



Offwell Church of England
Voluntary Controlled Primary School

Health & Safety Policy



SECTION 1: STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Governing Body of Offwell C of E Primary School will strive to achieve the highest standards of health, safety and welfare consistent with their responsibilities under the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974* and other statutory and common law duties.

This policy sets out how these duties will be conducted and includes a description of the school's organisation and arrangements for dealing with different areas of risk. Section 2 will establish specific responsibilities at all levels of the school's organisation. Section 3 will outline the specific arrangements put in place to manage these areas of risk and hence to meet the school's obligations under the law.

This policy will be brought to the attention of all members of staff at induction. A master copy is kept in the main office and the policy appears on our website.

This policy statement and the accompanying organisation and arrangements will be reviewed annually.

J Dimond

Chair for the Governing Body

Date - May 2026

Head Teacher

Date – May 2026

SECTION 2: ORGANISATION

The Duties of the Governing Body

- To produce and regularly review the Health & Safety Policy for the school. This policy will reflect the requirements of the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974* by outlining arrangements to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and wellbeing of staff, students and others affected by the organisation
- To monitor both compliance with, as well as the effectiveness of, this policy
- To provide adequate resources to meet the school's legal responsibilities as well as compliance with this policy
- To assist the Governing Body in discharging its legal obligations, the school has appointed the Health and Safety Service as its 'competent person' as defined by the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- The specific arrangements adopted will be guided by the Health and Safety Service's Health & Safety Arrangement Notes.

The Duties of the Head Teacher

The Head Teacher has day-to-day responsibility for health and safety management and will take all reasonable practicable steps to secure the health and safety of students, staff and others using the school premises or participating in school sponsored activities.

In particular, the Head Teacher will:

- Ensure that suitable and sufficient risk assessments of work activities are undertaken, that a written record of the significant findings of these assessments is kept and that these assessments are subject to regular review
- Co-operate with the Governing Body to ensure that this policy and its associated arrangements are implemented and complied with
- Communicate the policy and other appropriate health and safety information to all relevant people including contractors
- Report to the Governing Body on health and safety performance and to monitor both compliance with, as well as the effectiveness of, this policy
- Ensure that the premises, plant and equipment are maintained in a safe and serviceable condition
- Report to the Governing Body any significant risks or policy requirements which cannot be met within the establishment's budget
- Identify the training needs of staff and hence ensure that they are competent to carry out their roles and are provided with adequate information, instruction and training
- Monitor purchasing and contracting procedures to ensure health and safety is included in specifications and contract conditions
- Receive reports from enforcement officers and advisory bodies and, where appropriate, take relevant actions to address issues raised
- Promote a positive health and safety culture by leading by example

Whilst overall *responsibility* for health and safety cannot be delegated the Head

Teacher may choose to delegate certain *tasks* to the Health & Safety Coordinator.

The role of Health & Safety Coordinator for the School has been delegated to Mrs Judy Davey.

The Duties of the Health and Safety Co-ordinator

The health and safety co-ordinator has the delegated task of assisting the Head Teacher discharge their duties in relation to day-to-day health and safety management.

To do this the health and safety co-ordinator will:

- co-ordinate and manage the risk assessment process for the school
- co-ordinate general workplace monitoring inspections and performance monitoring processes and report findings to the Head Teacher and Governing Body
- coordinate records of external inspections and maintenance to plant or facilities and ensure that remedial actions identified are either addressed without delay or brought to the attention of the Governing Body if funds are not available
- assist with the identification of training needs and training delivery across the school to ensure that staff are adequately instructed
- collate accident and incident information and, when necessary, carry out accident and incident investigations
- arrange periodic health and safety audits and liaise with the Head Teacher and Governing Body in relation to findings and any associated remedial actions

The Duties of all Members of Staff

Under the *Health and Safety at work Act etc. 1974* all employees have general health and safety responsibilities. All employees are obliged to take care of their own health and safety whilst at work along with that of others who may be affected by their actions. This also applies to volunteers who are under the control of the School.

Specifically, all employees have responsibility to:

- Take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and others in undertaking their work
- Comply with the school's health and safety policy arrangements at all times
- Report all accidents and incidents in line with the reporting procedure
- Not intentionally interfere with or misuse any equipment or fittings provided in the interests of health safety and welfare
- Report all defects in the condition of premises or equipment and any health and safety concerns immediately to their line manager
- Ensure that they only use equipment or machinery that they are competent / have been trained to use
- Make use of all necessary control measures and personal protective equipment provided for safety or health reasons

Pupils

Pupils, in accordance with their age and aptitude, are expected to:

- To exercise personal responsibility for the health and safety of themselves and others
- To observe standards of behaviour and dress consistent with safety and/or hygiene
- To observe all the health and safety rules of the school and, in particular, the instructions of staff given in an emergency
- Not wilfully misuse, neglect or interfere with facilities or equipment provided for their and others' health and safety

Contractors

All contractors who work on the school premises are required to identify and control any risks arising from their activities and inform the Head Teacher of any risk that may affect the staff, pupils and visitors.

All contractors must be aware of this policy and the associated emergency procedures and comply with these requirements at all times.

In instances where the contractor creates hazardous conditions and refuses to eliminate them or take measures to make them safe, the Head Teacher will take such actions as are necessary to prevent staff, pupils and visitors being put at risk from injury.

SECTION 3: ARRANGEMENTS

Risk Assessment

The underlying process which informs safety management is risk assessment. Assessments of significant risks will be made with those persons responsible for the activity/area affected and the significant findings of these decisions will be recorded in writing. This will be achieved principally by amending and adopting the model risk assessments provided by the Health and Safety Service.

Risk assessments are available for all staff to view and are held centrally in office. Wherever possible, affected staff will be included in the risk assessment process. Staff and other affected parties will be briefed in the risk assessment findings.

Risk assessment records will be reviewed annually. This will be identified on risk assessment record.

For full details relating to risk assessment arrangements, reference should be made to the HS0047 Arrangement Note.

Other arrangements in alphabetical order:

Accident/Incident Reporting

All employee accidents must be reported to the Governing Body. This will be achieved by entering accident details onto the OSHENS on-line accident reporting system.

Accidents to pupils and other non-employees should be recorded in the accident book. Those accidents to pupils resulting in a hospital visit will be reported onto OSHENS. Those accidents to pupils and members of the public which are work related, in that they have arisen out of a material defect or organisational failure, must also be reported to the Governing Body by entering accident details onto the OSHENS on-line accident reporting system.

Parents / carers will be notified immediately of all major injuries and all injuries to the head, regardless of seriousness.

The Head Teacher will investigate accidents and take remedial steps to avoid similar instances recurring.

All accidents which fall within the scope of the Reporting of Diseases Injuries and Dangerous Occurrence Regulations 2013 will be reported to the HSE via the OSHENS on-line accident reporting system. This will be undertaken by the Health and Safety Service.

For full details relating to accident reporting arrangements, reference should be made to the HS001 Arrangement Note.

Asbestos

The arrangements for the management of asbestos on the site are detailed in the Asbestos Management Plan (AMP). This is located in the office.

The Asbestos Register is held in the office in the Emergency Contact file and will be made available to all staff and contractors prior to **any** work commencing on the fabric of the building or fixed equipment containing asbestos. No work can commence until permission to work has been given by the authorising manager named in the AMP.

The authorising manager shall ensure:

- The AMP is reviewed annually and that any changes are approved by the Governing Body
- That the Asbestos Register is consulted at the earliest possible opportunity in the planning process and that **all** work on the fabric of the building or fixed equipment is approved via the completion of the ASB1 form
- A visual inspection of those asbestos containing materials remaining on site is conducted and recorded on the ASB2 form according to the frequencies identified in the AMP. Any subsequent changes to asbestos containing materials on site will be recorded in the Register

All parties will ensure that any damage to materials known or suspected to contain asbestos should be reported to the Headteacher at the earliest opportunity.

For full details relating to the management of asbestos, reference should be made to the HS004 Arrangement Note as well as the Asbestos Management Plan.

Communication and Training

Detailed guidance and information about health & safety issues can be found in the Health and Safety Service's Guidance Notes which are located in the OSHENS Document Library. The Health and Safety Service also provide competent health and safety advice for school staff and can be contacted on 01392 382027 or on healthandsafety@devon.gov.uk.

The Health and Safety Law poster is displayed in the staff room and the kitchen.

Health and Safety Training

All employees will be provided with:

- induction training in the requirements of this policy
- updated training in response to any significant change
- training in specific skills needed for certain activities as identified by the relevant risk assessment
- refresher training where required

Training records will be kept in a file in the school office. Mrs Davey is responsible

for co-ordinating health and safety training needs. This includes a system for ensuring that refresher training is undertaken within the prescribed time limits.

Each member of staff is also responsible for drawing the relevant line manager's attention to their own personal needs for training and for not undertaking duties unless they are confident that they have the necessary competence. All employees shall undertake work tasks as instructed and trained.

For full details relating to staff training, reference should be made to the HSA0055 Training Arrangement Note.

Consultation

Staff are represented on the Resources Committee of the Governing Body. Consultation of day to day matters will be achieved by sharing at weekly staff meetings.

Members of staff with concerns should raise them with the Headteacher or the Health & Safety Coordinator. If required, requests for external advice should then be sought from the Health and Safety Service for concerns of employees which cannot be resolved locally.

Staff should feel free to contact the appropriate trade union appointed Safety Representative. The Governing Body welcomes the support of trade unions in health and safety matters.

For full details relating to staff consultation, reference should be made to the HS008 Arrangement Note.

Contractors

All contractors must report to the office where they will be asked to sign the visitors' book and wear an identification badge. Contractors will be issued with guidance and requirements for safe practice whilst on site. Where necessary, contractors will also be requested to sign to confirm that they have read and understood the Asbestos Register. To ensure contractor competency, Mrs Davey or the Headteacher will undertake competency checks prior to engaging a contractor.

In respect of construction works, the services of NPS will be requested ensuring the client's duties under the Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 2015 have been understood and complied with. Specifically, Mrs Davey will ensure that any Designer/Principal Designer and Contractor/Principal Contractor is appointed in writing and will ensure that a Construction Phase H&S Plan is in place prior to any works commencing on the site.

For full details relating to the control of contractors, reference should be made to the HS0007 CDM Arrangement Note.

Curriculum Activities

Risk assessments for the significant hazards within curriculum activities will be carried out by the Governor responsible for H & S and the H & S Co-ordinator using the appropriate Health and Safety Service's model risk assessments listed above.

For full details relating to the primary curriculum areas, reference should be made to the HS0046 Arrangement Note.

Display Screen Equipment (DSE)

All staff who use computers daily for continuous spells of an hour or more, or a total daily time of 3 hours or more will have a DSE assessment carried out. This will be achieved by completing the OSHENS DSE online training and assessment.

Staff identified as DSE users are entitled to an eyesight test for DSE use every 2 years by a qualified optician and corrective glasses (if required specifically for DSE use) subject to a total cost of £45.00.

For full details relating to DSE, reference should be made to the HS0012 DSE Arrangement Note.

Fire and Emergencies

The Head Teacher is responsible for ensuring that the fire risk assessment is undertaken using the RA08 document and controls implemented accordingly. The fire risk assessment is located in the office and will be reviewed annually.

Fire and emergency evacuation procedures are detailed in the Fire Emergency Plan document which is located in the office. All staff will be briefed in the contents of this plan at induction and on an annual basis. This will be augmented by fire drills which will be undertaken termly. Evacuation procedures are also made known to all contractors / visitors.

Mrs Davey is responsible for ensuring that the school's Fire Log is kept up to date.

Procedures for other critical incidents and off-site emergencies are contained within the School's Emergency Management Plan which is located in the office and will be reviewed annually. Emergency contact and key holder details are held in the office. .

For full details relating to fire safety, reference should be made to the HS0018 Fire Safety Arrangement Note.

First Aid

The school has risk assessed the need for first aid provision and training records are held in the office by the School Business Manager. The SBM ensures training is kept up to date booking training when necessary.

First Aid boxes are located at the following locations:

Ash Class – Toilets

Willow Class – Toilets

Beech Class – Staffroom

Oak Class – Cloakroom

Office – On shelf and behind door (portable)

Mrs Holohan will maintain the contents of first aid boxes.

For full details relating to first aid, reference should be made to the HS0019 First Aid Arrangement Note.

Hazardous Substances

The cleaner uses hazardous substances and are responsible for safe control and COSHH arrangements. She has attended training and together with Mrs Davey, a COSHH form is completed for each substance. Such substances are held in a locked shed or cabinet.

Legionella

A water risk assessment for the school has been completed by the contractor appointed by NPS and Mrs Davey is responsible for ensuring that the identified operational controls are being conducted and recorded in the water hygiene log book. This risk assessment will be reviewed where significant changes have occurred to the water system.

For full details relating to the control of legionella, reference should be made to the HS0028 Legionella Arrangement Note.

Lettings/shared use of premises

The Governing Body does not allow lettings but will share with the PCC all relevant School health and safety information.

Maintenance of Plant and Equipment

Regular inspection and testing of school equipment is conducted to ensure that work equipment is maintained in a safe and efficient state. Records of such monitoring will be kept by Mrs Davey. All staff are required to report any problems found with plant/equipment to the Head Teacher. Defective equipment will be clearly marked and taken out of service by storing in a secure location pending repair / disposal.

The following specific statutory inspections and tests will be undertaken by a

competent contractor by arrangement with the Local Authority:

- Annual gas appliance inspection and maintenance, to be undertaken by Lorne Stewart Ltd
- Annual oil fixed heating plant inspection and maintenance, to be undertaken by Lorne Stewart Ltd.
- Annual gas tightness test, to be undertaken by Lorne Stewart Ltd.
- Electrical installation inspection every 5 years by Lorne Stewart Ltd.
- Servicing of air conditioning equipment by Lorne Stewart Ltd.

Portable Electrical Appliances

All staff will conduct a visual inspection of plugs, cables and electrical equipment prior to use. Defective equipment will be reported to the School Business Manager.

All portable items of electrical equipment will be subject to formal inspection and, where appropriate, a testing regime on an identified cycle dependant upon the level of risk associated with the particular appliance type. This inspection and testing will be conducted by Mrs Davey.

Personal items of equipment should not be brought into the school without prior authorisation and must be subjected to the same inspection process as school-owned equipment.

For full details relating to work equipment and electrical safety, reference should be made to the HS0016 and HS0058 Arrangement Notes.

Medication Arrangements

Arrangements for medication are detailed in the First Aid Policy which is reviewed every 3 years. A copy of this policy can be found in the office..

For full details relating to the administration of medication, reference should be made to the HS0032 Medication Arrangement Note.

Monitoring

The Head Teacher will put in place procedures to monitor compliance with the arrangements described in this policy. The central component of this process is the 3 yearly Health & Safety Review process undertaken by the Health and Safety Service. Feedback from this process is to be referred to the Governing Body.

A general inspection of the site will be conducted annually or more frequently when required and be undertaken by governors. Feedback from this process is to be referred to the Governing Body.

Other processes employed to monitor compliance with this policy and health and safety performance in general include regular Headteacher reports.

For full details relating to monitoring, reference should be made to the HS0005 Audit & Monitoring Arrangement Note.

Moving and Handling

The risk assessment of significant manual handling tasks is undertaken as described in the risk assessment section above. Staff engaged in these activities will be provided with information on safe moving and handling techniques and will receive specific training where the need is identified in the risk assessment.

Offsite Visits

In line with the *Outdoor Education, Visits and Off-site Activities Health & Safety Policy*, the DCC Educational Visit Adviser will be notified of all Category B and C visits via the *Evolve* online system.

For lower risk Category A visits the School's Educational Visits Co-ordinator, Mrs Davey, will check the documentation and planning of the proposed activity and initially approve the visit before referring to the Head Teacher for final approval.

For full details relating to educational visits, reference should be made to the *Outdoor Education, Visits and Off-site Activities Health & Safety Policy 2014*.

Personal Safety and Security

The school believes that staff should not be expected to put themselves in danger and will not tolerate violent / threatening behaviour to its staff. A separate specific Behaviour Policy is in place at the school.

Staff will report any such incidents on the OSHENS system in accordance with agreed accident/incident reporting procedures.

Working alone will be avoided wherever possible. Work carried out unaccompanied or without immediate access to assistance will be risk assessed by the Head Teacher in order to identify and implement control measures. The requirement to undertake a lone working risk assessment will also extend to working alone off-site where staff conduct home visits.

Staff working outside normal school hours must obtain permission of the Head Teacher.

Risk assessments will be reviewed annually or after significant change and recorded by amending the RA22 Risk Assessment.

School Security

The Head Teacher is responsible for undertaking a risk assessment for site security in order to identify and implement control measures in this area.

This will be reviewed annually or after significant change and recorded in the RA24 risk assessment document, using the Security Checklist as an aide.

For full details relating to security and lone working issues, reference should be

made to the HS0031 Lone Working and HS0050 Security Arrangement Note.

Stress/Wellbeing

The school is committed to promoting high levels of health and well being and recognises the importance of identifying and reducing workplace stressors through risk assessment in line with the HSE's management standards.

The Headteacher has a return to work meeting following staff absence and the school buys into occupational health support.

Where appropriate, risk assessment findings will be recorded on the RA25 document.

For full details relating to staff wellbeing, reference should be made to the HS0024 Health Issues for Staff Arrangement Note.

Work at Height

Work at height will be avoided wherever possible. Work carried out at height where a significant injury could result will be risk assessed by the relevant line manager in order to identify and implement control measures. Staff who work at height will be briefed in risk assessment findings. When working at height (including accessing storage or putting up displays) appropriate stepladders or kick stools are to be used. Staff *must not* climb onto chairs. Staff must never work at height (even on a kick stool) when they are alone.

For full details relating to the control of work at height, reference should be made to the HS0060 Work at Height Arrangement Note.

Work Experience

If the school *hosts* a work experience placement, any significant hazards within the planned work tasks will be risk assessed and findings will be communicated to the student and their parents/guardians via the student's secondary school. This assessment will be recorded on the RA28 risk assessment document.