



**Central Region
Schools Trust**

Founded by the RSA

Health and Safety Policy

Recommended by:	Lead Estates Hub Manager
Approved by: (Trust Board/Committee/ Local)	Trust Board
Signed:	
Position on the Board:	Chair of Trust Board
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Policy Tier (Central/ School):	Central

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1. Introduction

HSE Guidelines (Health & Safety Executive) are central to an understanding of health and safety and must feature prominently in all aspects of the operation of each school/establishment in order to ensure compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (section 2 (3)). In addition, Ofsted requirements mean specific policy statements must be held by schools and other establishments. This policy relates to Central Region Schools Trust and will ensure compliance with HSE and Ofsted requirements establishing clearly defined roles, responsibilities and arrangements at a local level.

2. Statement

Good health and safety management will be an integral part of the operation of Central Region Schools Trust (the Trust), the Local Academy Governing Boards, Principals, employees, partners and all other people with whom we do business.

The Trust will ensure compliance with minimum legal standards/approved codes of practice, along with health and safety guidance provided by HSE, where relevant. Wherever possible and where statutory standards and requirements are not in place the Trust will meet best practice standards. It is furthermore the policy of the Trust to ensure that:

- All plant, equipment and premises meet appropriate safety standards;
- Appropriate health and safety training is in place for all staff;
- A high concern for health and safety among all employees is encouraged through a consultative process by establishing a site health & safety committee, involving trade unions or employee safety representatives, as appropriate;
- Information and advice is provided to maintain safe working practices.

The Trust will expect employees to show a proper, personal concern for their own, pupil and others' safety, and the safety of equipment, by exercising due care and attention and observing authorised methods and codes of practice, including those inherent in professional or trade training.

This statement publicly sets out how the Trust will meet its legal obligations in the broadest sense, and all the core Health & Safety beliefs, objectives and principles of the school. This will include a commitment to adequate resourcing of the policy and be signed by the Chair of the Trust and by the CEO. The policy will be brought to the attention of employees, displayed in each school and be available in SchoolBus. The policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

3. Organisation

3.1 Roles and Responsibilities

All schools within the Trust will adopt health and safety arrangements in line with HSE advice.

3.2 General

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 section 2 (3) and subsequent health and safety legislation states that all employees have health and safety responsibilities when at work. It also states that it is the duty of all employers to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health safety and welfare of all their employees whilst they are at work.

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2017) 'Safe storage and disposal of hazardous materials and chemicals'
- HSE (2014) 'Sensible health and safety management in schools'
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002
- The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013
- The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015
- The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992
- The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999
- The Ionising Radiation Regulations 2017 (IRR17)
- The Food Information (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2019 (Natasha's Law)

This policy has due regard to national guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2021) 'Health and safety: responsibilities and duties for schools'
- DfE (2017) 'Safe storage and disposal of hazardous materials and chemicals'
- HSE (2014) 'Sensible health and safety management in schools'
- DfE (2022) 'First aid in schools, early years and colleges'
- DfE (2025) "Protective and preparedness for education settings" called Martyns Law.

Except in such cases as may be prescribed, it shall be the duty of every employer to prepare and as often as may be appropriate revise a written statement of their general policy with respect to the health and safety at work of their employees and the organisation and arrangements for the time being in force for carrying out that policy, and to bring the statement and any revision of it to the notice of all of their employees.

Although some duties and responsibilities may be delegated (see Scheme of Delegation), accountability for health, safety and welfare at work is not transferable and cannot be evaded.

3.3 Structure

- The Trust as the employer has overall responsibility for the policies and procedures.
- The Finance & Resources Committee have overall responsibility for the localisation of the Trusts policies to their School, which should be done in conjunction with the Executive Principal/Principal.
- The Finance and Resources Committee will consider and make recommendations on overall health and safety issues affecting each school and will report to the Trust Board.
- The Executive Principal/Principal has responsibility for the internal management of the school policies and produces and reports to the Trust Board.
- The Head Of Operations , via the Strategic Estates Lead, assumes responsibility for Health and Safety strategy across the Trust and reports directly to the Executive Principal (CEO) and Executive Principals/Principals on such matters.
- Principals are accountable for the delivery of health and safety at the school they lead, in line with Trust policies and procedures and school specific policies
- Each school appoints an appropriate Health and Safety Lead at each site who has responsibility for the day-to-day management, co-ordination and implementation of the policy and liaising with contractors and reporting to the Executive Principal/ Principal.
- Heads of Areas/Departments have responsibility for the Health and Safety within their areas and for reporting any issue to the Health and Safety Lead.

3.4 Aims

The Trust aims to ensure that so far as is reasonably practicable:

- All employees are safeguarded in respect of health, safety, security and welfare whilst at work.

- Safe systems and effective procedures are in place to protect the health, safety, security and welfare of students, and the health, safety and security of all visitors to any of the schools, including parents, contractors, employees and members of the public affected by the work of the schools.
- Arrangements are in place in the schools to ensure that no work is carried out by the schools or by contractors that is liable to expose employees, students, visitors or members of the public to hazards to health and safety unless suitable and sufficient assessments of the risk are made and necessary measures to prevent or control the risk has been put in place.
- Procedures are in place to enable all contractors to demonstrate that they have suitable risk assessments in place, and arrangements for securing proper health and safety of employees and anyone on the school sites affected by their work.
- All health, safety, security and welfare managers in the schools are suitably trained.
- Sufficient resources are provided as far as is reasonably practicable to enable suitable and sufficient safeguards to be put in place for ensuring as far as is reasonably practicable the health and safety of anyone on the school site or outside the school if engaged in school business.
- Sufficient funds are provided as far as is reasonably practicable for the appropriate training of relevant staff in health and safety systems and safeguards.

3.5 Responsibilities

3.5.1 Finance and Resources Committee

- Production of a Health and Safety Policy, to be reviewed as required.
- Ensuring that the requirements of health and safety legislation are met, that HSE health and safety standards are met, where relevant, and to promote best practice.
- Ensuring that the school budget is managed on a risk priority basis, so that health, safety and welfare is maintained.
- Ensuring that effective health and safety planning and target setting takes place within the school and that regular monitoring, audit and review of health and safety performance is undertaken.
- Ensuring that the health and safety functions and duties of staff are discharged in line with this policy.
- Ensuring that staff are fully aware of their duties and responsibilities and that they are competent and trained to meet those expectations.
- Ensuring effective communication with the Principals, HSE, Governors, staff, parents and pupils in respect of health and safety matters.
- Ensuring that the Finance and Resources Committee and Executive Principal/Principal recognise and set out the roles of specialists (e.g. Health and Safety Leads, Education Advisors, Fire Officers, etc.) and the means of effectively liaising with them.
- Ensuring that adequate resources are made available to ensure effective health and safety management.
- Receive a termly report on the progress of the Health and Safety Policies and procedures and an annual status review from the Executive Principal/ Principal (or representative).

In practice, The Trust Finance and Resources Committee will delegate the functions necessary to discharge these responsibilities to the Executive Principal/ Principal and senior management team of the school. However, they will ensure that they have adequate monitoring of these functions in place. The Health and Safety Executive have produced guidance entitled-The Responsibilities of School Governors for Health and Safety. The document gives detailed advice for Local School Governing Board Members on their roles and responsibilities.

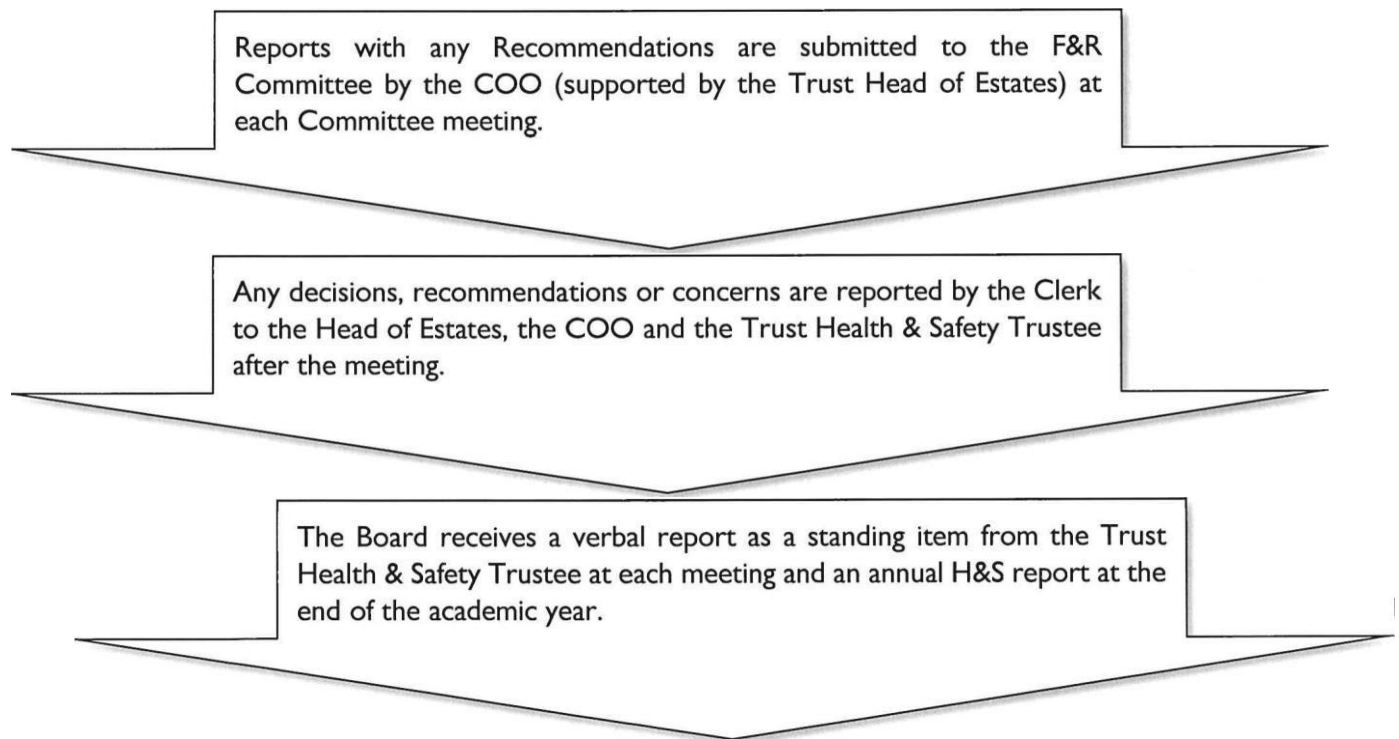
The Finance and Resources Committee will:

- Review current Health & Safety policy procedures and how they can be improved.
- Review any health & safety audits and make reports/recommendations to the Trust Board and/or LAGB(s) as appropriate.
- Receive Health and Safety reports from the HOO (supported by the Strategic Estates Lead).
- Support the improvement of Health & Safety initiatives throughout the Trust.
- Ensure the proper oversight of any contract with contractors is maintained, unless delegated to the school.

3.5.2 The Local School Governing Board member responsible for health and safety will:

- Participate in a site inspection at least once a year.
- Inspect the accident/incidents books at least once a term.
- Report as appropriate to the Local School Governing Board at least once a term via their delegated representative.

3.5.3 Health and Safety flow of communication



3.5.4 Executive Principal/Principal

The Trust places responsibility on the Executive Principal/Principal to achieve the objectives of the Health and Safety policy. The Principal will ensure that all necessary health and safety activities, requirements and standards are undertaken and met within their area of control.

In addition to their statutory duties, the Executive Principal/ Principal and all staff in schools have a common law duty of care for pupils which stems from their position in law of "in loco parentis".

The Executive Principal/Principal retains the responsibilities. However, to assist in the management of these duties, the Estates Lead will:

- a) Manage the school budget on a risk priority basis, so that health, safety and welfare are maintained;
- b) Provide an effective risk assessment process to:
 - Eliminate accident potential as far as is reasonably possible.
 - Regularly review and update risk assessments as appropriate, including post-accident risk assessment.
 - Conform to statutory regulations, HSE codes of practice and guidance and to best practice.
 - Take account of individual personal requirements, such as disabled people, individuals with poor literacy and those who use another language.
- c) Pay particular regard to pupils, service users, visitors and contractors, who will be unaware of dangers and risks.
- d) Ensure that accidents, assaults, near-miss incidents and ill health conditions are investigated and reported according to HSE procedures as well as legal requirements.
- e) Carry out investigations of all incidents in order to identify any measures necessary to prevent a recurrence.

- f) Provide the information, instruction, training and supervision necessary to secure the health and safety of all persons under their control.
- g) Ensure that all employees under their control know and accept their individual responsibilities regarding health and safety and related legislation and are adequately trained to carry out those responsibilities.
- h) Ensure that all managers and supervisors act so as to adequately control risks to health and safety associated with work places and work activities under their control, in accordance with the requirements of the management of health and safety at work regulations and other relevant legislation.
- i) Ensure that health and safety responsibilities are identified within job descriptions, as required.
- j) Evaluate, monitor and review health and safety arrangements and performance formally once a year.
- k) Consult with the appropriate specialist support services and any employee's representatives so that any issue that may affect the health and safety of employees at work and users can be effectively dealt with.
- l) Arrange for health and safety representatives, who may be appointed under statutory regulations, to carry out their duties.
- m) Ensure a fire risk assessment is in place for the premises, fire evacuation drills are conducted, firefighting equipment is made available, fire alarms tested with required frequency and that all employees are aware of the emergency procedure.
- n) Ensure that fire-fighting facilities are provided, readily available for use and that employees are familiar with their operation.
- o) Ensure a critical incident plan is developed, implemented, communicated, tested and updated regularly.
- p) Ensure an adverse weather plan is developed, implemented, communicated, tested and updated regularly.
- q) Ensure that premises are managed in line with health and safety requirements, that statutory inspections of plant and equipment are undertaken and that site inspections take place each term.
- r) Ensure that contractors operating at facilities under their control are provided with an induction to site and sufficient information to carry out their work without risk, in line with guidance provided by hse guidelines. Ensure that appropriate measures of competence are in place when selecting contractors and provide information so that they understand requirements for performance standards.
- s) Ensure that approved items of first aid provided are readily available for use, under the control of a responsible person or trained first aider and those employees are aware of their location.
- t) Ensure that all welfare facilities are provided and maintained to an appropriate standard.
- u) Ensure that this policy is communicated to all employees, governors and others operating at the school site.

3.5.5 School Senior Leadership Team

The Executive Principal/Principal, and Senior Leadership Team at the School will ensure that all necessary health and safety requirements and standards are met. This will be done under the direction of the Estates Lead in their capacity of Health & Safety Lead. Specifically, the abovementioned will:

- Ensure that risk assessments are in place for all activities undertaken in areas under their control and that professional knowledge and input is provided, as required.
- Ensure that health and safety is considered in routine meetings with staff.
- Identify any employee health and safety training needs and ensure that these are communicated to the health and safety lead.
- Ensure that any new staff receive specific health and safety induction training and record that this has been done.
- Take immediate appropriate action in respect of any work situation (including contractors) within their control, which they consider to pose a serious and immediate risk to health and safety.
- Ensure that all injuries, occupational illness, fires, incidents of violence at work and near misses are immediately reported to the health and safety lead.
- Ensure that the health and safety lead is made aware of any breach of statutory regulations or unsafe practices which cannot be dealt with effectively by them.
- Ensure that all defective equipment or plant is taken out of use until repaired or replaced.
- Ensure that protective clothing or equipment is issued and used when necessary.
- Ensure that areas of work are maintained to a high standard of housekeeping.
- Ensure that all fire escape doors, electrical isolators and alarms in their areas are at all times maintained free of obstruction and that escape doors can be readily opened from the inside in an emergency (it is recognised that child/security locks may need to be in place for normal operation).

- Respond appropriately to all hazards brought to their attention by employees.
- Undertake appropriate health and safety training courses.

3.5.6 Strategic Estates Lead

The Estates Lead will have operational oversight for Health and Safety in each of the schools via communication with Site staff and will:

- Take into account the Statement of intent and the health and safety policies
- Make and review regularly health, safety, welfare and security arrangements
- Consider accidents, incident and ill health records and statistics
- Consider reports of any internal or external inspections
- Consider risk assessment and management of risks
- Make recommendations on health and safety training throughout the Trust
- Consider the efficacy and emergency procedures of the individual Schools
- Consider any changes of any kind that affect health and safety
- Produce an annual health and safety status review for the designated H&S Trustee
- Consider any other items raised by the management and staff
- Reports to the Head of Operations and accountable to the individual School Principals and LAGBs

3.5.7 Employees

All employees of the Central Region Schools Trust will take health and safety seriously and perform their work in such a way that does not place themselves or others at risk. Every employee has a duty to:

- Take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of other persons who may be affected by what they do or do not do.
- Co-operate with their employer, in allowing the employer to fulfil their health and safety obligations.
- Correctly use work items or anything provided in the interests of health and safety.
- Not to interfere with or misuse anything provided for their health, safety or welfare.
- Provide specialist or professional knowledge required to inform risk assessments in their area.

All employees of the Trust will:

- Report any hazard or malfunction to their supervisor. Employees must use all normal lines of internal communication before contacting external enforcement agencies.
- Follow all written and verbal instructions they are given to ensure personal safety and the safety of others, particularly pupils who may not have sufficient maturity or understanding to have due regard for their own health and safety.
- Use their professional and specialist training to undertake dynamic risk assessments in difficult or emergency situations.
- Be sensibly and safely dressed for their particular working conditions.
- Conduct themselves at all times in an orderly manner in the workplace and refrain from any form of horseplay.
- Use all safety equipment and protective clothing provided.
- Avoid any improvisations or shortcuts that could create unnecessary risks to health and safety.
- Maintain tools and equipment in good condition, reporting all defects to supervision.
- Report to appropriate management all accidents/ incidents, assaults, work-related ill health and near misses.
- Attend appropriate health and safety training courses.
- Have knowledge of all processes, materials and substances they use.
- Know about all fire evacuation procedures, the positions of fire alarms and equipment.
- Understand the risk assessments in their areas and comply with the control measures arising from them.

3.5.8 Pupils must:

- Exercise personal responsibility for the health and safety of themselves and others.
- Dress in a manner that is consistent with safety and hygiene standards.
- Respond to instructions given by staff in an emergency.

- Observe the health and safety rules of the school.
- Not misuse, neglect or interfere with items supplied for their, and other pupils', health and safety.

4. Arrangements

4.1 The following arrangements will be adopted to ensure that Governors and the Principal fulfil their responsibilities and provide the foundation for securing the health and safety of employees, and all users of the site.

4.2 These arrangements are required to be updated and monitored by each Schools Health and Safety Lead and to update the Finance and Resources Committee at each meeting.

4.3 Setting Health and Safety Objectives

The Governors and the Executive Principal/Principal will specifically review progress of health and safety objectives at the Local School Governing Board meeting each term. This may be included as part of the Health and Safety Leads' report to Governors. Where necessary health and safety improvements will be identified and included within the school action plan.

4.4 Provision of an effective Health and Safety Training Strategy/Plan

The Estates Lead, in their capacity of Health and Safety Lead, will produce a Health and Safety Training Plan on an annual basis. The Training plan will be submitted to the Finance and Resources Committee for approval.

4.5 Specialist Advice and Support

Specialist advice and support will be obtained from our professional Health and Safety Providers(HANDSAM) and the relevant Health and Safety team as required.

4.6 Establishing Adequate Health and Safety Communication Channels

Communication channels will be established for the exchange of health and safety knowledge and information. Where necessary, these communications will be recorded, to include:

- Line management meetings and staff meetings at site.
- The trust finance and resources committee.
- The health and safety designated trustee
- Provision of information relating to safe systems of work and risk assessments.
- Communication of advice from services for schools advisors and educational officers.
- Communications with relevant specialist advisors and hse agencies.

Where health and safety issues cannot be resolved at local level, they will be escalated through the management structure as appropriate.

4.7 Financial resources

The Trust's Finance & Resources Committee will review the school budget to determine, in the light of past performance, if adequate resources are being deployed to ensure adequate health and safety and will take appropriate actions.

4.8 Other arrangements

- Specific site arrangements can be found, or may be referenced, in this document.
- Details of specific school arrangements/procedures, where other school policies, which include elements of health and safety are in place, are referred to within the appendix.
- Health & Safety advice is also available from the SLA with WCC Health and Safety Team.
- Job descriptions of key posts within the Trust will reflect their Health and Safety responsibility.

4.9 Accident Reporting

All Accidents/incidents that occur to children and adults on an School site (or whilst on a school trip) will be reported following the individual School's Medical Policy. Employees who develop a work-related illness must also report via these procedures.

4.10 Asbestos

The Trust will protect employees, pupils and other persons potentially exposed to asbestos as far as is reasonably practicable. Everyone who needs to know about the presence of asbestos will be alerted. No one will be allowed to start any work that could disturb asbestos unless the correct procedures are to be employed. This will be achieved by minimising exposure through the management of asbestos-containing materials in school premises by:

- **Assessment:** The premises will be surveyed to determine whether asbestos-containing materials are present. It will be presumed that materials contain asbestos unless there is strong evidence to the contrary.
- The potential amount and condition of the asbestos-containing material will be assessed and measures will be identified to ensure that airborne asbestos fibres are not present or formed in the workplace.
- **A Written Plan:** A written plan or register that sets out the location of the asbestos-containing material and how the risk from this material will be managed will be prepared and steps will be taken to put the plan into action. The plan or register will be made available and the arrangements will be reviewed at regular intervals or when there has been a significant change to the organisation or personnel.
- **Access to Asbestos-containing Materials:** Access to asbestos-containing materials in the premises will be controlled as far as is practicable so as to prevent inadvertent disturbance of the material and the release of asbestos fibres. Procedures will be put in place to ensure that anyone liable to disturb asbestos-containing materials is made aware of their location.
- **Monitoring and Maintenance:** The condition of all asbestos-containing materials or materials suspected of containing asbestos will be inspected at agreed intervals to ascertain that there has been no damage or deterioration. Where damage or deterioration is found the asbestos-containing material will be reassessed and repaired or removed as appropriate. An external annual inspection will be undertaken in each school.
- **Training and Information:** Employees (e.g. School Site Manager) who may come into contact with asbestos containing materials (ACMs) through the course of their work will receive adequate training and information, which will be updated/repeated at the required intervals, such that they can recognise potential ACMs and know what precautions to take.
- **Asbestos-related Emergencies:** Procedures to deal with asbestos-related incidents will be put in place (including the provision of information and warning systems) unless there is only a slight risk to the health of employees, pupils and others.
- **Arrangements for Controlling Work on Asbestos:** Any work on, or removal of, asbestos-containing materials will be controlled to ensure that adequate precautions are taken to prevent the release of asbestos fibres. Work with asbestos and asbestos-containing materials is to be carried out by a licensed contractor (licensed by the HSE) unless the work is exempted from the requirement for licensing.
- **Selection and Control of Contractors to Work on Asbestos-containing Materials:** When contractors are engaged to work on school premises, adequate steps will be taken to ensure the contractors are competent and have sufficient skills and knowledge to do the job safely and without risks to health. Only contractors licensed by the HSE will be used for the removal of asbestos-containing materials, unless the work involves the removal of materials in which:
 - Asbestos fibres are firmly linked in a matrix
 - The exposure during the removal process is likely to be sporadic or of low intensity
- **Contractors hired to carry out building or allied trade work that will involve minor work with asbestos must comply with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012.**
- **Procedures for Dealing with Health and Safety Issues:** Where an employee raises a health and safety problem related to work with asbestos, the school will:
 - Take all necessary steps to investigate the circumstances
 - Take corrective measures where appropriate advise the employee of actions taken

Where a problem arises relating to the condition of, or during work on, asbestos-containing material, the employee must:

- inform the Principal and Health and Safety Lead.
- in the case of an accident or emergency, respond quickly to ensure effective treatment.

4.11 Behaviour Management (See Separate Policy)

All staff must be familiar with their school policies for behaviour management and bullying. Any incidents of unacceptable behaviour or bullying must be reported and dealt with in accordance with these policies.

4.12 Cleaning and Maintenance:

The School Site Managers are responsible for ensuring the safe, routine maintenance and cleaning of the school premises and grounds.

4.13 Contractors

Contractors should be made aware of the Trust's Health and Safety Policy and safeguarding procedures and their obligations under it before commencing any work on site.

School staff must be aware of this policy and report any concerns regarding contractors' activities to the Principal or Health and Safety Lead immediately.

4.14 Curriculum Safety

Vice/Assistant Principals are responsible for ensuring that risk assessments are in place for all curriculum activities where there is a potential risk to staff and students.

The risk assessments must be made known to all teaching and support staff and reviewed regularly.

The school will act in accordance with the school's COSHH Policy at all times.

4.15 Hazardous Materials:

- The schools will only purchase hazardous materials from a reputable source, making sure that the relevant material safety data sheet (MSDS) is provided by the retailer on delivery. The schools will only order supplies of hazardous materials when existing stocks are no longer adequate, and in quantities that are no larger than necessary. No chemicals or other hazardous materials will be used without the permission of the Principal.
- The health and safety lead is responsible for ensuring all products that may be hazardous to health are risk assessed before being used, taking into account the advice on the relevant MSDS or Hazcard – the latter is provided from CLEAPPS, recognised by Ofsted and HSE as a definitive basis for undertaking practical work safely.
- The site manager, in liaison with the health and safety lead, will ensure that the relevant control measures and appropriate guidelines are put in place to manage the risks identified in risk assessments. Control measures will be checked and reviewed by the site manager on a termly basis to ensure continued effectiveness, even when they are known to be reliable.
- All equipment, materials and chemicals will be held in appropriate containers and areas conforming to health and safety regulations. Hazardous substances will be labelled with the correct hazard sign and contents label. Storage life will be considered by DLS /Head of School. All COSHH and ionising radiations regulations will be adhered to.
- Low-toxic products, such as corrective fluid and aerosol paints, will be stored securely and only used under supervision in a well-ventilated area. Dust and fumes will be safely controlled by local exhaust ventilation equipment.
- No staff member or pupil should ever be put at risk through exposure to any hazardous substance used in our practical curriculum. No potentially hazardous materials will be used in lessons without the approval of the health and safety officer. The health and safety lead will ensure staff are appropriately trained to use hazardous materials.

- Where a substance has a workplace exposure limit, control measures will ensure that exposure is below the limit.
- The site manager will keep an up-to-date inventory of all the hazardous chemicals and materials held at the school. A termly audit of hazardous materials will be undertaken by the site manager with routine surveillance to ensure that they remain safe to store. Unwanted or surplus chemicals and materials, including those that have become unsafe, will be disposed of by a registered waste carrier, in accordance with school procedures.
- Guidance from CLEAPSS, AfPE, DATA and other lead bodies should be adopted as appropriate.

4.16 Infection Control:

The Trust actively prevents the spread of infection through the following measures:

- Routine immunisation
- Maintaining high standards of personal hygiene and practice
- Maintaining a clean environment

The schools employs good hygiene practices in the following ways:

- Displaying posters throughout the school, encouraging all pupils, staff members and visitors to wash their hands after using the toilet, before eating or handling food, after touching animals, and following any other actions that increase the risk of the spread of infection, such as coughing or sneezing
- Ensuring there is sufficient liquid soap, warm water and paper towels available for everyone to wash their hands throughout the school
- Employing cleaners to carry out thorough and frequent cleaning that follows national guidance
- Providing PPE where necessary
- Immediately cleaning any spillages of bodily fluids with a combination of detergent and disinfectant, and always wearing PPE. Mops will not be used to clean up body fluid spillages; instead, paper towels will be used and discarded properly, following the procedures for clinical waste
- Washing all laundry in a separate dedicated facility and washing any soiled linens separately
- Hygienically bagging any pupils' soiled clothing to go home and never rinsing it by hand
- Storing all clinical waste in clinical waste bags and in a secure, dedicated area, before it is removed by a registered waste contractor
- Providing a secure sharps bin, out of reach of pupils, for the disposal of sharps
- Discouraging pupils, staff members and visitors from touching any stray animals that may come onto the school premises

Staff and pupils displaying signs of infection, such as rashes, vomiting, diarrhoea, etc., will be sent home and recommended to see a doctor. All cuts and abrasions will be covered with waterproof dressings.

All staff are subject to a full occupational health check before starting employment at the school.

The schools keep up-to-date with national and local immunisation scheduling and advice. All pupils' immunisation status is checked at school entry and at the time of any vaccination. The school encourages parents to have their children immunised.

The school will ensure that arrangements are in place to minimise any pupil health risks, e.g. flu, by ensuring hygiene standards are maintained and pupils and staff are not permitted in school if they are unwell.

Further information concerning our policies and procedures addressing infection control can be found in our Infection Control Policy.

4.17 Display Screen Equipment (DSE)

All reasonable steps will be taken by the Trust to secure the health and safety of employees and pupils who work with display screen equipment.

To achieve this objective the individual schools will:

- Identify those employees who are users as defined by the regulations, see below.
- Carry out an assessment of each user's workstation.
- Implement necessary measures to remedy any risks found as a result of the assessment.
- Provide adequate information and training to persons working with display screen equipment.
- Endeavour to incorporate changes of task within the working day, to prevent intensive periods of on-screen activity.
- Review software to ensure that it is suitable for the task and is not unnecessarily complicated.
- Arrange for the provision of free eye tests when requested, at regular intervals thereafter and where a visual problem is experienced.
- Arrange for the supply of, at subsidised cost, any corrective appliances (glasses or contact lenses) where these are required specifically for working with display screen equipment.
- Advise existing employees, and all persons applying for work with display screen equipment, of the risks to health and how these are to be avoided.
- Investigate any discomfort or ill-health believed to be associated with the use of display screen equipment and take appropriate remedial action.
- Make special arrangements for individuals with medical conditions that could be adversely affected by working with display screen equipment.

This procedure is aimed at those who regularly use DSE:

- a) As the main part of their employment and
- b) For more than 2 1/2 hours per day

Employees must:

- Comply with the instructions and training given regarding safe workstation set-up and use, including the need for regular changes of activity or breaks and the use of the equipment provided.
- Inform the health and safety lead any disability or medical condition which may affect their ability to work using display screen equipment or be affected by working with dse (this information will be treated confidentially).
- Report to the health and safety lead any discomfort or health concern believed to be associated with the use of dse (this information will be treated confidentially).

Eye tests: Under the DSE regulations staff identified as DSE users are entitled to an eyesight test, every 2 years by a qualified optician (and corrective glasses if required specifically by the Optician for DSE use).

4.18 Electrical Equipment:

All reasonable steps will be taken to secure the health and safety of employees, pupils and others who use, operate or maintain electrical equipment.

To ensure this objective the Trust will:

- Ensure electrical installations and equipment are installed in accordance with IEE Wiring Regulations.
- Maintain the fixed wiring installation in a safe condition by carrying out routine and statutory safety tests.
- Inspect and test portable equipment as often as required to ensure safety.
- Inspect and test second-hand electrical equipment lent to, or borrowed by, the school.
- Require hirers of school premises to ensure electrical appliances brought onto school premises have a current (less than 12 months) test certificate.
- Promote and implement a safe system of work for maintenance, inspection and testing.
- Forbid live working unless absolutely necessary, in which case a permit must be issued.
- Ensure employees and contractors who carry out electrical work are competent to do so i) maintain detailed records.

Employees must:

- Visually check electrical equipment for damage before use.

- Report any defects found immediately to the health and safety lead, site manager or business manager. However, if there is any doubt whether the equipment is safe then it should be labelled 'out of use' and withdrawn until it has been tested and declared fit for use by a qualified person
- Not use defective electrical equipment.
- Not carry out any repair to any electrical item unless qualified to do so.
- Switch off non-essential equipment from the mains when left unattended for long periods.
- Not bring any electrical item onto school premises until it has been tested and a record of such a test has been included in the appropriate record.
- Not leave electric cables in such a position that they will cause a tripping hazard or be subject to mechanical damage.
- Never run extension leads under carpets or through doorways.
- Not daisy-chain extension leads to make a longer one.
- Not use adapter sockets — devices that plug into mains sockets to increase the number of outlets.

4.19 Education Visits and Journeys (See separate Policy)

The Principal and the Educational Visit Co-ordinator (EVC) are responsible for ensuring that all School off-site trips are managed in accordance with the individual School policy for Educational Visits and Journeys. All staff must be familiar with this policy.

4.20 Fire Evacuation Procedure (See separate Policy and School Fire Procedures)

Central Region Schools Trust (the Trust) is a responsible employer and we take our fire safety duties very seriously.

The effects of a fire could be catastrophic and could have a devastating effect on the schools and is, potentially the greatest threat to individual health and safety in the schools.

Management of fire safety is therefore essential to ensure that fires are unlikely to occur; but if they do occur they are likely to be controlled quickly, effectively and safely, and that all occupants can escape to a place of safety easily and quickly.

The Trust Fire Safety Management policy has been formulated in line with our legal obligations to staff, pupils, contractors and visitors under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

Fire safety is everyone's responsibility. All staff, pupils, contractors and visitors are required to follow Trust and School procedures and to co-operate with staff to achieve the highest standards of fire safety.

4.21 Sharps

For the purposes of this policy, “**sharps**” is defined as sharp objects such as needles, scalpels, razor blades and broken glass which pose a risk of an accidental penetrating injury or laceration or puncture to skin.

Sharps are not likely to be found commonly on school premises; however, staff will be vigilant towards the following circumstances in which sharps may be found:

- During school-based vaccination programmes
- Where an individual within the school requires injections to manage a health condition
- Where a pupil brings a sharp into the school
- Where glass is broken within the school, or broken glass is found on or around the school premises
- Where drug paraphernalia, e.g. heroin needles, is found on or around the school premises

In the context of this policy, offensive weapons are not considered sharps. Offensive weapons will be handled in line with the School Security Policy.

Handling and disposing of a sharp

All staff members will receive health and safety training as part of their induction, which will be refreshed annually.

The following procedure will be followed in the event that sharps are found on the school premises:

- Staff will wear protective gloves and will not handle sharps with bare hands.
- Staff will not handle sharps while barefoot or wearing open shoes, as injury may occur if the sharp is dropped on feet.
- Only one sharp will be handled at a time and, where there are multiple, sharps will be carefully separated using the pair of tongs.
- Sharps will be picked up using the relevant equipment, e.g. pair of tongs or brush and pan for broken glass, and place it into the sharps box, which will be brought to the sharp rather than the other way around.
- The appropriate staff, including the headteacher and site manager, will be informed.
- The incident will be recorded, with details of when, where and by whom the sharp was found.
- Sharps will be disposed of quickly and safely into the school's sharps bin.

Sharps injury

First aid staff will be trained in handling sharps injuries and will adhere following guidelines in case of injury from a contaminated sharp.

Injuries will be handled in line with the First Aid Policy.

4.22 Evacuation and Lockdown procedure

The Trust will follow the procedure outlined in the Evacuation, Lockdown Policy and Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan in the event of a crisis.

In the event of an emergency, the procedures outlined in the Evacuation and Lockdown Policies, the Evacuation Procedure, and the Lockdown Procedure will be followed. All staff are trained in handling bomb threats and have easy access to instructions on the procedure.

4.23 Inclusion

The Principals/Executive Principals are responsible for ensuring that there are adequate facilities and staff to ensure the health, safety and welfare of any student with physical disabilities.

All teaching and support staff must be given any information about a student's needs and receive such training as is necessary for them to be able to support the student's learning, social and personal needs.

The Vice/Assistant Principals must ensure that all risk assessments for curriculum activities are adapted as necessary to ensure the safety of any student with physical disabilities. No student should be excluded from an activity on the grounds of health and safety unless this is absolutely unavoidable.

Where it is considered essential to exclude a student from all or part of an activity this exclusion must be authorised by the Principal.

4.24 Legionnaires Disease:

All reasonable steps will be taken to identify potential legionellosis hazards and to prevent or minimise the risk of exposure.

Each school will:

- Carry out a Legionellosis Risk Assessment for each school bi-annually.
- Prepare a written scheme/plan for preventing or controlling the risk of Legionella
- Implement and manage the scheme/plan
- Keep records for a minimum of 5 years.

The day-to-day responsibility for monitoring and ensuring that the systems are being correctly operated, will be allocated to a site operative within each school.

At risk systems include the hot and cold-water storage and distribution system.

4.25 Lone Working (See separate policy):

Lone workers can be defined as anyone who works by themselves without close or direct supervision.

4.26 Maintenance and repair of equipment:

The detailed arrangements for the maintenance and inspection of equipment are described in the site maintenance procedures under the control of the Senior Site Manager.

All faulty equipment must be taken out of use and reported to the Senior Site Manager. Staff must not attempt to repair equipment themselves.

4.27 Minibuses

Health and safety policy and procedures concerning school minibuses are contained in the school's Minibus Policy. The Estates Lead is responsible for arranging the annual maintenance of the minibus, including MOTs and road tax.

The driver will have a current licence, be aged 21 years or over and hold a full licence in Group B or D or passenger carrying vehicles.

If passengers are paying a charge, the minibus permit will be clearly displayed in the vehicle.

Internal damage to the minibus is the responsibility of the individual or organisation using the minibus. The school will decide who is responsible for covering the cost of any repairs.

The minibus will carry strictly one person per seat and seat belts will be worn at all times.

Fines accrued will be paid by the driver at the time the offence was committed.

Starting and closing mileage, along with any potential risks or defects identified, will be reported upon return to the school.

4.28 Manual Handling (See separate policy)

The Trust will ensure that any significant manual handling tasks are risk assessed and these tasks eliminated where possible.

No member of staff should attempt to lift or move any heavy furniture or equipment themselves but must ask the Site Manager for assistance.

Students are not allowed to move or lift any heavy or unwieldy furniture or equipment.

Support staff who assist students with physical disabilities must be trained in the safe use of lifting equipment and handling techniques.

4.29 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The need for PPE has been identified in Risk Assessments. It is the Principal's responsibility to ensure adequate supplies of PPE.

Where the need for PPE has been identified it must be worn by any staff member or student who might be at risk of injury or harm to health.

Any staff member or student who refuses to use the PPE will be subject to disciplinary action.

PPE must be kept clean and stored in designated areas. Staff must report any lost or damaged PPE to their line manager.

4.30 Working at Heights:

Policy and procedures concerning employees working at heights are addressed in the Working at Heights Policy. Staff members are required to sign statements confirming that they have received, read and understood the policy, prior to being allowed to work at heights.

4.31 Risk Assessment:

Risk assessment is a systematic examination of what within each school can cause harm to people and it helps determine whether enough is being done, or further actions are required to reduce the likelihood of injury or ill health.

To control risks and to plan and prioritise the implementation of the identified control measures.

We will ensure that:

- Assessments are carried out and records are kept.
- Control measures introduced as a result of assessments are implemented and followed
- Employees are informed of the relevant results and provided with necessary training
- Any injuries or incidents lead to a review of relevant assessments
- Assessments are regularly monitored and reviewed
- Suitable information, instruction and training will be provided to all persons involved in the risk assessment process.

We may be controlling risks in various ways, determining the effectiveness of those controls is part of our risk assessment process.

It is the responsibility of the Principal in each school to ensure risk assessments are conducted; in practice, the actual assessment process will be delegated to Heads of Departments and Managers.

Generic/Model risk assessments are acceptable so long as the assessor:

- Satisfy themselves that the 'model' risk assessment is appropriate to their work; and
- Adapts the model to their own actual work situations.

When completing risk assessments, it is necessary to refer to the relevant subject guides:

- Design & Technology
 - CLEAPSS Risk assessments in technology <http://www.cleapss.org.uk/>
 - BS 4 1 63:2014 Health and Safety for Design and Technology in Schools and Similar
 - Design and Technology Association <https://www.data.org.uk/>
- Science
 - CLEAPSS <http://www.cleapss.org.uk/>
 - CLEAPSS School Science Service Laboratory Handbook
 - CLEAPSS Hazards
- Food Science
 - CLEAPSS Food Technology <http://www.cleapss.org.uk/>
- Art
 - National Society for Education in Art & Design (NSEAD) <http://www.nsead.org/hsg/index.aspx>
- Physical Education
 - Safe Practice in Physical Education and School Sport' afPE <http://www.afpe.org.uk/>
- Offsite visits
 - Health and Safety of Pupils on Educational Visits.
 - DfE Outdoor Education Advisers Panel <http://www.oeap.info/>
- General guidance
 - SLA support from Worcester County Council Educational Trip Advisor
 - SLA support from Sandwell Council health and safety team

- SLA support from Shape Stone Educational Trip Advisor

4.32 Safeguarding (See Separate Policy)

The Trust fully recognises its moral and statutory responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

4.33 Security:

Where CCTV systems are installed, they will be used to monitor incidents and also as evidence when investigating reports of poor or dangerous behaviour and of alleged criminal offences e.g. theft or assault.

Cash is kept in a safe and monies are banked regularly. Counting of accumulated cash must occur at an appropriate location on Trust premises. Site staff are responsible for carrying monies to and from the bank. Staff should not put themselves at risk in the event of an attempted robbery and should hand over the money to any would be assailant.

All staff are responsible for their own personal belongings and should not leave valuables unattended at any time. The Trust accepts no responsibility for items left unattended. In the event of a theft in The Trust, staff will be advised to report the incident to the police and will assist them in their investigations, i.e., with the use of CCTV recordings where it is in place.

It is the responsibility of the staff to take appropriate measures to maintain the security of any Trust equipment being used, if equipment is found to be missing or believed stolen it is important that this is reported immediately to the Principal. When using portable and desirable equipment such as laptop computers staff will be required to follow careful procedures to ensure their security.

4.34 Severe weather conditions

In the event of severe weather conditions, it is the responsibility of the Principal to make a decision on closure on grounds of health and safety. In the event of a decision to close on these grounds, the Chair of Governors will be informed.

4.35 Smoking

The Trust Board and Principals have adopted a no smoking or vaping policy throughout Trust premises. All Trust staff and parents will be informed, and signs will be on display at main entrances to Trust buildings in accordance with the Health Act 2005.

4.36 Staff training and development

The Principal is responsible for annually assessing the health and safety training needs of all staff and for arranging any identified training.

Safety induction must be given to all new employees on the first day of employment. This induction should take the form of a checklist and new staff should be clearly informed of The Trust's Health and Safety provisions e.g., action to be taken in the event of a fire, fire exits and knowledge of first aid arrangements.

Training must also be given to all key staff and staff with special responsibilities, such as the Site Manager, First Aid staff and staff taking students on trips.

The school will keep a record of all staff who have been trained and the expiry dates of any certificates.

4.37 Stress Management

The Health and Safety Executive define stress as "the adverse reaction people have to excessive pressure or other types of demand placed on them". This makes an important distinction between pressure, which can be a positive state if managed correctly, and stress which can be detrimental to health.

Symptoms of stress include problems sleeping; dietary problem; mood swings; lethargy; inability to concentrate; fatigue; emotionalism; chest pains; palpitations; sweating and racing heart, if you suffer from these symptoms, you are advised to consult your GP without delay.

Stress at work can come about for a variety of reasons. It may be excessive workload, unreasonable expectations, or overly demanding work colleagues. The school will endeavour to ensure a pleasant working environment and that employees are as free from stress as possible.

We will:

- Work to identify all workplace stressors and conduct risk assessments to eliminate stress or control the risks from stress
- Regularly review risk assessments
- Consult with employees on issues relating to the prevention of work-related stress
- Provide access to confidential counselling for employees affected by stress caused either by work or external factors
- Provide training for all managers and supervisory staff in good management practices
- Employees who experience unreasonable stress which they think may be caused by work should raise their concerns with their line manager who will deal with the issue promptly and in the strictest confidence and make all reasonable efforts to reduce work related stress.

Following action to reduce the risks, they shall be reassessed. If the risks remain unsustainable by the employee concerned, efforts shall be made to reassign that person to other work for which the risks are assessed as tolerable.

On return to work for any period of stress-related illness, The Trust will take account of medical advice and the needs of The Trust when determining which duties are most appropriate.

Where appropriate a risk assessment of stress in the workplace will be carried out under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.

If you consider you may be suffering from stress for reasons connected with your workload, you should approach your Line Manager in the first instance who will deal with the issue promptly and in the strictest confidence and make all reasonable efforts to reduce work related stress. Formal stress counselling may be arranged where appropriate.

4.38 Transport (See separate Policy)

The Transport Manager/Site Transport Coordinator is responsible for arranging the annual maintenance and MOT of the minibus/es. It is also their responsibility to ensure that the minibuses are checked weekly, inspected every 13 weeks and are clean and in good condition at all times.

4.39 Visitors

Under the provisions of the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974, The Trust has a duty of care to all its visitors.

There are seven categories of visitors to Trust:

- 1) VIPs/Educational Visitors
- 2) Trustees/ Governors
- 3) Staff from Schools within the Trust
- 4) Parents/Carers
- 5) Casual Visitors
- 6) Ex-students
- 7) Contractors

- Visitors are to be made aware, by the member of staff that they have come to see, of any potential hazards to their health and safety within the area of the Trust they intend to visit.
- Visitors are to obey all displayed warning notices and verbal instructions.

- Contractors who arrive to carry out work must inform the department/s of any potential hazard that may arise due to their work. (See 'Guide to Contractors' available on request from the Site Manager).
- All visitors are to be made aware of the emergency procedures.

4.40 Near misses

A 'near miss' is an event not causing harm, but has the potential to cause injury or ill health.

If staff members, pupils, contractors or visitors see or are involved in a near miss, they will report it in order to allow consideration of how to prevent a possible accident happening in the future.

Reporting will be conducted verbally to the health and safety lead as soon as possible, who will then inform the Principal as appropriate.

The school will report near misses that constitute as dangerous occurrences on the online Health and safety portal (Cority) or equivalent. A 'dangerous occurrence' includes any incident which results in requiring hospital treatment or further attention.

All accidents and near misses, however small, will be reported and investigated by the health and safety lead and the outcomes recorded. The length of time dedicated to each investigation will vary depending on the seriousness of the accident.

After the investigation takes place, a risk assessment will be carried out, or the existing assessment amended, to avoid reoccurrence of the accident.

4.41 Critical Incident Planning

- All schools will update their CIP on an annual basis (beginning of academic year) and review termly .
- All DFE guidance will be followed to ensure that all that guidance is incorporated into the CIP and all schools will ensure they undertake termly reviews and practice evacuations along with annual lock down procedures

5. Monitoring

5.1 This Health and Safety Policy and its effectiveness, in terms of health and safety performance, will be annually reviewed by the Finance and Resources Committee, or as required.

5.2 Health and Safety Action Plan and Objectives

The Trust will ensure that all health and safety objectives and actions are carried out in a timely manner.

5.3 Accidents/incidents

The Health and Safety Lead will ensure that accidents and incidents are reported and monitored in line with HSE Guidance and Procedures. Where accidents are serious, repeated or attributable to failures of management, these will be brought to the attention of the Finance and Resources Committee for further advice. Appropriate remedial actions will be taken.

5.4 Third Party Monitoring/ Inspection

The school will be subject to third party inspection and monitoring, as follows:

- Ofsted
- Health and Safety Audit (internal)
- DFE/ESFA Health and Safety Audits

Actions arising from third party/audit inspection will be incorporated within the school action plan with appropriate target dates for completion.