

# HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY



## ST CUTHBERT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## **GENERAL STATEMENT OF INTENT**

### **Introduction**

The purpose of this policy statement is to indicate the Trust's commitment to achieving a safe working environment for all staff, pupils and visitors connected with our sites and activities.

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Governor with the responsibility for Health and Safety and ratified by the Local Governing Committee.

1. The Board of Directors recognise and accept their respective responsibilities under the health and safety at Work Act 1974, and all the supporting regulations in order to provide a safe and healthy workplace for all its employees, pupils and visitors to the MAT's premises.

The Board of Directors will exercise overall responsibility for the health, safety and welfare of all staff, pupils and visitors to the Trust premises and Trust activities. Day to day operational responsibility is delegated to the Local Governing Committees of each Academy. Local Governing Committee members are required within the Scheme of Delegation to ensure the health, safety and well-being of all staff, pupils and visitors and ensure that adequate resources are allocated to provide a safe environment.

2. The Local Governing Committee will individually and collectively take all steps within their power, where reasonably practicable, to meet their responsibilities, paying particular attention to the provision and maintenance of:
  - a) Plant, equipment and systems of work that are safe;
  - b) Safe arrangements for the use, handling, storage and transport of articles and substances;
  - c) Sufficient information, instruction, training and supervision to enable all employees to avoid hazards and contribute positively to their own health and safety at work;
  - d) A safe place of work and access to it;
  - e) A healthy working environment and adequate welfare facilities.
3. Although it is the legal duty of the Board of Directors to ensure the health, safety and welfare of everyone affected by their activities; all employees acting in a managerial capacity are responsible for ensuring that everyone under their charge complies at all times with the Trust's Health and Safety objectives.

4. A Health and Safety Advisor, supplied through Avec Partnership, provides competent technical advice on health and safety matters where necessary to assist such employees in their task providing legal support and best practice when required.
5. The Board of Directors and Local Governing Committees expect all staff to risk assess the impact of their activities in relation to themselves and third parties. Staff are expected to inform an appropriate manager of any safety concerns and if required, the concerns should be passed on to the Board of Directors for action if necessary.

## **ST CUTHBERT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

The following statement of St Cuthbert's general policy with respect to the health and safety of its employees and pupils while at work, and the organisation and arrangements presently in force for carrying out that policy, has been prepared in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

A copy of this policy will be made available to all staff. In addition to the policy staff will have access to support and advice in order to implement and comply with the policy and procedures.

#### **2.0 Foreword by Head Teacher**

St Cuthbert's recognises and accepts its legal responsibilities for the health, safety and welfare of its employees and the health and safety of any other person who may be affected by its activities. To this end it aims to apply and enforce all current legal requirements, together with appropriate safety measures. In addition, where practicable, the school will attempt to continuously improve the health and safety at work of all its members, by operating a proactive policy of reducing hazards over and above the requirements of legislation. This will be done within a clearly defined safety management structure by the dissemination of appropriate guidance, instructions and information and auditing procedures.

While recognising its own responsibilities in the matter of health and safety at work, the school requires the co-operation of all members of staff, pupils and visitors, in meeting these obligations. St Cuthbert's believes that health and safety at work is the responsibility of all those at work. It will encourage employees to take an active role in ensuring that a safe working environment is maintained. This will be done by providing a clear reporting route for accidents and incidents and encouraging suggestions to improve the working environment.

Communication is considered a vital part of any efficient health and safety management system. Therefore, any member of staff or pupil may approach the schools Head Teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team on any matter relating to health and safety.

### 3.0 Health and Safety Policy Statement

The management of health and safety is regarded as being of the utmost importance for all pupils, staff and visitors to St Cuthbert's. Therefore, the school recognises and accepts its responsibility to set standards at least as high as required by the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and supporting regulations. The school will so far as is reasonably practicable, aim to achieve zero work related fatalities, as well as an incident and injury free environment.

The school will accomplish this target, in so far as is reasonably practicable, through adopting an approach to continuous improvement through:

- Providing and maintaining plant and equipment and systems of work that are safe and without risks to health.
- Making arrangements for ensuring safety and absence of risks to health in connection with the use, handling, storage and transport of articles and substances.
- Providing such information, instruction, training and supervision as is necessary to ensure the health and safety at work of employees and pupils and visitors.
- Maintaining any place of work under the school's control in a condition that is safe and without risks to health, providing and maintaining safe means of access to and egress from it.
- The provision and maintenance of a working environment for employees and pupils that is safe and without risks to health and is adequate as regards facilities and arrangements for their welfare at work.
- Providing such protective equipment as is necessary for the health and safety at work of employees and pupils.
- The encouragement of staff to set high standards of health and safety by personal example, in order that pupils leaving the school should take with them an attitude of mind which accepts good health and safety practice as normal.
- Striving to monitor the effectiveness of health and safety provisions within the school.
- Keeping the school's Health and Safety policy under at least an annual review in order to support the school's policy of continuous improvement and to duly publish any amendments.
- Co-operating and co-ordinating its health and safety efforts to meet the safety objectives of the Trust.

This statement will be issued to each new member of staff along with the Trust's Health and Safety policy statement.

## 4.0 Organisation

Although health and safety is a collective responsibility, this policy recognises the responsibility that effective and efficient management has towards achieving the school's safety objectives. The Head Teacher is responsible to the Local Governing Committee for the management of health and safety matters within the school. Oversight and co-ordination for health and safety across the school is the responsibility of the Trust's Head Teacher. This section outlines the responsibility each element within the school has towards the health, safety and welfare of those connected with St Cuthbert's.

### 4.1 The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of BHCET (Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust) shall ensure that when undertaking its functions as the legal entity for each of the schools, that it takes due cognizance of regulations, guidance and good practice. The Board delegates to the Local Governing Committee the responsibility for school specific compliance.

### 4.2 The Local Governing Committee

The Local Governing Committee of St Cuthbert's shall ensure that when undertaking the management of the budget, all health and safety implications are considered. Furthermore, their main functions are:

- a) Monitoring the school's safety performance (including consideration of inspection reports, accident statistics and audits);
- b) Prioritising actions where resources are required;
- c) Ensuring actions are carried out;
- d) Including health and safety on meeting agendas;
- e) Ratifying the local Health and Safety Policy;

### 4.3 The Head Teacher

The Head Teacher has overall responsibility for the application of this policy.

The main functions are:

- a) Overall management of all health and safety matters in the school in accordance with the Health and Safety Policy;
- b) Ensuring risk assessments are in place and regular reviews are carried out;
- c) Submitting inspection reports to Local Governing Committees and the Board of Directors;
- d) Ensuring action is taken when suitably recommended;

- e) Communication of information received on health and safety matters to appropriate people;
- f) Management of investigations;
- g) Identifying staff health and safety training needs;
- h) Liaising with Directors and the Local Governing Committee on policy issues and any problems in implementing the health and safety policy;
- i) Co-operating with and providing necessary facilities for trade union safety representatives.
- j) Review annually all health and safety practices and procedures within the School;
- k) Co-ordinate the implementation of safety procedures;
- l) Maintain contact with outside agencies that are able to offer expert advice;
- m) Ensure that appropriate and regular inspections of the school are conducted and to check the suitability of working practices;
- n) Ensure that accidents and hazards are recorded and reported as appropriate to the School's Health and Safety Advisor. Also, to oversee appropriate remedial action, including accident and near miss investigation;
- o) Review annually;
  - Provisions of First Aid arrangements
  - Emergency procedures
  - Safety procedures
  - Safety induction procedures
  - Risk Assessments

#### **4.4 School Caretaker – Health and Safety Lead**

The Health and Safety Leads can be expected to:

- a) Undertake duties as directed by the Head of School in pursuance of the School's Health and Safety policy;
- b) Act as the focal point for the day-to-day references on health and safety, and advise or indicate sources of advice;

#### **4.5 Deputy Head Teacher & Assistant Head Teacher**

Staff holding such positions:

- a) Have responsibility for the application of the Health and Safety Policy to their own department and must comply with the instructions given by the Board of Directors, Local Governing Committee and Head Teacher;



- b) Must establish, maintain and develop safe working procedures (e.g. safe use and storage of chemicals, machinery etc.);
- c) Must attempt to resolve any health and safety problems any member of staff may raise, and refer to the Head Teacher any problem for which there is not a satisfactory solution within the resources available;
- d) Will conduct regular safety inspections within their department, of activities for which they hold responsibilities and to submit reports to the Head Teacher;
- e) Should arrange for staff training and information so as to avoid hazards and to contribute positively to their own health and safety at work in conjunction with the Head Teacher. Also, to communicate health and safety information received to appropriate people. This role should also ensure staff within their department have received health and safety induction training;
- f) Notify the Head Teacher of any changes or additions to plant, equipment and machinery;
- g) Implement control measures and improvements as identified through risk assessments, accident investigations or any type of monitoring conclusion;

#### **4.6 Teachers & Support Staff**

The safety of pupils and visitors in the classrooms, laboratories, workshops, physical education areas and on education visits is the responsibility of the class teacher.

Their main functions are:

- a) Day-to-day management of health and safety in accordance with the Health and Safety Policy;
- b) Checking classroom/work areas are safe before commencing lessons (e.g. No slip or tripping hazards etc.);
- c) Checking equipment is safe before use, as well as ensuring equipment is left in a safe condition after use;
- d) Ensuring safe procedures are followed and that emergency procedures are understood;
- e) Ensuring protective equipment is available and used correctly, when needed;

- f) Participating in inspections and supporting health and safety initiatives, if appropriate.
- g) Bringing problems to the relevant manager's attention and to propose appropriate recommendations to improve safety;
- h) Integrate all relevant aspects of safety into the teaching process and if necessary give specific lessons on safety;

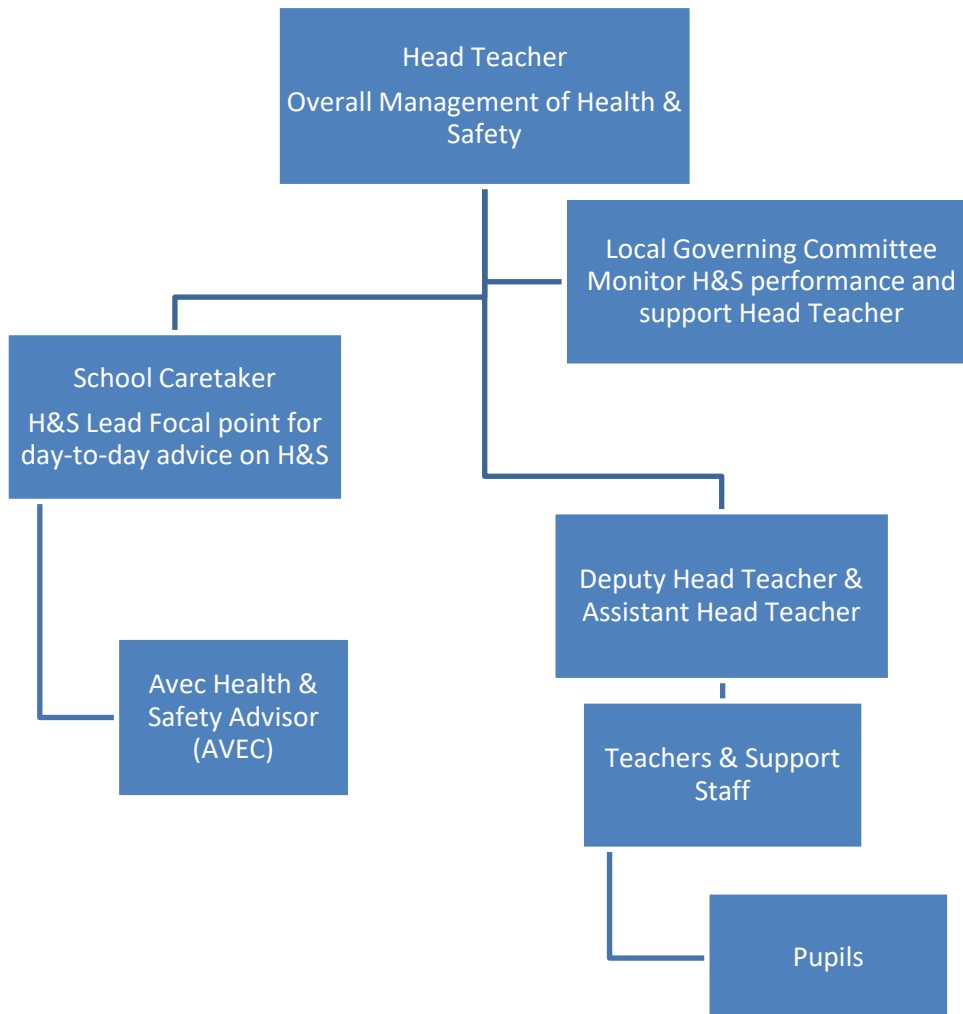
#### **4.7 Pupils**

Pupils are expected to:

- a) Follow safety and hygiene rules intended to protect the health and safety of themselves and others;
- b) Follow safety instructions of teaching and support staff, especially in an emergency;

## St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School

### Health and Safety Organisation Flowchart



## 5.0 Arrangements

This section will offer guidance on how the functions allocated to individuals will be carried out in order to achieve the policy objectives.

In support of this policy the school and Trust has in place a number of supporting documents to provide specific detailed direction and guidance.

- AMP (Asbestos Management Plan)
- Asbestos Management Procedure\*
- Blood Borne Viruses (BBV's) and Sharps Disposal Procedure\*
- Contractor Vetting and On-Site Management\*
- COSHH Procedure\*
- COVID-19\*
- DSE (Display Screen Equipment) Protocol\*
- Educational Visits Procedure\*
- Electrical Management\*
- Electrical Safety Management
- Fire Emergency Plan
- Fire Risk Assessment
- First Aid Policy Incorporating Accident Reporting\*
- Gas Safety Management
- Health and Safety Communication\*
- Ionising Radiation Arrangements
- Legionella Management\*
- Lockdown Procedure\*
- Lone Working Risk Assessment
- Manual Handling Procedure\*
- Medical Conditions Policy\*
- PPE Policy\*
- Risk Assessments
- Servicing & Maintenance of Statutory Equipment\*
- Site Security Arrangements
- Stress Management Policy\*
- Substance Misuse\*
- Traffic Management Policy
- Training\*
- Transport Policy\*
- Tree Survey
- Violence to Staff Protocol\*
- WFH (Working from Home) Risk Assessment\*
- Working at Height Procedure\*

All \*Trust documents can be located on Teams All Staff in the Trust Health and Safety Policy folder.

## **6.0 Monitoring the Policy**

Monitoring the effectiveness of the Health and Safety Policy commences as a school responsibility in which the Local Governing Committee, school Health & Safety Lead and Health and Safety Committee play key roles. Monitoring includes ensuring that inspections are taking place regularly so that the hazards and risks of activities carried out within the school are being adequately recognised and controlled. Monitoring also makes sure that any deficiencies in health and safety performance are identified and that remedial action is recommended and pursued. The provision of information, instruction and training to all staff and pupils (especially new members of the school) are matters that should also fall within the monitoring exercise.

Monitoring of any accidents, incidents and instances of occupational ill health occurring at school level is particularly important so that remedial action can be taken to prevent any recurrence. The Head Teacher will monitor all reported accidents, incidents and occupational ill-health in order to determine those events that are legally reportable to the relevant Enforcing Authority, and those which require further investigation and possible notification to others within the school and to set in train appropriate remedial action.

## **7.0 Reviewing the Policy**

The implementation of this policy will be audited by the school's Health and Safety Advisor and will be reviewed at least on an annual basis by the Lead Health and Safety Co-ordinator and the Health and Safety Advisor before being agreed by the school Safety Committee and adopted by the Local Governing Committee. If there are reasonable changes to the structure and major personalities of the school the review may be conducted at an earlier period than the agreed annual date.