Health & Safety Policy

The staff responsible for the Health & Safety Policy are:

Mrs S. Bradford **Mrs A. Plowman**

The governor responsible for the Health & Safety Policy is:

The Governor Responsible for Health and Safety

Chair of Governors: **Claire Lister**

Headteacher: **Sarah Bradford**

Agreed by governors: **5th June 2026**

Review Date: **June 2027**

Health and Safety Commitments

Schools where Norfolk County Council is the employer (Community, Voluntary Controlled or maintained schools) are encompassed under the NCC Health and Safety Policy (P611a), and NCC Health and safety organisation and responsibilities policy (P611).

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

Part 1: Governing Body – Our Commitments

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.

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.

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Part 2: Organisation and responsibilities, and arrangements

The following responsibilities have been assigned at our school:

The Governing Body

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 that promotes a positive attitude towards health and safety in staff and pupils, and those with whom we work;
- local responsibilities for health, safety and welfare are allocated to specific people, and those people are informed of these responsibilities;
- a lead governor 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 that 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/Trustee for Health and Safety

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

- to be fully and visibly committed to 'Our Commitments' (Part 1);
- to scrutinise and review local health, safety and well-being performance;
- to provide support and challenge to the headteacher and the Governing Body 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 'Our Commitments', (Part 1) ensuring that a positive health and safety culture is demonstrated and promoted through their leadership;

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- 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 policies and safe systems of work;
  - 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.

Health and Safety Coordinator/Administrative Officer

The Health and Safety Coordinator has the following responsibilities:

- 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 the keeping of records of all health and safety activities including management of the

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building fabric and building services in liaison with contractors;

- to advise the headteacher of situations or activities that 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.

Teaching and support staff holding positions of special responsibility
This includes assistant headteachers, and caretakers. They have the following responsibilities:

- apply the school's 'Our Commitments' statement, and the relevant health, safety and well-being Codes of Practice, and be directly responsible to the headteacher for the application of the health and safety procedures and arrangements;
- carry out regular health, safety and well-being risk assessments and 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 headteacher 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;
- investigate any incidents that occur within their area of responsibility.

Teachers
Teachers are expected to:

- 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;
- where necessary, require the use of appropriate protective clothing, etc.,
- make recommendations to the headteacher 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 the headteacher or administrative officer.

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Employee Consultation/Safety Representatives

The Governing Body believes 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 that 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.

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. They must:

- always comply with the school's '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.

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;
- observing all the health and safety requirements of the school and, in particular, the instructions of staff;
- using and not wilfully misusing, neglecting or interfering 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.

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Specific arrangements for health and safety

The following arrangements have been adopted to ensure compliance with the Governing Body's 'Our Commitments' document.

Lead Governor for Health and Safety

The lead governor with responsibility for scrutiny of health and safety performance is **Jane Crawley**.

Incident management - overall responsibility of **Sarah Bradford**.

Risk Assessment - work-related activities, site safety, infection control and security will be coordinated by **Sarah Bradford**. They will be responsible for ensuring the actions required are implemented.

First aid - risk assessment and management of provision is the responsibility of **Denise Pawsey**. **All staff** are training to provide first aid. Prescribed medication will be administered to pupils following guidance and documentation on Norfolk Schools. **Ann Plowman** and **Denise Pawsey** are responsible for management of administration of medicines to pupils. First aid boxes are kept in classrooms, in the office and in the admin store in bum bags for use on the playground.

Health and Well-being - assessment of the risks relating mental health, new and expectant mothers, infection control, individual health factors and well-being will be carried out by **Cas Davies**, or by utilising support available through the Health, Safety and Well-being team.

Occupational Health - access to occupational health services is via **Sarah Bradford**.

Fire Safety - fire plan, fire risk assessment, and associated evacuation plans will be carried out and developed for the premises (including fire drills) by **Sarah Bradford**.

Emergency Procedures (Fire and Evacuation) - escape routes are checked daily by **Zuzi Halil**. Fire extinguishers are maintained and checked monthly by TP Fire. Alarms are tested monthly by TP Fire. Emergency evacuation procedures will be tested once every term.

Manual Handling - risk assessments will be carried out by **Sarah Bradford.**

Cash Handling - assessment of the risks of handling cash will be carried out by **Sarah Bradford**.

Computers and Workstations - risk assessments (Display Screen Equipment- DSE) will be carried out by **Ann Plowman**.

Lone Working - assessment of the risks of lone working staff will be carried out by **Sarah Bradford**.

Home Working - assessment of the risks of staff working from home will be carried out by **Sarah Bradford.**

Behaviour Management - assessment of the risks of abusive/violent behaviour (voluntary/involuntary) to staff/others will be carried out by **Sarah Bradford**. This assessment cross-refers to the school's behaviour policy and should consider behaviour related risks.

Risk Assessment of Curriculum Activities - will be carried out by **curriculum leader teams** and **class teachers**.

Educational Visits - educational visits, including residential visits and any school-led adventure activities, will be organised following guidance produced by the Outdoor Education Advisers Panel and adopted by Norfolk County Council.

Driving for Work - assessment of the risks of driving for school will be carried out by **Sarah Bradford**.

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School Caretaking and Site Management - assessment of the risks to caretakers, contractors (including Construction related activities - CDM) and others working at the site will be assessed by **Sarah Bradford** and **Ann Plowman**. This should include consideration of all activities including working at height, potential 'hot works' and maintenance activities.

Hazardous Substances – **Sarah Bradford** will identify hazardous substances, and ensure that the appropriate assessments are available and implemented**.**

Selection and Management of Contractors - contractors and construction projects are selected, approved and managed by **NPS.**

Management of Asbestos - the asbestos register and asbestos management plan are held at the office and managed by **Ann Plowman**.

Safe Plant and Equipment - plant and equipment will be inspected, maintained and, where necessary, tested by appropriate contractors appointed by the Governing Body. 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

Local exhaust ventilation (LEV) equipment

Outdoor play equipment

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 caretaker, **Zuzi Halil**.

Any problems or defects relating to plant and equipment should be reported to **Ann Plowman**.

Information and Advice - a Health and Safety Law poster is displayed in the office. Health and safety advice is available from the headteacher, administrative officer or by contacting NCC HSW team at healthandsafety@norfolk.gov.uk

Induction - health and safety induction will be provided for all new employees and for work experience placement students by **Sarah Bradford.**

Consultation with Employees – union-appointed safety representatives are **Tracey Willer**. Consultation with employees not represented by a union is provided through **Tracey Willer**.

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

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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.

Premises Management

- 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)
- Basic Tree Survey and Inspection (LANTRA):

Occupational Risks

- First Aid at Work: **Ann Plowman, Denise Pawsey**
- Paediatric First Aid (for schools with children up to age 5): **Ann Plowman, Felicity Brown**
- First Aid for Schools: **All staff**
- Moving and Handling People (provided by Norfolk Community Health and Care occupational therapy team)
- NCC Musculoskeletal Injuries Rehabilitation Service Referral training (provided by IPRS)
- Personal safety (tutor led)
- Norfolk Steps Step On (or Step Up) training: **all classroom staff, office staff, lunchtime staff**

Health and Well-being

- Mental Health Lead – **Cas Davies**

Minibuses

- Norfolk County Council Minibus driver assessment: **Tracey Willer, Jo Leftley, Claire Keen, Hayley Pryke, Joe Santy**

NCC Health and Safety e-Learning Courses

The courses below can be found via Norfolk Services for Schools. Current e-Learning courses available:

- Health and Safety and Fire Prevention Awareness
- Display Screen Equipment
- Supporting Evac Chair Users with Dignity
- Personal Safety
- Driving Safely for Work
- Understanding Mental Health

Training Records and Training Needs Identification - health and safety training records are held in the office and maintained by **Denise Pawsey**. Training needs will be identified and monitored by **Denise Pawsey**.

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Reporting and Investigation - all accidents, near misses and cases of work-related ill health involving employees (or non-employees where the injury is potentially caused by a deficiency in activity, equipment or premises) must be recorded via the NCC OSHENS online incident reporting system. Minor injuries to non-employees where first aid (only) is given will be reported in the accident book. **Ann Plowman** will investigate all incidents and act on findings to prevent a recurrence.

Monitoring - routine inspections of the premises to ensure safe premises and working practices are followed will be carried out by **Zuzi Halil**. Inspections of classrooms and specific work areas will be carried out by classroom staff.

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