



# **Health and Safety Policy**

**Reviewed March 2025  
Ratified by Governors March 2025  
Due for Review March 2026**

## **PART 1. STATEMENT OF INTENT**

The Governing Body of Middleton 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. We are committed to providing a healthy and safe environment for all users of the establishment; - staff, pupils, visitors and contractors.

This statement 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. Details of how these areas of risk will be addressed are given in the arrangements section.

This policy will be brought to the attention of all members of staff. A reference copy is kept in the school office and the policy is also available on the shared drive.

This policy statement and the accompanying organisation and arrangements will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis.

This policy statement supplements:

Hertfordshire County Council's (HCC) Health and Safety Policy. ([For community and VC schools only](#))  
Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy

Behaviour Policy

Data Protection Policy

E-Safety Policy

First Aid Policy

Restrictive Physical Intervention Policy

Pauline Wallace- **Chair of Governors**

Debbie Hartley- **Headteacher**

## **PART 2. ORGANISATION**

As the employer the LA has overall responsibility for Health and Safety in Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools.

**At a school level duties and responsibilities have been assigned to staff and governors as detailed below.**

### **Responsibilities of the Governing Body**

The Governing Body are responsible for ensuring health and safety management systems are in place and effective.

As a minimum these systems should adhere to the LA's health and safety policy, procedures and standards as detailed on the H&S pages of the [Hertfordshire Grid](#) and follow the HSE's '[Managing for health and safety' \(HSG65\) \(hse.gov.uk\)](#)', namely:

- [Plan-set the strategic direction for effective H&S management.](#)
- [Do-ensure management systems deal with risks sensibly, responsibly and proportionately.](#)

- **Check**-monitoring and reporting processes are in place to ensure the school is compliant.
- **Act**-undertake a formal review of health and safety performance.

A Health & Safety Governor has been appointed to receive relevant information, monitor the implementation of policies and procedures and to feedback health and safety issues and identified actions to the Governing Body.

The school's health and safety governor is Gill Waceba.

The Governing body will receive regular reports from the Headteacher or other nominated member of staff in order to enable them to provide and prioritise resources for health and safety issues.

Where required the Governing body will seek specialist advice on health and safety which the establishment may not feel competent to deal with. The Education Health and Safety Team, Tel: 01992 556478 provide competent health and safety advice for Community, Community Special and VC schools.

### **Responsibilities of the Headteacher**

Overall responsibility for the day to day management of health and safety in accordance with the LA's health and safety policy and procedures rests with the Headteacher.

The Headteacher has responsibility for:

- Co-operating with the LA and Governing Body to enable health and safety policy and procedures to be implemented and complied with.
- Communicating the policy and other appropriate health and safety information to all relevant people including contractors.
- Ensuring effective arrangements are in place to pro-actively manage health and safety by conducting and reviewing inspections and risk assessments and implementing required actions.
- Reporting to the Governing body on health and safety performance and any safety concerns/ issues which may need to be addressed by the allocation of funds.
- Ensuring that the premises, plant and equipment are maintained in a safe and serviceable condition.
- Reporting to the LA any significant risks which cannot be rectified within the establishment's budget.
- Ensuring all staff are competent to carry out their roles and are provided with adequate information, instruction and training.
- Ensuring consultation arrangements are in place for staff and their trade union representatives (where appointed) and recognising the right of trade unions in the workplace to require a health and safety committee to be set up.
- Monitoring purchasing and contracting procedures to ensure health and safety is included in specifications & contract conditions.

Whilst overall responsibility for health and safety cannot be delegated the Head teacher may choose to delegate certain tasks to other members of staff.

The task of overseeing health and safety on the site has been delegated by the Head teacher to the School Business Manager / Caretaker. Within departments this task is further delegated to Department Heads. They will:

- Apply the school's health and safety policy to their own department or area of work.
- Ensure staff under their control are aware of and follow relevant published health and safety guidance (from sources such as CLEAPSS, AfPE etc.)
- Ensure health and safety risk assessments are undertaken for the activities for which they are responsible and that identified control measures are implemented.
- Ensure that appropriate safe working procedures are brought to the attention of all staff under their control.
- Take appropriate action on health, safety and welfare issues referred to them, informing the head of any problems they are unable to resolve within the resources available to them.
- Carry out regular inspections of their areas of responsibility and report / record these inspections.
- Ensure the provision of sufficient information, instruction, training and supervision to enable staff and pupils to avoid hazards and contribute positively to their own health and safety.
- Ensure that all accidents (including near misses) occurring within their area of responsibility are promptly reported and investigated.

### **Responsibilities of employees**

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.

All employees have responsibility to:

- Take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and others in undertaking their work.
- Have read and understood the school's health and safety policy, including updates and sign to confirm this.
- Comply with the school's health and safety policy and procedures at all times.
- Have attended an induction meeting with the caretaker to understand the health and safety requirements within their role.
- Remain in receipt of communication during extenuating circumstances, when the health and safety instructions may be updated or reviewed.
- Report all accidents and incidents in line with the reporting procedure.
- Co-operate with school management on all matters relating to health and safety.
- Not to intentionally interfere with or misuse any equipment or fittings provided in the interests of health safety and welfare.
- Report all defects in 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.

### **PART 3. ARRANGEMENTS**

Detailed information on the LA's expectations are provided in the [Education Health and Safety Manual](#).

The following list of arrangements covers the key elements of a Health and Safety policy. County and Education Health and Safety Manuals which cover many other risk areas, codes of practice and guidance notes are available on the Grid.

- Appendix 1 - Risk Assessments
- Appendix 2 - Offsite visits
- Appendix 3 - Health and Safety Monitoring and Inspections
- Appendix 4 - Fire Evacuation and other Emergency Arrangements
- Appendix 5 - Fire Prevention, Testing of Equipment
- Appendix 6 - First Aid and Medication
- Appendix 7 - Accident Reporting Procedures
- Appendix 8 - Health and Safety Information and Training
- Appendix 9 - Personal safety / lone Working
- Appendix 10 - Premises Work Equipment
- Appendix 11 - Flammable and Hazardous Substances
- Appendix 12 - Moving and Handling
- Appendix 13 - Asbestos
- Appendix 14 - Contractors
- Appendix 15 - Work at Height
- Appendix 16 - Display Screen Equipment
- Appendix 17 - Vehicles
- Appendix 18 - Lettings
- Appendix 19 - Minibuses
- Appendix 20 - Stress
- Appendix 21 - Legionella
- Appendix 22 - Swimming

## APPENDIX 1 RISK ASSESSMENTS

### General Risk Assessments

The school conducts and documents risk assessments for all activities presenting a significant risk. These are co-ordinated by Department Heads following guidance contained in the [Education Health and Safety Manual](#) and are approved by the headteacher.

Risk assessments are available for all staff to view and are held centrally with Department Heads. Many are also available for shared use on the T Drive. These assessments will be reviewed on an annual basis or when the work activity changes, whichever is the soonest. Staff will be made aware of any changes to risk assessments relating to their work.

### Individual Risk Assessments

Specific assessments relating to staff member(s) or pupil(s) are held on that individual's file and will be undertaken by Department Heads [or the relevant member of the Senior Leadership Team](#). Such risk assessments will be reviewed on a regular basis.

It is the responsibility of all staff to inform their line manager of any medical conditions (including pregnancy) which may impact upon their work.

### Curriculum Activities

Risk assessments for curriculum activities will be carried out by relevant Department Heads / class teachers using the relevant codes of practice and model risk assessments detailed below.

Whenever a new course is adopted or developed all activities are checked against these and significant findings incorporated into texts in daily use eg schemes of work or lesson plans.

All LA schools have a subscription to CLEAPSS and their publications<sup>1</sup> are used as sources of model risk assessment within science, art and DT.

In addition the following publications are used within the school as sources of model risk assessments:

#### Primary schools

- [Be Safe! Health and Safety in primary science and technology, 4th Edition ASE ] ISBN ISBN 978-0-86357-426-9]
- [National Society for Education in Art & Design (NSEAD) <http://www.nsead.org/hsg/index.aspx> ]
  - [[Safe Practice in Physical Education, School Sport and Physical Activity 2024](#)' Association of PE 'AfPE' <http://www.afpe.org.uk/> ]

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<sup>1</sup> CLEAPSS Science and D&T publications CD Rom or via [www.cleapss.org.uk](http://www.cleapss.org.uk)

## APPENDIX 2

### OFFSITE VISITS

The LA has adopted the Outdoor Education Advisory Panel's national guidance for learning outside the classroom and offsite visits and all offsite visits will be planned following this guidance available via <https://oeapng.info/>

See HCC's policy for the [management of Learning outside the classroom and offsite visits](#)

**The use of Evolve is recommended for all visits ad is completed for any residential visits or adventurous activities in conjunction with the trip leader and the deputy head.**

The LA's Offsite Visits Advisor must be notified of all level 3 trips, which include self-led adventurous activities, fieldwork trips to open or "wild" country, and all trips overseas. This will be done via the use of Evolve, the online notification and approvals system.

**The use of Evolve is recommended for all visits ad is completed for any residential visits or adventurous activities in conjunction with the trip leader and the deputy head.**

The member of staff planning the trip will submit all relevant paperwork and risk assessments relating to the trip to the school's Educational Visits Co-ordinator, the Deputy Headteacher who will check the documentation and planning of the trip and if acceptable approve the visit.

HCC recommends that the EVC should attend training and refresher training every 3 -5 years.

There is also a separate risk assessment for offsite visits – both generic and visit specific.

## APPENDIX 3

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY MONITORING AND INSPECTION**

A general inspection of the site will be conducted at least 6 monthly (termly where possible) and be undertaken / co-ordinated by the Caretaker, Head teacher and School business manager. In addition, annual monitoring of documentation and procedures is carried out by the Caretaker and the named Governor; Gill Waceba.

The person(s) undertaking inspection will complete a report in writing and submit this to the head teacher. This is shared with Governors. Responsibility for following up items detailed in the safety inspection report will rest with the Caretaker / the Headteacher.

A named governor –Gill Waceba will undertake an audit of the school’s health and safety management systems on an annual basis and report back to both the relevant sub-committee and full governing body meetings.

Advice and pro forma inspection checklists can be found in the [Education Health and Safety Manual](#). Inspections will be conducted jointly with the establishment’s health and safety representative(s) if possible.

## APPENDIX 4

### FIRE EVACUATION AND OTHER EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

The head teacher is responsible for ensuring the school's fire risk assessment is undertaken by a competent person and implemented following guidance contained in '[Fire safety risk assessment; Educational premises](#)' and the [Grid](#).

The fire risk assessment is located in the school's fire log book and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

#### Emergency Procedures

Fire and emergency evacuation procedures are detailed on notice boards and in the school's emergency response plan and a summary posted in each classroom. These procedures will be reviewed at least annually and are made available to all staff as part of the school's induction process. This training is supported by regular drills.

Evacuation procedures are also made available to all contractors / visitors.

Emergency exits, fire alarm call points, assembly points etc are clearly identified by safety signs and notices.

During extenuating circumstances ( eg when social distancing protocols are required) the muster points will be adapted to allow two metre distancing between agreed hubs of pupils and staff.

Emergency contact and key holder details are maintained by the School Business Manager and updated to the LA via Solero.

**The school has arrangements in place for the evacuation of people with specific needs and where required John Hayes is responsible for completing Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs) which are reviewed annually / sooner in the event of any significant changes**

#### Fire Drills

- Fire drills will be undertaken termly and results recorded in the fire log book.

#### Fire Fighting

- Ensure the alarm is raised BEFORE attempting to tackle a fire.
- The safe evacuation of persons is an absolute priority. Staff may only attempt to deal with small fires, **if it is safe to do so without putting themselves at risk**, using portable fire fighting equipment.

**Details of service isolation points** (i.e. gas, water, electricity) are kept in the Fire Log.

#### Details of chemicals and flammable substances on site.

An inventory of these will be kept by the Caretaker for consultation.



## **APPENDIX 5**

### **INSPECTION / MAINTENANCE OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT**

The Caretaker is responsible for ensuring that the school's fire log is kept up to date and that the following inspection / maintenance is undertaken and recorded in the fire log book located in the Caretaker's office.

#### **FIRE ALARM SYSTEM**

Fire alarm call points will be tested weekly in rotation. This test will occur on an ad hoc basis. Any defects on the system will be reported immediately to the alarm contractor / electrical engineer Chubb – Service Number 11718; Telephone 01582 413694

A fire alarm maintenance contract is in place with Chubb and the system tested annually by them.

#### **FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT**

Weekly in-house checks that all fire fighting equipment is available for use and operational and for any evidence of tampering.

Chubb undertakes an annual maintenance service of all fire fighting equipment.

Defective equipment or extinguishers that need recharging should be taken out of service and reported direct to Chubb (as above).

#### **EMERGENCY LIGHTING SYSTEMS**

These systems will be checked for operation monthly in house and annually a full discharge test and certification of the system will be undertaken by Chubb.

#### **MEANS OF ESCAPE**

Daily checks for any obstructions on exit routes and ensures all final exit doors are operational and available for use.

## APPENDIX 6

### FIRST AID AND MEDICATION

The school has assessed the need for first aid provision and identified the following staff to provide first aid (both on site and where required for trips/visits and extra curricular activities)

The following staffs are available to provide first aid-

#### TRAINED TO FIRST AID AT WORK LEVEL (3 day):

Matt Farmborough

#### TRAINED TO EMERGENCY AID LEVEL (1 day):

Alex Morreale

John Hayes

Tina Brodie

Thomas Wildey

Mags Benson

Sam Adams

Macy Dobson

Molly Tyrell

Anca Atodiressi

Gill Cherry

#### TRAINED TO EYFS STANDARD (PAEDIATRIC FIRST AID, 12 hr):

Charleen Capel

Claire Carrick

Jonathan Boyden

Kelly Maisary

Abbie Lawrence

Tom Wildey

Tracey Roberts

Antonia McMullens

Sarah Bloomfield

#### DIABETIC TRAINING:

Carla Perkins

Helen Nash

David Brincombe

Kim Jordan

Macy Dodson

#### FIRST AID IN SCHOOLS:

Matt Farmborough

The Family Liaison Officer will ensure that refresher training is organised to maintain competence and that new persons are trained should first aiders leave.

#### FIRST AID BOXES ARE LOCATED AT THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- School Office – on top of filing cupboard
- Lower School – kept in bathroom

- Middle School – by sink in cooking area
- Upper School – by sink in cooking area
- Both minibuses – under front seat
- Playground Mobile First Aid Kit – located in outdoor toy cupboard ➤ Playground Emergency Bag – kept in office.

The Lead First Aider is responsible for regularly checking (termly) that the contents of first aid boxes including travel kits/ those in vehicles are complete and replenished as necessary.

**[AEDs (automated external defibrillators) ARE LOCATED AT THE FOLLOWING POINTS<sup>2</sup>:**  
**Deputies office, and PPA Room**

A member of the premises team checks the AED on a weekly basis (modern AEDs self-test and will indicate a problem via a warning light / audible alarm)

Defibrillators are registered on [The Circuit](#) to ensure they are visible to local ambulance services.

**Transport to hospital:** Where a first aider considers it necessary, the injured person will be sent directly to hospital (normally by ambulance). Parents / carers will be notified immediately of all major injuries to pupils.

No casualty will be allowed to travel to hospital unaccompanied and an accompanying adult will be designated in situations where the parents/carers cannot be contacted in time.

Where there is any doubt about the appropriate course of action, the first aider will consult with the Health Service helpline (NHS Direct 0845 4647) and, in the case of pupil with the parents/carers.

QE II Hospital: 01438 314333

PA Hospital: 01279 444455

School Nurse: 01920 443792

**Administration of medicines**

All medication will be administered to pupils in accordance with the DfE document 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'. Detailed arrangements are provided in a separate policy.

No member of staff will administer any medication (prescribed) to children under 16 without a parent's written consent except in exceptional circumstances. A request form must be completed by the parent / carer.

The Headteacher is responsible for accepting medication and checking all relevant information has been provided by parents / carers prior to administering. Records of administration will be kept by Department Heads

All non emergency medication kept in school is securely stored in departmental medicine cabinets or staffroom fridge with access strictly controlled. All pupils know how to access their medication. Under no circumstances will medication be stored in first aid boxes.

Emergency medication and devices such as asthma inhalers, blood glucose testing meters and adrenaline pens are always readily available to children (with staff supervision) and not locked away. These are kept in departmental medicine cabinets, and clearly labelled.

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<sup>2</sup> See [DfE guidance on AEDs](#) defibrillator provided to all schools without one by end of 22/23 academic year.

## **Health Care Plans**

Parents / carers are responsible for providing the school with up to date information regarding their child's health care needs and providing appropriate medication.

Individual health care plans are in place for those pupils with significant medical needs e.g. chronic or ongoing medical conditions such as diabetes, epilepsy, anaphylaxis etc. These plans will be completed at the beginning of the school year / when child enrolls / on diagnosis being communicated to the school and will be reviewed annually by Department Heads.

All staff are made aware of any relevant health care needs and copies of health care plans are available within departments.

Staff will receive appropriate training related to health conditions of pupils and the administration of medicines by a health professional as appropriate.

Please also refer the Administration of Medications Policy.

## **APPENDIX 7**

### **ACCIDENT REPORTING PROCEDURES**

## **Accidents to employees**

Where the LA is the employer then **all** employee accidents, no matter how minor, must be reported to them using the online accident reporting system hosted on Solero.

## **Accidents to pupils and other non-employees (members of public / visitors to site etc.)**

A local accident book in each department is used to record all minor incidents to non-employees, more significant incidents as detailed below must also be reported to HCC using the online accident reporting system hosted on Solero.

- Major injuries.
- Accidents where significant first aid treatment has been provided.
- Accidents which result in the injured person being taken from the scene of the accident directly to hospital.
- Accidents arising from premises / equipment defects.

All major incidents will be reported to the Headteacher and the Governing Body. Parents / carers will be notified immediately of all major injuries.

Accidents will be monitored for trends and a report made to the Governing Body as necessary.

The Headteacher, or their nominee, will investigate accidents and take remedial steps to avoid similar instances recurring. Faulty equipment, systems of work etc. must be reported and attended to as soon as possible.

## **Reporting to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)**

Incidents involving a fatality or major injury ([to employees, see specified reportable injuries from HSE](#)) will be reported immediately to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on 0345 300 9923 and the Education Health and Safety team on 01992 556478.

Incidents resulting in the following outcomes must be reported to the HSE via their online reporting system <http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/> within 15 days of the incident occurring.

- A pupil or other non-employee being taken directly to hospital for treatment and the accident arising as the result of the condition of the premises / equipment, due to the way equipment or substances were used or due to a lack of supervision / organisation etc.
- Employee absence or inability to carry out their normal duties as the result of a work related accident, for periods of 7 days or more (including W/E's and holidays).

**Any incident notified to the HSE must also be reported to the Education Health and Safety Team.**

## **APPENDIX 8**

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION & TRAINING**

## **Consultation**

Health and Safety is a standing item on agendas for all meetings.

The Resources Committee meet termly to discuss health, safety and welfare issues affecting staff, pupils or visitors. Action points from meetings are brought forward for review by school management and may be brought to the attention of the Full Governing Body if appropriate.

## **Communication of Information**

Detailed information on how to comply with the LA's health and safety policy is given in the [Education Health and Safety Manual](#), which is available for reference via the Grid.

The Health and Safety Law poster is displayed in the staffroom.

The Education Health and Safety Team, Tel: 01992 556478 provide competent health and safety advice for Community, Community Special and VC schools.

## **Health and Safety Training**

All employees will be provided with:

- a copy of and induction training in the requirements of this policy;
- updated training in response to any significant change;
- training in specific skills needed for certain activities, (e.g. use of hazardous substances, work at height etc.)
- refresher training where required.

Any new instructions or restrictions will be communicated to all staff via staff meetings, recorded in the minutes and highlighted as part of the standard cycle of policy review.

In extenuating circumstances, adapted policies and risk assessments will be communicated by email.

Training records will be kept by the Family Liaison Officer who is responsible for co-ordinating health and safety training needs and for including details in the training and development plan. This includes a system for ensuring that refresher training is undertaken within the prescribed time limits. The caretaker is responsible for Health and Safety Induction Training for new staff.

The Headteacher will be responsible for assessing the effectiveness of training received.

Each member of staff is also responsible for drawing the Headteacher's / 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.

## **APPENDIX 9**

## **PERSONAL SAFETY / LONE WORKING**

The school believes that staff should not be expected to put themselves in danger and will not tolerate violent / threatening behaviour to its staff.

Staff will report any such incidents to the headteacher. [These incidents will also be reported to: the Local Authority](#)

The school will work in partnership with the LA and police where inappropriate behaviour/ individual conduct compromises the school's aims in providing an environment in which the pupils and staff feel safe.

### **Lone working**

Staff are encouraged **not** to work alone in school. Work carried out unaccompanied or without immediate access to assistance should be risk assessed to determine if the activity is necessary.

**Work involving potentially significant risks (for example work at height) must not be undertaken whilst working alone.**

Staff working outside of normal school hours must obtain permission of the Headteacher and sign in and out of the school premises.

Where lone working cannot be avoided staff should ensure they have means to summon help in an emergency e.g. access to a telephone or mobile phone etc. Staff should inform family members/ colleagues of their plans and remain in contact while lone working. An external door should be accessible to others. Keyholders will need to be available to provide access to the building if required.

For staff conducting home visits, expected control measures would include: mobile phone contact, notifying a colleague of visit details, expected time of return / end time and arrangements for contacting etc. Where there are known risks which may affect staff safety staff should not visit alone.

### **School staff responding to call outs**

Nominated key holders attending empty premises where there has been an alarm activation should do so with a colleague if possible. They should not enter the premises unless they are sure it is safe to do so. Middleton School use Arena Key-holder Security Services for this purpose.

## **APPENDIX 10 PREMISES AND WORK EQUIPMENT**

All staff are required to report to the caretaker any problems found with plant/equipment. Defective equipment will be clearly marked and taken out of service by storing in a secure location pending repair / disposal.

### **Statutory inspections**

Regular inspection and testing of school equipment is conducted to legislative requirements by competent contractors. Records of such monitoring will be kept by the Caretaker.

The Caretaker is responsible for identifying all plant and equipment in an equipment register and ensuring that any training or instruction needs, personal protective equipment requirements are identified and relevant risk assessments conducted where required. Equipment restricted to those users who are authorised is detailed in the register

Equipment is restricted to those users who are authorised / have received specific training i.e. the Caretaker.

### **Planned maintenance / inspection**

Regular inspection and testing of school plant and equipment is conducted to legislative requirements by competent contractors. Records of such monitoring will be kept by the Caretaker

All staff are required to report to the caretaker any problems found with plant/equipment. Defective equipment will be clearly marked and taken out of service by storing in a secure location pending repair / disposal.

### **Curriculum Areas**

Department Heads are responsible for ensuring maintenance requirements for equipment in their areas are identified and implemented.

### **Electrical Safety**

All staff will conduct a visual inspection of plugs, cables and electrical equipment prior to use. Damaged or Defective equipment [must not be used and](#) will be reported to the Caretaker.

[The Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 require electrical equipment in the workplace to be maintained, regardless of ownership \(e.g. employee-owned, leased or hired\).](#)

All portable items of electrical equipment will be subject to formal inspection and testing (Portable Appliance Testing (PAT)) on an identified cycle (dependant upon the type of equipment and the environment it is used in). All earthed equipment (class 1) and cables attached to such equipment will be tested annually.

This inspection and testing will be conducted by a HCC recommended external company.

The Caretaker is responsible for keeping an up-to-date inventory of all relevant electrical appliances and for ensuring that all equipment is available for testing. [Personal electrical items owned by staff should not be brought into school without prior arrangement with the premises team and an arrangement for PAT testing where appropriate.](#)

Personal items of equipment (electrical or mechanical) should not be brought into the school without prior authorisation and must be subjected to the same tests as school equipment.

A fixed electrical installation test (fixed wire test) will be conducted by Plowright-Hinton on a 5 year cycle. An annual inspection and 20% physical test of wiring will be undertaken annually in order to provide a full set of results over a 5 year period.

### **PE and External play equipment**

External play equipment will only be used when appropriately supervised. This equipment will be checked daily before use for any apparent defects, and the Caretaker will conduct a formal termly inspection of the equipment. PE and Play equipment is subject to an annual inspection by John Harrison (contractor).

## APPENDIX 11 FLAMMABLE AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

Every attempt will be made to avoid, or choose the least harmful of, substances which fall under the "**Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002**" (COSHH Regulations).

Within curriculum areas Department Heads are responsible for COSHH and ensuring that an up to date inventory and model risk assessments contained in the relevant national publications are in place. (CLEAPSS, Association for Science Education's "Topics in Safety" etc.)

In all other areas the establishment's nominated person(s) responsible for substances hazardous to health is the Caretaker.

They shall ensure:

- an inventory of all hazardous substances used on site is compiled and regularly reviewed.
- material safety data sheets are obtained from the relevant supplier for all such materials.
- where required COSHH risk assessments are conducted and that these assessments are seen and understood by those staff that are exposed to the product/substance.
- all chemicals are appropriately and securely stored out of the reach of children.
- all chemicals are kept in their original packaging and labelled ( no decanting into unmarked containers).
- suitable personal protective equipment (PPE) has been identified and available for use. PPE is to be provided free of charge where the need is identified as part of the risk assessment.

Where persons may be affected by their use on site, the Caretaker is responsible for ensuring that COSHH assessments are available from contractors (*this applies to both regular contracts such as cleaners and caterers and from builders, decorators, flooring specialists, etc*).

## APPENDIX 12 LIFTING AND HANDLING

Generic risk assessments for regular manual handling operations are undertaken and staff provided with information on safe moving and handling techniques.

**Staff should ensure they are not lifting heavy items and equipment unless they have received training and/or equipment in order to do so safely.**

All manual handling activities which present a significant risk to the health and safety of staff, will be reported to the Headteacher and where such activities cannot be avoided a risk assessment will be conducted to ensure such risks are adequately controlled. A copy of this assessment will be provided to employees who must follow the instruction given when carrying out the task.

### **Paediatric Moving and Handling**

All staff who move and handle pupils have received appropriate training (both in general moving and handling people techniques and specific training on any lifting equipment, hoists, slings etc. they are required to use).

All moving and handling of pupils has been risk assessed and recorded by a competent member of staff.

Equipment for moving and handling people is subject to inspection on a 6 monthly basis by a competent contractor (C Franklin hoists).

## APPENDIX 13

### ASBESTOS

An asbestos survey, [register](#) and management plan is in place for the school in accordance with [HCC's asbestos policy](#). The school's most recent asbestos management survey was conducted on **21 February 2014**. It concluded that there is no asbestos present in the building.

The school's asbestos log (including school plans, asbestos survey data and site specific management plan) is held by the caretaker.

The headteacher will ensure that all school staff (including those such as catering and cleaning staff who may be employed by others) are made aware of the location of asbestos containing materials (ACM) within their work areas.

**Under no circumstances must staff undertake any work which could disturb the fabric of the building or fixed equipment e.g. affixing anything to walls without first obtaining approval from an Asbestos Authorising Officer.** (Even stapling / pushing a drawing pin into ACM may result in the release of fibres into the air.)

In the event of any damage occurring to materials known or suspected to contain asbestos this will be reported to one of the school's asbestos authorising officers and the area immediately evacuated and closed / locked off.

Professional advice will be sought and details of the incident reported to HCC's asbestos team [asbestos@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:asbestos@hertfordshire.gov.uk).

The school's asbestos authorising officers are the Headteacher and the Caretaker and refresher training is required 3 yearly.

Prior to **any** work commencing on the fabric of the building or fixed equipment (e.g. boilers, kilns etc.), either by contractors or school staff, one of the asbestos authorising officers **must** check the asbestos log and establish whether permission to work can be given.

The headteacher / asbestos authorising officers shall ensure:

- That the asbestos log is consulted at the earliest possible opportunity and that **all** work affecting the fabric of the building or fixed equipment is entered in the permission to work log and signed by those undertaking the work.
- A visual inspection of asbestos containing materials remaining on site is conducted and recorded (legal requirement to do so annually as a minimum).
- The limitations of the management survey and areas of the building that **have not** been surveyed are understood and considered as part of the permission to work process e.g. areas above 3m in height, within ceiling voids (where panels / tiles are fixed), floor voids and ducts etc
- All records pertaining to asbestos are effectively maintained and retained (legal requirement to do so for a period of 40 years)
- The school's asbestos management plan is kept up to date and that any asbestos works (removal, new project specific surveys etc.) are notified to the LA via [asbestos@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:asbestos@hertfordshire.gov.uk)



**CONTRACTORS**

All contractors used by the school shall ensure compliance with relevant health and safety legislation, guidance and good practice.

All contractors must report to reception where they will be asked to sign the visitor's book and wear an identification badge. Contractors will be issued with guidance on emergency procedures, relevant risks and local management arrangements. RAMS (Risk Assessment and Maintenance Schedule) must be provided by the contractor and shared with the Caretaker.

The Caretaker is responsible for monitoring areas where the contractor's work may directly affect staff and pupils and for checking whether expected controls are in place and working effectively.

**School managed projects**

The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015<sup>3</sup> applies to all building, demolition, repair and maintenance or refurbishment work.

Where the school undertakes projects direct the governing body are considered the 'client' and therefore have additional statutory obligations.

Such projects are managed by the School Business Manager who will ensure that landlords consent has been obtained and, where applicable, all statutory approvals, such as planning permission and building regulations have been sought

To ensure contractor competency the school uses a property framework contractor as a method of procuring works. Details can be found at <http://www.thegrid.org.uk/info/premises/property.shtml>

These contractors have satisfied the County Council that they understand and abide by health and safety regulations.

The school, contractor(s) and any subcontractor(s) involved will exchange relevant information regarding the work activities and agree the risk assessment and safe systems of work to be used prior to works commencing on site. Contractors will be asked to provide risk assessments and method statements specific to the site and works to be undertaken.

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<sup>3</sup> Such projects are notifiable to the HSE where the work exceeds 30 days or involves more than 500 person days of work. In such instances and/ or if there will be more than 1 contractor on site at the same time (in which case a principal designer and principal contractor must be appointed in writing by the client) it is recommended that an agent be used to work on the schools behalf.

## APPENDIX 15 WORK AT HEIGHT

Working at height can present a significant risk, where such activities cannot be avoided a task specific risk assessment will be conducted to ensure such risks are adequately controlled. A copy of this assessment will be provided to employees authorised to work at height.

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 etc. Staff are only permitted to use three rung step ladders within school. These are inspected termly by the caretaker to ensure they are in good condition and the findings are logged.

Only those persons who have been trained to use ladders safely may use them. Basic instruction is provided to all staff who use ladders / stepladders <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg405.pdf>.

Formal training on work at height, use of ladders, mobile tower scaffolds etc. will be provided where a significant risk is identified as part of an individuals role.

The establishments' nominated person responsible for work at height is the Caretaker.

The nominated person(s) shall ensure:

- all work at height is properly planned and organised;
- the use of access equipment is restricted to authorised users;
- all those involved in work at height are trained and competent to do so;
- the risks from working at height are assessed and appropriate equipment selected;
- a register of access equipment is maintained and all equipment is regularly inspected and maintained;
- any risks from fragile surfaces are properly controlled.

All staff are instructed and expected to use kick stools when involved in display work. Pupils must not use kick stools or ladders of any kind.

## **APPENDIX 16 DISPLAY SCREEN EQUIPMENT (DSE)**

All staff who use computers daily, as a significant part of their normal work (*significant is taken to be continuous / near continuous spells of an hour or more at a time*) e.g. admin / office staff shall have a DSE assessment carried out.

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).

Advice on the use of DSE is available in the [Education Health and Safety Manual](#)

## **APPENDIX 17 VEHICLES ON SITE**

Vehicular access to the school is restricted to school staff and visitors only and for use by parents / guardians when bringing children to school or collecting them. In addition vehicles used for the transporting of pupils from home to school via HCC school transport access the site at the start and end of each day. Middleton as a special school makes special arrangements for school transport to use the playground with strict supervision by the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and Caretaker to allow pupils to board and alight vehicles safely with an escort. Playground gates are kept shut between 9am and 3pm.

Access to the school must be kept clear for emergency vehicles.

Wherever possible deliveries arrive either before or after school.

The vehicle access gate must not normally be used for pedestrian access. If an event is being held outside of normal school activities for which this is the sole access, then all due care must be taken to ensure the safety of those passing through this entrance.

**APPENDIX 18**

**LETTINGS / SHARED USE OF PREMISES**

Lettings are managed by the School Business Manager following HCC guidance.

## **APPENDIX 19 MINIBUSES**

The Caretaker maintains a list of nominated drivers who have received training in order to drive a minibus and conducts an annual check of their driving licence.<sup>4</sup>

On an annual basis individual staff will be required to obtain a check code from the DVLA and provide this to the caretaker in order the school can see what vehicles they can drive and any penalty points or disqualifications on their licence.

All minibus drivers should hold a valid HCC minibus permit (valid for **3 years**) Issued by the HCC Road Safety Unit.

The Caretaker is responsible for the undertaking regular checks on the vehicles and the schools operation of minibuses follows [County Guidance](#).

## **APPENDIX 20 STRESS / WELLBEING**

The school and governing body are committed to promoting high levels of health and well being and recognise the importance of identifying and reducing workplace stressors through risk assessment, in line with the HSE and HCC's management standards.

Contact details for the Employee Assistance Programme (APL) is available in the staffroom on the Wellbeing notice board.

[\*\*Staff well being is supported through a programme of initiatives including a paid day of absence for a birthday, a free school dinner on a Friday, and meals provided at Inset Days.\*\*](#)

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<sup>4</sup> All drivers must be over 21 and hold a full Category B (car) licence, non-employees must have held this for at least two years. Employees must have category D1 entitlement, those who obtained their car licence after 1 January 1997 must additionally obtain Category D or D1 by passing a medical and the Passenger Carrying Vehicle (PCV) theory and practical driving tests. This also applies to all drivers with pre-1997 licences if they intend to drive a minibus abroad.

## APPENDIX 21 LEGIONELLA

The school complies with advice on the potential risks from legionella as identified in the [Education Health and Safety Manual](#).

A water risk assessment of the school has been completed by Hydrop ECS (HYR25395) on 7 June 2016 and the Caretaker is responsible for ensuring that the identified operational controls are being conducted and recorded in the school's water log book. This risk assessment should be reviewed where significant changes have occurred to the water system

This risk assessment will be reviewed where significant changes have occurred to the water system and/ or building footprint.

The risks from legionella are mitigated by basic operational controls and thus the following checks are recorded.

- Water is heated and stored to 60 deg C at calorifiers (any vessel that generates heat within a mass of stored water)
- Weekly flushing of seldom used outlets and all showers (with all outlets flushed after school holiday periods)
- Monthly temperature checks on sentinel outlets (those nearest and furthest away from calorifier(s))
- Quarterly disinfection / descaling of showers
- Six monthly temperature checks of stored water; these are not carried out as we have no stored water facility.
- Stored cold water tanks are inspected for compliance and safety on an annual basis by the caretaker and tank water temperature recorded.

## APPENDIX 22

### SCHOOL SWIMMING

#### Primary school swimming in public / secondary schools

These will be planned as an offsite visit in line with the schools policy.

The school will obtain a copy of the pool's normal operating procedure (NOP) and emergency action plan (EAP) which identify the safety arrangements for the host pool.

In addition the school will obtain assurance over:

- The level of training of the swimming teacher(s);
- Pupil / swimming teacher ratios;
- Rescue / lifeguard provision provided;

**At primary level** the Headteacher will ensure that teachers expected to undertake swimming teaching activities have completed swimming teaching as part of their Initial Teacher Education (ITE) and have experience and confidence which is appropriate for the level of swimming instruction [TOPS swimming] / for pools deeper than 1.2M staff must have also completed appropriate specialist qualifications as identified in Safe Practice in School Swimming

**INFECTION CONTROL**

The school follows UKHSA guidance '[Health protection in education and childcare settings](#)' and the recommended [exclusion periods](#) for specific infectious diseases detailed in this guidance.

Risks for new and expectant mothers will be assessed and reviewed frequently, they will be notified of any known cases of infectious diseases that they may have been in contact with and that can affect pregnancy e.g., chickenpox, measles, rubella, slapped cheek etc. in order they can seek medical advice.

In the event of an outbreak the school will review and reinforce existing baseline infection prevention and control measures.

This will include:

- encouraging all staff and students who are unwell not to attend the setting.
- ensuring all eligible groups are enabled and supported to take up the offer of [national immunisation](#) programmes including coronavirus (COVID-19) and flu
- ensuring occupied spaces are well ventilated and let fresh air in
- reinforcing good hygiene practices such as frequent cleaning
- considering communications to raise awareness among parents and carers of the outbreak or incident and to reinforce key messages, including the use of clear hand and respiratory hygiene measures within the setting such as [E-Bug](#)

Specialist advice from UKHSA East of England Health Protection Team will be sought in the event of any outbreak or serious or unusual illness as listed in Chapter 4 of '[Health protection in education and childcare settings](#)' for example

- a higher than previously experienced and/or rapidly increasing number of staff or student absences due to acute respiratory infection or diarrhoea and vomiting.
- evidence of severe disease due to an infection, for example if a pupil, student, child, or staff member is admitted to hospital.
- more than one infection circulating in the same group of students and staff for example chicken pox and scarlet fever.

## Current Middleton Staffing

Headteacher	Debbie Hartley
School Business Manager	Natalie O'Neill
Caretaker	John Hayes / Calum Hartley
Upper School Department Head	Fiona Mills
Middle School Department Head	Lisa Cox
Lower School Department Head	Jackie Otley
Deputy Headteacher	Matt McLoughlin
Assistant Head Teacher	Lisa Cox
Lead First Aider	Gill Cherry Jane Hartfield
Family Liaison Officer	Sharron Graffato Helen Nash