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# Greenhaugh Primary School - Health and Safety Policy

\_\_\_\_\_ Headteacher

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair of Governors

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

<b>Staff Consultation</b>	
<b>Governor Consultation</b>	
<b>Arrangements for monitoring</b>	
<b>Review date</b>	June 2021
<b>Signature of nominated Governor.</b>	
<b>Other relevant policies</b>	
<b>Points to consider at next review.</b>	

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## Introduction

The health and safety of both staff and pupils has always been of paramount importance in the Education Service. The Head teacher is traditionally responsible for the discipline and internal organisation of the school, and for the safe conduct of the staff and students and all school related activities.

Since the introduction of Local Management of Schools, the Governing Body has fulfilled many of the functions of the employer and has significant responsibility for the day to day running of the school and the management of the delegated budget. Consequently, the Governors share with the LA responsibility for health and safety in the school to the extent to which they have control over the management of the school and the budget. The modern management of schools is, therefore, a well-integrated partnership between the LA and the Governing Body, with the LA providing many of the services and technical expertise required for safety matters.

The Health and Safety at Work Act requires the employer to publish a Health and Safety Policy that sets out the policy of the employer with regard to health and safety, describes the management organisation responsible for implementing the policy, and details all the arrangements in force with regard to health and safety. The policy must be brought to the attention of every employee.

In order to comply with this requirement, the Children's Services Safety Policy and Safety Information Manual (LA Safety Policy) has been issued to all schools and is situated in the Headteacher's cupboard. However, due to the inevitable differences in the internal management and organisation of schools, the LA Safety Policy is:

- in parts, of a broad and general nature
- unable to provide all the detailed information required by law
- unable to describe the safety management systems and procedures adopted by different schools
- unable to provide for the Governing Body to acknowledge its responsibilities and set out its own policy and arrangements for health and safety.

In view of this, the school's own safety policy has been devised to complement that of the LA and provide those details that an LA policy cannot. The full concept of a school policy is described in Part 2.

In order to issue this policy, many members of staff have already done much work, and the Governors wish to acknowledge their appreciation of all their contributions. It is important that a regular update of the policy is carried out, so that over a number of years the policy grows into a comprehensive and up to date resource. Further contributions or suggestions from members of staff would be most welcome.

Clearly, the maintenance of a detailed policy will require a continuing commitment from staff. In return it can offer the worthwhile advantages of a clear and well organised system of safety management, and access to clear safety information, to the benefit of everyone.

This detailed approach to safety management also plays an essential part in the County Council's approach to risk management, and will help to reduce the rapidly increasing costs of litigation that impose an unacceptable burden on the budget.

I commend it to all staff.

..... Chair of Governors

..... Date

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# **The Concept of a School Safety Policy**

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The School Safety Policy is the means whereby:

- the Governing Body acknowledges its extensive role and responsibilities in the local management of the school
- the Governing Body and the school management express their commitment to a high standard of safety, for both students and staff
- the staff and management organisation is clearly set out and the delegation of tasks and responsibilities required for the effective management of health and safety is clearly identified
- coordinators required to fulfil key tasks or oversee the implementation of particular pieces of legislation are identified
- the LA Safety Policy is adopted and, where relevant, additional specific details as to the safety arrangements in force in the school are set out. Where appropriate, key information is summarised, without reproducing unnecessary detail from the LA Safety Policy
- safety standards and future objectives are identified
- key reference books and other relevant texts which include adequate safety information are adopted and listed for the purpose of statutory risk assessments
- arrangements are set out for:
  - the systematic planning of health and safety objectives and, when relevant, the inclusion of such objectives in the School Improvement Plan
  - the monitoring of progress towards those objectives
  - the continuous assessment of needs and priorities with regard to health and safety
  - the feeding back of this information into the planning process
- a positive safety culture is fostered, in which all staff share the safety objectives identified by management, and in which all staff, at every level, contribute to the safety effort and strive to make continuous improvements
- the school demonstrates compliance with a wide range of very detailed safety legislation concerning standards, safe systems of work and systems of safety management
- via the LA, good practice in the safety management of schools can be disseminated, to the benefit of all the schools.

## **General Statement of Policy**

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In partnership with the LA, the Governing Body recognises its responsibility to provide a safe and healthy environment for teaching and non-teaching staff, students, contractors and other visitors to the premises and will take all reasonably practicable steps within its power to fulfil this responsibility. Such matters include:

- a safe place of work and a safe working environment
  - safe plant and equipment
  - safe systems of work
  - safe access to and from places of work
  - the assessment of all significant risks associated with work processes, and the adoption of appropriate precautions
  - the provision of adequate information, instruction, training and supervision
  - adequate consultation with staff on all matters relating to health and safety, and the fostering of a positive safety culture in the school
  - keeping abreast of legislation by obtaining advice from the LA and through persons competent in health and safety matters
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- a written system of safety management which includes:
  - the identification of needs and objectives, in order of priority
  - the allocation of appropriate funds
  - the integration of health and safety planning within the School Improvement Plan
  - the regular monitoring of progress, and of safety performance, to be used in the planning process
  - an annual review of the safety policy
  - the inclusion of health and safety on the agenda of Governing Body meetings, at least annually.

## Safety Organisation

Title	Name
Chair of Governors	Mrs Jenni Holland
Vice Chair	Mrs Sarah Barnes
Governor with Safety Responsibilities	Mr Philip Troop
Headteacher	Mrs Amanda Taylor
School Safety Coordinator (if appointed)	
Deputy Headteacher	Mrs Justine Wise
Key Stage Coordinators (and areas of responsibility, if not obvious)	
Coordinator - COSHH	Mrs Susan Liddle
Coordinator - Manual Handling	Mrs Susan Liddle
Coordinator – Fire and Emergency	Mrs Susan Liddle
Coordinator – First Aid	Justine Wise, Hazel Ions
Educational Visit Coordinator (EVC)	Mrs Amanda Taylor, Mrs Justine Wise
Membership of the Safety Management Team (details to be inserted by the school)	

### Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible to both the LA and the Governors for all matters concerning the safe conduct of staff and students in the school and all its related activities. Assistance in this task is provided by school staff.

The Headteacher, assisted by the management team, is required to:

- establish a structured system of safety management, in accordance with LA guidance and the LA Safety Policy, comprising:

- the identification of safety requirements and objectives
- the clear identification of priorities
- the incorporation of safety requirements and future objectives in the development and budget planning of the school, and where appropriate, inclusion in the School Development Plan
- the regular monitoring and review of safety performance, progress and future needs so that this information is fed back into the planning process.
  - implement a system for protecting all persons on the premises, or involved in school activities, from risks which are reasonably foreseeable
  - coordinate any necessary safety arrangements with any contractors working on the site
  - implement such procedures as are necessary to comply with all legislation concerning health and safety, in accordance with LA guidance
  - provide regular reports on significant issues and general progress to the Governing Body
  - foster the growth of a positive safety culture, in which all the staff share the aim of continuous improvement in health and safety. (Ref in LA Policy: D)

### **Key Stage Co-ordinators**

Key Stage Co-ordinators are responsible to the Headteacher for the safe management of their key stage, in accordance with LA guidance and the LA Safety Policy, and for implementing all school procedures relating to health and safety.

Each Key Stage Co-ordinator will identify and clearly prioritise both the immediate and long term requirements of their area, with regard to health and safety, and provide this information to the Headteacher so that it may be included in the normal budget planning arrangements.

Each Key Stage Co-ordinator is aware of the file of safety publications (in Headteacher's cupboard). Any new additions are brought to the attention of staff.

Each Key Stage Co-ordinator make appropriate arrangements for the periodic monitoring of safety standards, arrangements, and progress towards identified objectives. He/she will report the results to the Headteacher, for incorporation in the regular review of safety matters and inclusion, where appropriate, in the School Improvement Plan and/or budget planning.

Each Key Stage Co-ordinator will promote the fostering of a positive safety culture within their area.

### **Unit Manager**

Should the school decide to manage the catering services directly or use the services of a private contractor rather than using the above arrangement, reference will be made to section E3 of the LA Safety Policy and the school will detail its own arrangements here.

### **Site Manager**

The site manager is responsible to the Headteacher for the safe organisation and work of the service.

### **All Staff**

Section 7 of the Health and Safety at Work Act places duties on all staff to take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and of other persons who may be affected by their acts or omissions at work and to cooperate with the employer and his representatives so far as is necessary in order for the employer to fulfil any of the relevant statutory provisions.

Section 8 of the Health and Safety at Work Act makes reckless interference with or misuse of anything provided in the interest of health, safety or welfare an offence.

Health and safety legislation requires all staff to:

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- use all materials, machinery and equipment etc in accordance with the information, instruction and training which they have received
- report immediately to their line manager any defects in the equipment etc
- report immediately to their line manager any serious and immediate danger to health and safety
- report to their line manager any matter which they, taking into account their instruction and training, would reasonably consider represented a shortcoming in the protective arrangements for health and safety (it is sufficient to report a given matter once only, and not to have to repeat it)

All members of staff are responsible for:

- observing all instructions on health and safety issued by the Executive Director of Children's Services, Headteacher, Key Stage Coordinator or any other person delegated to be responsible for a relevant aspect of safety
- observing all safety rules relating to the use of specific machinery
- reporting all accidents to the headteacher and ensuring that an accident report form is completed
- reporting all potential hazards to health and safety to the headteacher
- assisting Officers of the County Council in their inspections and investigations
- assisting Inspectors of the Health and Safety Executive to carry out inspections and investigations.
- fostering a positive safety culture

## **The Management of Health and Safety**

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The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations require that a thorough and modern system of safety management is adopted as described in Section B of LA Safety Policy.

### **General Arrangements**

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The arrangements set out in Sections E to L of the LA Safety Policy remain in effect. The purpose of this section is to amplify those arrangements with the inclusion of specific details and, where necessary, the naming of individuals. This clearly explains how the matter in question is managed within the school. It also provides an opportunity to include individual topics which do not appear in the LA Safety Policy, so that over a period of time this section may develop into a comprehensive and valuable resource.

Over the course of time circumstances may change. It is, therefore, important that these arrangements are amended when necessary so as to remain fully up to date.

### **Meetings of the Safety Management Team**

Purpose of Meetings:

- To direct and coordinate the necessary planning for Health and Safety, and to review the School's Safety Policy
- To review, prioritise and direct the safety initiatives arising from:
  - Requirements identified by Key Stage Coordinators and/or other staff.
  - reports concerning safety inspections, accident reports and other means of monitoring performance
  - new information or guidance received from the County Council, enforcing authorities or consultants
- To audit all parts of the safety management system on an ongoing basis.

### **Frequency of Meetings**

Meetings are held each term or as necessary, with additional meetings taking place after serious incidents.

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# Accidents

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(LA Ref: F1)

## Accident Procedure

In the event of an accident any member of staff is expected to give comfort and aid to the injured person whilst ensuring that help is sought from another adult if necessary. All staff are trained in first aid.

Should an ambulance be required it will be summoned from the main office unless the seriousness of the injury requires immediate medical attention. In the latter case any member of staff should summon the ambulance from the nearest telephone extension by calling 999 and send a message to inform main office as soon as possible.

- In the event of serious injury or ill health to a student, the parent (or emergency contact should the parent be unavailable) should be contacted immediately using the contact numbers held in the office and requested to collect their child to take home or to hospital, as appropriate. Medical treatment or advice should not be delayed if parents or emergency contacts are not available.
- In circumstances where a student needs to be taken to hospital immediately by ambulance and a parent is not available to accompany him/her, a member of the school staff should go to the hospital to await the arrival of the parent. On occasion it may be necessary to take an injured student to hospital in a vehicle belonging to a member of staff. Before this occurs, staff should ensure that their insurance covers this eventuality. Staff should be aware that hospital staff will stabilise the casualty's condition until the parents arrive and give consent to further treatment.

**ANVIL** – (Accident, near miss, violent incident reporting and investigation online form) replaces ACC1/V1 Forms

The accident report is completed online using ANVIL. See link below

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/About/Staff.aspx#staffhealthsafety>

## Accident Investigation

The Headteacher should undertake an investigation using the form ACC2 (available using the link above) if the incident is serious, complex or one which may have serious repercussions.

In the most serious cases the school should call in a Health and Safety Officer. If appropriate, he/she will undertake a full accident investigation and will take photographs and witness statements.

## Reportable Injuries

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Call Centre should be contacted by telephone immediately in the following circumstances:

- 'major injuries' in respect of employees
  - 'dangerous occurrences'
  - 'occupational diseases'
  - 'injuries resulting in hospital visits for treatment in respect of students and non-employees who are injured out of or in connection with work activities'
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In the case of injuries to employees resulting in over-three days' absence from work, these should be reported to the HSE within 10 days. Again, the Call Centre can be used as an alternative to sending form F2508. Office staff should undertake these tasks using information recorded on the ACC1 or VI form. The information should then be checked and countersigned by the Safety Coordinator or senior member of staff.

**The HSE Call Centre number is 0300 003 1747**

## **First Aid Arrangements**

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*(LA Ref: F3)*

First aid arrangements are given below:

- Justine Wise and Hazel Ions are jointly nominated to act as first aid coordinator. This covers the responsibility for ordering items and replenishing first aid boxes and ensuring that certificates remain current
- All staff are trained at appointed persons level and there is a rolling programme to take account of staff turnover
- First aid boxes are located in the main office and the kitchen.
- Hirers of school premises have access to a first aid kit and a telephone.
- There is a separate policy for educational visits.

## **Health Matters** *(Policy on Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs)*

The means of identifying students' medical needs should be established:

- in the school's prospectus
- by writing letters to parents
- on intake forms which require parents to identify medical needs

There is a separate policy for Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs.

School staff do not administer medicine for minor illnesses.

Inhalers are kept in a secure location in the office.

## **Building and Site Maintenance**

*(LA Ref: E3, G3, H3, J1, J2)*

The Headteacher is in charge of the maintenance of the school site and its buildings and is responsible to ensure that protocols detailed in section E3 are applied when the school commissions services independently.

The site manager has a responsibility for the reporting of building/site defects to the County Council, in those cases where the County Council is responsible for the maintenance. The Property Help Desk can be reached by telephoning (01670) 624843. The need for emergency repairs should be notified in the same manner. This will enable the Property Division to prioritise and assign workloads accordingly and will allow requests for work to be traceable.

The site manager is responsible for liaison with Community and Environmental Services staff and contractors in order to co-ordinate any necessary safety precautions during the progress of any building/site maintenance. This may entail completion of the HSC1 forms, when required. *(LA Ref: J2)*

The contractors' induction pack is kept in a labelled drawer in the admin office and should be made available to those carrying out appropriate works.

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## Maintenance and Testing of Equipment

The site manager is responsible for ensuring that appropriate arrangements are in place and person(s) identified to ensure that:

- internal school procedures are established and followed
- liaison with the County Council and contractors takes place
- full records relating to statutory testing are maintained. These will include:
  - Annual safety tests of 240v portable electrical appliances (LA Ref: L4)
  - Weekly testing of the fire alarm system (Fire Log Book)
- RCD testing is carried out quarterly and the results recorded.

## Fire Safety and Emergencies

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### Fire Log Book

- The Head should ensure that the fire risk assessment in section 4 of the Fire Log Book is completed for each building. Several parties should be involved in the completion of this task
- The Fire Co-ordinator (nominated by the Headteacher) is responsible for devising and coordinating fire drills and maintaining records in the Fire Log Book, such as fire drills and fire alarm tests
- Fire drills should take place each term
- The following arrangements for fire precautions should be in place to ensure that:
  - Flammable liquids are stored in a locked metal cupboard
  - Fire doors are always closed and never wedged open
  - Waste materials are collected daily and are stored in a locked area until collection by the local council
  - Electrical equipment not in use is always isolated from the mains.

## Security (See Security and Protection Policy)

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The school has a security system in place which affords authorised access only to the building at specific times. In addition, there is a signing in and out system.

## Risk Assessment

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*(LA Ref: E6)*

There should be a written assessment of all activities that involve a significant risk to health or safety in which the hazards, risks and necessary precautions are identified. The Health and Safety Team provides further guidance. Manufacturers' safety data sheets should be obtained for all hazardous products used in school (except where HAZCARDS are provided for Science chemicals). Risk assessments should be completed for all activities. Further information is contained within the COSHH section of the LA Safety Policy (*LA Ref: H1*)

(Mrs Taylor co-ordinates and maintains records of risk assessments).

## Manual Handling

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*(LA Ref: L1)*

A written assessment of all manual handling tasks likely to involve risk of injury should be produced. Wherever reasonably practicable, procedures and practices should be changed to eliminate or otherwise reduce manual handling tasks.

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## Display Screen Equipment

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*(LA Ref: L2)*

Staff who are using computer workstations regularly and for a significant part of their working day should be provided with a suitable workstation, ergonomically designed to minimise the stresses and strains of this type of work. In practice this requires the provision of adjustable furniture to provide optimum support and comfort for the user and a clear screen display which is set up to avoid unwanted reflections.

Each school should carry out DSE workstation assessments. All workstations must be assessed periodically and new workstations must be assessed before being put into use.

## Machinery and Work Equipment

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*(LA Ref: G1)*

All new machinery and work equipment should be selected through assessment to ensure that it is appropriate for the intended purpose. All such equipment must be maintained in safe working order.

### **Educational Visits (See policy on Educational visits and Offsite Visits procedure)**

Educational visits are now governed by the NCC Evolve system. The Headteacher has attended the County Council's recognised training courses with regular training updates. She ensures that members of staff have access to the County Council's guidance for educational visits. In the case of Category 2 visits the school must submit the correct forms to the Outdoor Education Safety Adviser for approval.

The EVC should ensure that risk assessments are in place to cover the trips made by the school for both Category 1 and Category 2 visits. All school visits must be supervised by a trained Visit Leader.

## Play Equipment

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The school play equipment is to be checked regularly by school staff and inspected at least annually by a registered contractor via Statutory Maintenance SLA bought through Northumberland County Council. For further information NCC should be contacted on 0345 600 6400

## Information and Training

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Staff will be provided with appropriate information and training to enable them to undertake and supervise school activities. Examples of such activities include the safe use of substances, machines and other items of work equipment. Any specialist safety training requirements should be identified through training needs analysis, prioritised and costed to allow appropriate allocation of the school's training budget.

## Personal Protective Equipment

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*(LA Ref: L7)*

Where PPE is identified as a control measure in a work activity risk assessment, the equipment selected must be appropriate for the task so as to ensure that it will provide adequate protection and must be compatible with other equipment in use. The assessment should be reviewed if there is significant variation in the activity. Advice on the selection of PPE is available from the Health and Safety Team. All PPE must be maintained in good working order, and any defect reported immediately to the Headteacher, for repair or replacement.

Respiratory protective equipment (RPE) must be maintained in good working order, kept hygienically clean, stored in clean condition, and inspected at monthly intervals (3 monthly where use is infrequent) by the Headteacher. A written record will be kept for inspection.

Alternatively, disposable RPE can be used provided that this is suitable for purpose and worn in line with the manufacturer's instructions.

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