located in the main playground area
- Form tutors/class teachers will take a register of pupils, which will then be checked against the attendance register of that day.
- A register of all staff will be taken by Mrs Lisa Sayner (Reception) upon completion of site checks
- Staff and pupils will remain outside the building until the emergency services say it is safe to re-enter

The school will have special arrangements in place for the evacuation of people with mobility needs and fire risk assessments will also pay particular attention to those with disabilities.

A fire safety checklist can be found in appendix 1.

6. COSHH

Schools are required to control hazardous substances, which can take many forms, including:

- Chemicals

- Products containing chemicals
- Fumes
- Dusts
- Vapours
- Mists
- Gases and asphyxiating gases
- Germs that cause diseases, such as leptospirosis or legionnaires disease

Control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH) risk assessments are completed by the Science Department and the Site Manager and circulated to all employees who work with hazardous substances. Staff will also be provided with protective equipment, where necessary.

Our staff use and store hazardous products in accordance with instructions on the product label. All hazardous products are kept in their original containers, with clear labelling and product information.

All hazardous products will be stored in locked cupboards to prevent un-authorised access.

Any hazardous products are disposed of in accordance with specific disposal procedures.

Emergency procedures, including procedures for dealing with spillages, are displayed near where hazardous products are stored and in areas where they are routinely used.

6.1 Gas safety

Installation, maintenance and repair of gas appliances and fittings and storage tanks will be carried out by a competent Gas Safe registered engineer.

Gas pipework, appliances and flues are regularly maintained.

All rooms with gas appliances are checked to ensure they have adequate ventilation and CO monitors installed.

6.2 Legionella

A water risk assessment has been completed monthly by contractor, Glisten Water who is responsible for ensuring that the identified operational controls are conducted and recorded in the School's water log book

This risk assessment will be reviewed every 2 years and when significant changes have occurred to the water system and/or building footprint

The risks from legionella are mitigated by the following:

- Monthly inspections, checks and report by external contractor (Glisten water),
- Flushing, disinfection of unused showers
- Dead leg pipework flushing and removal of such when possible.

6.3 Asbestos

- The site team are trained on the hazards of asbestos, the location of any asbestos in the school and the action to take if they suspect they have disturbed it

- Arrangements are in place to ensure that contractors are made aware of any asbestos on the premises and that it is not disturbed by their work
- Contractors will be advised that if they discover material that they suspect could be asbestos, they will stop work immediately, inform the site team and prevent access if asbestos containing materials have been disturbed or exposed.
- A record is kept of the location of asbestos that has been found on the school site
- If asbestos is suspected contact Environmental Asbestos Services on 07519 598 839

7. Equipment

All equipment and machinery is maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. In addition, maintenance schedules outline when extra checks should take place.

When new equipment is purchased, it is checked to ensure it meets appropriate educational standards.

All equipment is stored in the appropriate storage containers and areas. All containers are labelled with the correct hazard sign and contents.

Safety guards to be fitted at all times.

Only appropriately trained staff are allowed to use the equipment and machinery.

7.1 Electrical equipment

All staff are responsible for ensuring they use and handle electrical equipment sensibly and safely

Any pupil or volunteer who handles electrical appliances does so under the supervision of the member of staff who so directs them

Any potential hazards will be reported to Mr O.Dukes (Domestic Bursar) and Mr Scott Hunter Bursar) immediately

Permanently installed electrical equipment is connected through a dedicated isolator switch and adequately earthed

Only trained staff members can check plugs

A portable appliance test (PAT) of all electrical equipment will be carried out by a qualified external contractor annually.

All isolator switches are clearly marked to identify their machine

Electrical apparatus and connections will not be touched by wet hands and will only be used in dry conditions

Maintenance, repair, installation and disconnection work associated with permanently installed or portable electrical equipment is only carried out by a competent person

7.2 PE equipment

Pupils are taught how to carry out and set up PE equipment safely and efficiently. Staff check that equipment is set up safely

Any concerns about the condition of the sports hall floor or other apparatus will be reported to the Head of PE Mr. John Matthews.

7.3 Display screen equipment

All staff who use computers daily as a significant part of their normal work have a display screen equipment (DSE) assessment carried out. 'Significant' is taken to be continuous/near continuous spells of an hour or more at a time

Staff identified as DSE users are entitled to an eyesight test for DSE use upon request, and at regular intervals thereafter, by a qualified optician (and corrective glasses provided if required specifically for DSE use)

8. Lone working

Lone working may include:

- Late working
- Home or site visits
- Weekend working
- Site manager duties
- Site cleaning duties
- Working in a single occupancy office
- Remote working, self-isolation and/or remote learning

Potentially dangerous activities, such as those where there is a risk of falling from height, will not be undertaken when working alone. If there are any doubts about the task to be performed, then the task will be postponed until other staff members are available.

If lone working is to be undertaken, a colleague, friend or family member will be informed about where the member of staff is and when they are likely to return.

The lone worker will ensure they are medically fit to work alone.

9. Working at height

Working at height should be avoided where possible.

We will ensure that any working at height is properly planned, supervised and carried out by competent people with the skills, knowledge and experience to do the work. Please refer to separate Working at Height Policy.

In addition:

- The use of ladders should be avoided where possible
- Pupils are prohibited from using ladders
- Staff will wear appropriate footwear and clothing when using ladders
- Contractors are expected to provide their own ladders for working at height
- Before using a ladder, staff are expected to conduct a visual inspection to ensure its safety
- Access to high levels, such as roofs, is only permitted by trained persons or with the correct access equipment has been provided and erected by competent persons.

10. Manual handling

It is up to individuals to determine whether they are fit to lift or move equipment and furniture. If an individual feels that to lift an item could result in injury or exacerbate an existing condition, they will ask for assistance.

The school will ensure that proper mechanical aids and lifting equipment are available in school, and that staff are trained in how to use them safely.

Staff and pupils are expected to use the following basic manual handling procedure:

- Plan the lift and assess the load. If it is awkward or heavy, use a mechanical aid such as a trolley, or ask another person to help
- Take the more direct route that is clear from obstruction and is as flat as possible
- Ensure the area where you plan to offload the load is clear
- When lifting, bend your knees and keep your back straight, feet apart and angled out. Ensure the load is held close to the body and firmly. Lift smoothly and slowly and avoid twisting, stretching and reaching where practicable

11. Educational (off-site) visits

When taking pupils off the school premises, we will ensure that:

- Risk assessments will be completed where off-site visits and activities require them
- All off-site visits are appropriately staffed
- Staff will take a school mobile phone, an appropriate portable first aid kit, information about the specific medical needs of pupils, along with the parents' contact details
- There will always be at least one first aider on school trips and visits
- For trips and visits with pupils in the Early Years Foundation Stage, there will always be at least one first aider with a current pediatric first aid certificate
- For other trips, there will always be at least one first aider on school trips and visits

A separate Educational Visits policy covers the requirements for educational (off-site) visits.

12. Lettings

This policy applies to lettings. Those who hire any aspect of the school site or any facilities will be made aware of the content of the School's Health and Safety Policy and will have responsibility for complying with it.

13. Violence at work

We believe that staff should not be in any danger at work and will not tolerate violent or threatening behaviour towards our staff.

All staff will report any incidents of aggression or violence (or near misses) directed to themselves to their line manager/headteacher immediately. This applies to violence from pupils, visitors or other staff.

14. Smoking

Smoking is not permitted on the school premises.

15. Infection prevention and control

We follow national guidance published by the UK Health Security Agency when responding to infection control issues. We will encourage staff and pupils to follow this good hygiene practice, outlined below, where applicable.

15.1 Handwashing

- Wash hands with liquid soap and warm water, and dry with paper towels
- Always wash hands after using the toilet, before eating or handling food, and after handling animals
- Cover all cuts and abrasions with waterproof dressings

15.2 Coughing and sneezing

- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue
- Wash hands after using or disposing of tissues
- Spitting is discouraged

15.3 Personal protective equipment

- Wear disposable non-powdered vinyl or latex-free CE-marked gloves and disposable plastic aprons where there is a risk of splashing or contamination with blood/body fluids (for example, nappy or pad changing)
- Wear goggles if there is a risk of splashing to the face
- Use the correct personal protective equipment when handling cleaning chemicals
- Use personal protective equipment (PPE) to control the spread of infectious diseases where required or recommended by government guidance and/or a risk assessment

15.4 Cleaning of the environment

- Clean the environment frequently and thoroughly.
- Clean the environment, including toys and equipment, frequently and thoroughly.

15.5 Cleaning of blood and body fluid spillages

- Clean up all spillages of blood, feces, saliva, vomit, nasal and eye discharges immediately and wear personal protective equipment
- When spillages occur, clean using a product that combines both a detergent and a disinfectant, and use as per manufacturer's instructions. Ensure it is effective against bacteria and viruses, and suitable for use on the affected surface
- Never use mops for cleaning up blood and body fluid spillages – use disposable paper towels and discard clinical waste as described below
- Make spillage kits available for blood spills

15.6 Laundry

- Wash laundry in a separate dedicated facility
- Wash soiled linen separately and at the hottest wash the fabric will tolerate
- Wear personal protective clothing when handling soiled linen

- Bag children's soiled clothing to be sent home, never rinse by hand

15.7 Clinical waste

- Always segregate domestic and clinical waste, in accordance with local policy
- Used nappies/pads, gloves, aprons and soiled dressings are stored in correct clinical waste bags in foot-operated bins
- Remove clinical waste with a registered waste contractor
- Remove all clinical waste bags when they are two-thirds full and store in a dedicated, secure area while awaiting collection

15.8 Animals

- Wash hands before and after handling any animals
- Keep animals' living quarters clean and away from food areas
- Dispose of animal waste regularly, and keep litter boxes away from pupils
- Supervise pupils when playing with animals
- Seek veterinary advice on animal welfare and animal health issues, and the suitability of the animal as a pet

15.9 Infectious disease management

We will ensure adequate risk reduction measures are in place to manage the spread of acute respiratory diseases, including COVID-19, and carry out appropriate risk assessments, reviewing them regularly and monitoring whether any measures in place are working effectively.

We will follow local and national guidance on the use of control measures including:

Following good hygiene practices

We will encourage all staff and pupils to regularly wash their hands with soap and water or hand sanitiser, and follow recommended practices for respiratory hygiene. Where required, we will provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

Implementing an appropriate cleaning regime

We will regularly clean equipment and rooms, and ensure surfaces that are frequently touched are cleaned at least once per day

Keeping rooms well ventilated

We will use risk assessments to identify rooms or areas with poor ventilation and put measures in place to improve airflow, including opening external windows, opening internal doors and mechanical ventilation.

15.10 Pupils vulnerable to infection

Some medical conditions make pupils vulnerable to infections that would rarely be serious in most children. The school will normally have been made aware of such vulnerable children. These children are particularly vulnerable to chickenpox, measles or slapped cheek disease

(parvovirus B19) and, if exposed to any of these, the parent/carer will be informed promptly and further medical advice sought. We will advise these children to have additional immunisations, for example for pneumococcal and influenza.

15.11 Exclusion periods for infectious diseases

The school will follow recommended exclusion periods outlined by the UK Health Security Agency and other government guidance, summarised in appendix 4.

In the event of an epidemic/pandemic, we will follow advice from the UK Health Security Agency about the appropriate course of action.

16. New and expectant mothers

Risk assessments will be carried out whenever any employee or pupil notifies the School that they are pregnant.

Appropriate measures will be put in place to control risks identified. Some specific risks are summarised below:

- Chickenpox can affect the pregnancy if a woman has not already had the infection. Expectant mothers should report exposure to an antenatal carer and GP at any stage of exposure. Shingles is caused by the same virus as chickenpox, so anyone who has not had chickenpox is potentially vulnerable to the infection if they have close contact with a case of shingles
- If a pregnant woman comes into contact with measles or German measles (rubella), she should inform her antenatal carer and GP immediately to ensure investigation
- Slapped cheek disease (parvovirus B19) can occasionally affect an unborn child. If exposed early in pregnancy (before 20 weeks), the pregnant woman should inform her antenatal care and GP as this must be investigated promptly
- Some pregnant women will be at greater risk of severe illness from COVID-19
- Caution must be taken when crossing any playgrounds for unexpected flying objects, footballs etc.

17. Occupational stress

We are committed to promoting high levels of health and wellbeing and recognise the importance of identifying and reducing workplace stressors through risk assessment.

Systems are in place within the school for responding to individual concerns and monitoring staff workloads. See Staff Handbook and Staff Wellbeing Policy.

18. Accident reporting

- All accidents and incidents must be recorded in the School Accident Reporting Log (https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-R3RUgO92r0RfUCRdQJZ9pPxoDKkeDfU5f7UaR0SRy8/edit?gid=584403343#gid=584403343)
- An Accident/Incident Report Form must be completed for all accidents, including near misses
- A separate Near Miss Reporting Log is located on the Shared Drive
- Accidents must be recorded as soon as possible after the accident occurs by the member of staff or first aider who deals with it.

- As much detail as possible will be supplied when reporting an accident
- Information about injuries will also be kept in the pupil's educational record

Records held in the first aid and accident log will be retained by the school for a minimum of 3 years, in accordance with regulation 25 of the Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1979, and then securely disposed of.

18.2 Reporting to the Health and Safety Executive

The Bursar will keep a record of any accident that results in a reportable injury, disease, or dangerous occurrence as defined in the RIDDOR 2013 legislation (regulations 4, 5, 6 and 7).

The Bursar will report these to the Health and Safety Executive as soon as is reasonably practicable and in any event within 10 days of the incident.

Reportable injuries, diseases or dangerous occurrences include:

Death

Specified injuries. These are:

- Fractures, other than to fingers, thumbs and toes
- Amputations
- Any injury likely to lead to permanent loss of sight or reduction in sight
- Any crush injury to the head or torso causing damage to the brain or internal organs
- Serious burns (including scalding)
- 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 requires resuscitation or admittance to hospital for more than 24 hours

Injuries where an employee is away from work or unable to perform their normal work duties for more than 7 consecutive days

Where an accident leads to someone being taken to hospital

Where something happens that does not result in an injury, but could have done

Near-miss events that do not result in an injury but could have done. Examples of near-miss events relevant to schools include, but are not limited to:

- The collapse or failure of load-bearing parts of lifts and lifting equipment
- The accidental release of a biological agent likely to cause severe human illness
- The accidental release or escape of any substance that may cause a serious injury or damage to health
- An electrical short circuit or overload causing a fire or explosion

Information on how to make a RIDDOR report is available here:

How to make a RIDDOR report – http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/report.htm

18.3 Notifying parents

The Head of Junior School will inform parents of any accident or injury sustained by a pupil in the Lower or Upper Junior School and any first aid treatment given, on the same day, or as soon as reasonably practicable.

The Medical Centre Supervisor will inform parents of Senior School pupils.

18.4 Reporting to child protection agencies

The DSL will notify insert the appropriate local child protection agencies of any serious accident or injury to, or the death of, a pupil in the Early Years Foundation Stage while in the school's care.

18.5 Reporting to Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI)

The Bursar will notify ISI of any serious accident, illness or injury to a pupil in the Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception) while in the School's care. Serious accidents for pupils in other parts of the School are currently reportable to the Charities Commission as soon as is reasonably practicable, and no later than 14 days after the incident.

19. Training

Our staff are provided with health and safety training as part of their induction process.

Staff who work in high-risk environments, such as in science labs or with woodwork equipment, or work with pupils with special educational needs (SEN), are given additional health and safety training.

20. Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed by the School Health and Safety lead and the Bursar every two years.

At every review, the policy will be approved by the headteacher and H&S governing board committee/full governing board.

21. Links with other policies

This health and safety policy links to the following policies:

- First aid
- Risk assessment
- Medical policies
- Accessibility plan
- Remote learning
- Emergency or critical incident plan
- Lone working
- Manual Handling operation
- Working at height
- Legionella
- Asbestos awareness

This list is not limited to all of the above

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Scott Hunter (Bursar)
Ruth Ainley (Head)