



## School Health and Safety Commitments P611s

### Approval:

This policy has been reviewed in line with the 2010 Equality Act and Public Sector Equality Act. Due regard has been given to Equality.

This policy was adopted in **January 2024** the date of the next formal review will be **January 2025** and every year thereafter, unless statutory legislation changes.

Policy approved by the Full Governing Board of West Earlham Infant and Nursery School.

## Commitments

### Introduction:

West Earlham Infant and Nursery school is encompassed under the NCC Health and Safety Policy (P611a), and NCC Health and safety organisation and responsibilities policy (P611).

This model commitments document (P611s Part 1 of 2) seeks to demonstrate how the employer implements its stated legal obligations (the health and safety policy / and arrangements (P611s Part 2 of 2), from the higher organisational level to the local delegated decision making and the arrangements implemented at a school.

West Earlham Infant and Nursery School has adopted the health and safety management system provided by Norfolk County Council

### Part 1: Governing Body - Our Commitments

We recognise that overall responsibility for health and safety lies with all levels of management having direct responsibility for activities and staff under their control. For these commitments to be effective, employees throughout the school must play their part in creating and sustaining a positive health and safety culture and must take responsibility for their own well-being with the encouragement and support of their managers.

Effective health, safety and well-being management is an integral feature of our school's overall education performance. Our main objective is to provide and maintain a safe and healthy environment for our staff and pupils and others with whom we work, in a balanced and sensible way, that supports our wider learning objectives.

We will achieve this by:

- Developing and maintaining a positive health and safety culture with an emphasis on continually improving our performance, considering human and cultural factors

- Ensuring that health and safety management is an integral part of decision making and organisational processes
- Adopting a sensible and proportionate approach to managing risks, with well-informed decision-making processes for higher risk activities and ensuring a disproportionate amount of time is not spent on trivial or everyday risks
- Encouraging and supporting the personal well-being of staff and pupils through our practices and approach to school life
- Providing a safe and healthy working environment for our staff, pupils and others, that also supports personal well-being.
- Ensuring safe working methods are in place and providing safe equipment.
- Communicating and consulting with our staff and their trade union representatives
- Complying with statutory requirements and where possible best practice
- Investigating and learning the lessons from accidents and work-related ill health incidents
- Providing effective information, instruction and training to enable our staff to be competent in their roles
- Ensuring adequate resources are available to fulfil our health, safety and well-being responsibilities and objectives

## **Part 2: Organisation and responsibilities, and arrangements**

### **The Governing Body/Trust Board**

Responsible for ensuring that suitable local organisational arrangements are in place for the management and control of health and safety within the school. We will ensure that:

- A written commitments statement is created and communicated which promotes a positive attitude towards health and safety in staff and pupils, and those we work with
- Local responsibilities for health, safety and welfare are allocated to specific people, and those people are informed of these responsibilities
- A lead governor/trustee for health and safety is nominated

- People have sufficient experience, knowledge, resource and training to perform the tasks required of them
- Clear procedures are utilised which assess the risk from hazards, identify controls and produce safe systems of work that are communicated clearly to everyone who needs to follow them
- Sufficient resources are allocated to maintain a safe and healthy work environment, and operate safe systems of work
- Health and safety performance is monitored and reported, and targets for improvement are set
- The school's health and safety arrangements are reviewed annually
- School staff are consulted on health and safety matters through arrangements agreed with the represented unions or other employee representatives
- School premises are maintained to ensure that associated safety risks are sufficiently controlled
- Our local management of health, safety and well-being considers the needs of anyone with a protected characteristic under the Equalities Act

### **Lead Governor for Health and Safety**

The Lead Governor for health and safety has the following responsibilities:

- To be fully and visibly committed to the Our Commitments statement document - for health and safety
- To scrutinise and review local health, safety and well-being performance
- To provide support and challenge to the Headteacher and the Governing Body/ Trust Board in fulfilling their respective local health and safety responsibilities
- To ensure that suitable risk assessments of the premises and working practices are carried out, documented and reviewed

### **The Headteacher**

Responsible for all staff and activities under their control and will ensure that the requirements of relevant safety policies and procedures are implemented and complied with.

#### **They will:**

Be fully committed to the Governing Body Our Commitments, ensuring that a positive health and safety culture is demonstrated and promoted through their leadership.

Ensure that appropriate risk assessments are undertaken by competent persons and that suitable control measures are taken on a risk basis to manage the health, safety and well-being risks to staff and any other people who may be affected by the school's activities.

- Monitor and review health and safety performance through:

- Undertaking health and safety inspections of work areas/practices in line with relevant policy
- Setting local health and safety targets and objectives through appraisals and other supervisory reviews
- Reviewing and learning from incidents.
- Monitoring local contracted work under their control for compliance
- Ensure that the management of health, safety and well-being in the areas under their control considers the needs of anyone with a protected characteristic under the Equalities Act
- Develop adequate local safe systems of work and procedures and ensure that they are implemented and monitored
- Ensure prompt action is taken to resolve any situations that may adversely affect the health, safety and well-being of staff or other people
- Ensure that they undertake all relevant training and staff are given adequate information, instruction, training, resource, and supervision to carry out their duties, paying particular attention to new/inexperienced staff and trainees
- Ensure that all plant and work equipment provided is appropriately selected through a risk assessment process, suitable, properly maintained and subject to all necessary tests, examinations and maintenance.
- Ensure that accidents and incidents (including near misses and instances of abusive and violent behaviour) are reported and investigated, and the findings acted upon without delay
- Ensure information that may assist nominated safety representatives is provided to them
- When commissioning work through partners and contractors, ensure that they are selected and managed in line with statutory requirements and the relevant procurement and contract management processes
- Ensure that they seek timely assistance and advice where expert help is required from the NCC Health, Safety and Well-being team
- Report to the Governing Body at least annually on the school's health, safety and well-being performance

### **School Business Manager/Premises Manager**

- To coordinate and manage the local risk assessment process for the school
- To coordinate local performance monitoring processes
- To make provision for the inspection and maintenance of local work equipment
- To manage / assist in the keeping of records of all health and safety activities including management of the building fabric and building services in liaison with the school's/the trust's appointed general property maintenance contractor and other contractors.
- To advise the Headteacher of situations or activities which are potentially hazardous to the health, safety and well-being of staff, pupils and visitors.
- To ensure that staff are adequately instructed in health, safety and well-being matters about their specific workplace and the school generally.

## Senior Leadership team

Apply the school's Health and Safety - Our Commitments statement, and the relevant health, safety and well-being Codes of Practice / guidance to their own department or area of work.

### **Carry out regular health, safety and well-being risk assessments / review of the activities for which they are responsible**

- Ensure that relevant staff are familiar with the health, safety and well-being requirements for their area of work
- Resolve health, safety and well-being issues that staff refer to them, or refer to the School Business Manager any matters for which they cannot achieve a satisfactory solution with the resources available
- Carry out regular inspections of their areas of responsibility to ensure that equipment, and activities are safe and record these inspections
- Ensure the provision of sufficient information, instruction, training, resource and supervision to enable other staff and pupils to avoid hazards and contribute positively to their own health, safety and well-being
- Report any incidents that occur within their area of responsibility

### **All staff:**

All staff have individual responsibility to take reasonable care for the health, safety and well-being of themselves and for others who may be affected by their acts or omissions.

- Exercise safe and effective supervision of their pupils, to know the related procedures, e.g., fire, first aid, control measures within lessons, and other emergencies and to implement them
- Follow the health, safety and well-being measures in their own teaching areas as described in the relevant procedures
- Give clear oral and written instructions and warnings to pupils when necessary
- Follow safe working procedures
- Require the use of appropriate protective clothing and machinery guards etc., where necessary
- Make recommendations to their Headteacher or manager regarding equipment needs and improvements to the site, plant, tools, equipment or machinery
- Integrate all relevant aspects of health, safety and well-being into the teaching process
- Report all accidents, defects, dangerous occurrences and near misses to their manager
- Always comply with the school's/trust's health and safety - Our Commitments statement, and related procedures
- Co-operate with managers in complying with relevant health, safety and well-being systems of work and procedures
- Use all work equipment and substances in accordance with appropriate instruction, training and information received
- Wear, use, store, maintain and replace personal protective equipment as appropriate
- Not intentionally misuse anything provided in the interests of health, safety and welfare
- Take part in and contribute to health, safety and well-being inspections, risk assessments etc. as appropriate
- Report all accidents (personal injury and vehicle), ill health, incidents of abusive and violent behaviour, near misses, hazardous situations, general health and safety concerns, defective equipment or premises
- Attend all training relevant to their role

## **Employee Consultation**

The Governing Body believe that consulting employees on health, safety and well-being matters is important in creating and maintaining a safe and healthy working environment.

Safety representatives of trade unions recognised by Norfolk County Council will be consulted on all matters of health, safety and well-being that may affect staff and on the provision of related information and training. Non-union staff will also be consulted directly or via their nominated Safety Representatives.

Before making any decisions, which could have health, safety and well-being consequences for staff, the governing body will inform safety representatives about the proposed course of action and give them an opportunity to express their views and support the development.

## **Pupils**

Pupils, allowing for their age and aptitude, are expected to be coached and supervised where appropriate, in the following:

- Taking personal responsibility for the health and safety of themselves and others
- Observe all the health and safety requirements of the school and in particular the instructions of staff
- Use and not wilfully misuse, neglect or interfere with things provided for their health and safety
- The school should also seek to engage with carers or parents as appropriate to support safe and healthy behaviours.

## **Lead Governor/Trustee for Health and Safety**

The lead governor/trustee with responsibility for scrutiny of health and safety performance is Susan Newton

## **All Risk assessments are the responsibility of the School Business Manager including:**

Health and Safety

Fire

First Aid

Manual Handling

Display Screens

Hazardous Substances

Lone Working

Risk Assessment of Curriculum Activities

School Caretaking and Site Management

Driving for Work

Health and Well-being

## **Safe Plant and Equipment**

Plant and equipment\* will be inspected, maintained and, where necessary, tested by appropriate contractors via our NPS contract

\*Plant and equipment likely to need formal inspection and maintenance in a school premises includes:

Hot and cold-water services (legionella)  
Condition monitoring of identified asbestos containing materials  
Boilers and heating plant  
Fire safety equipment  
Electrical installations  
Portable electrical equipment (PAT testing)  
Catering equipment (appliances)  
Gas installations and appliances  
Lifting equipment  
Outdoor play equipment  
Door closers / seals / Glazing and finger guards  
PE equipment  
Ventilation and air extraction systems

Routine local testing of emergency lighting, fire alarm call points, flushing of infrequently used water outlets and monthly water temperature monitoring will be carried out by the site manager.

Any problems or defects relating to plant and equipment should be reported to The Site Manager

## **Information, Instruction and Training**

### **Information and Advice**

A [Health and Safety Law Poster](#) is displayed or the equivalent leaflet is available at each school. Health and safety advice is available from the headteacher/health and safety coordinator or by contacting NCC HSW team at [healthandsafety@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:healthandsafety@norfolk.gov.uk)

#### Induction

Health and safety induction will be provided for all new employees and for work experience placement students by The School Business Manager

### **Health and Safety Training**

The Health, Safety and Well-being information on InfoSpace provides a framework for compliance. Anyone involved in the management of health, safety and well-being is required to be competent in their role. The law recognises that knowledge, skills and experience are very important in meeting competence requirements. In most cases, however, training will also be required to complete a person's competence, particularly in relation to following local Norfolk County Council procedures and practices.

In addition to individual knowledge, skills and experience, the training below is recommended to achieve competence in the role, as stated in this policy.

- Health and Safety Leadership for Headteachers and Managers
- Safe Management of Premises – General
- Safe Management of Premises – Asbestos
- Safe Management of Premises – Fire
- Risk Assessment – essential risk management
- Health and Safety Awareness for Governors (e-learning, via [GovernorHub](#))

All training courses will need to be attended once every three years unless the relevant code of

### **Emergency Procedures – Fire and Evacuation**

Escape routes are checked by Site Manager

Extinguishers are maintained and checked: TP Fire

Alarms are tested by/every: School Office every week

Emergency evacuation procedures will be tested once every term.

### **Monitoring**

Routine inspections of the premises to ensure safe premises and working practices are followed and will be carried out by School Business Manager/Site Manager

Inspections of individual departments and specific work areas will be carried out by relevant Heads of Department or nominated staff.