

Health and Safety Policy

Arunside School



Approved by: Donna Jagger (Headteacher)

Date: March 2026

Last reviewed on: March 2025

Next review due by: The Governing Body – March 2027

Date	Section	Policy review updates:
22/03/22	Statement of Intent	Dates updated
22/03/22	Food Safety	Easy Lunch.
23/02/22	Staff Welfare/Stress	The school also positively promotes their Mental Health and Well-being Policy
23/02/22	Training	Moved to the last section of the policy for completeness thereby ensuring that all areas have been detailed before discussion training which covers every aspect of concern
23/02/22	Linked Policies	Added to the policy to make this more uniformed with other Arunside policies

10/10/2023	Throughout the Policy	The names of personnel have been changed to reflect new appointments (Ellen Gardner replaced Rachel Stoffell) and changes in roles (some of the tasks previously undertaken by the Communication and Compliance Officer are now the responsibility of the School Business Manager). The Family Welfare Officer is responsible for positively promoting the Mental Health and Well-being Policy within the school.
9 th March 2025	Statement of Intent	Inserted Xin Liang as new Chair of Governor for her sign off
9 th March 2025	Throughout the Policy	Personnel have changed since the previous edition and the role of (Admin Assistant) has been inserted rather than the employee's name
9 th March 2025	Lead First Aider	The lead First Aider is Admin Assistant This was previously recorded as Headteacher, but amended to reflect current practice
9 th March 2025	Off-Site Activities	Dedicated role amended as responsibility now undertaken by the School Business Manager
27 th February 2026	Throughout Policy	Dates updated to reflect renewal
2 nd March 2026	Play Equipment	Clarification on who checks PE equipment and who checks Play equipment. Added that West Sussex audits play equipment three times a year.

**Health and Safety Policy issued by the governors of
Arunside school**

Effective from: 8th February 2018

Next review date: March 2027

Statement of Intent

The governing body acknowledges West Sussex County Council's (WSCC) Corporate Health and Safety Policy, acting as Local Education Authority and employer, and provides the following additional statement of intent to cover all school buildings, activities and undertakings for which it is responsible.

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the governing body accepts that it has the responsibility to take all reasonably practicable steps to secure the health and safety of staff, pupils and others visiting and using the school premises.

The governing body believes that the prevention of accidents, injury or loss is essential to the efficient operation of the school and is part of the good education of its pupils. It will be the governors' policy to encourage, where practicable, the co-operation of all users of the establishment by monitoring, review, discussion and consultation to promote and develop measures which ensure health and safety at work.

Xin Liang

Chair of Governors

THE ORGANISATION FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health and safety responsibilities

The Governing Body has strategic responsibility for health and safety within all areas of the school's undertakings and is answerable to the Local Authority (LA) for its actions, on behalf of whom it makes decisions. The governing body is responsible for ensuring that advice from competent health and safety advisers is available on health and safety matters in order to comply with regulatory controls.

The Headteacher has responsibility for the day-to-day operation of health and safety and welfare policies and practices, as delegated by the governing body, within all areas of the school's undertakings. The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that advice from competent health and safety advisers is sought on health and safety matters in order to comply with regulatory controls.

Department and KS Leads are responsible for ensuring that safe working conditions are maintained for all pupils, employees, visitors, members of the public and, where applicable, contractors throughout their individual work areas, as delegated by the Headteacher or governing body and detailed in the organisation section of the policy. Department heads are responsible for ensuring that advice from competent curriculum and health & safety advisers is sought on health and safety matters in order to comply with regulatory controls.

Employees are responsible for their own health and safety, that of their colleagues and members of the public who may be affected by their work activities.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY

Accident and Incident Reporting

All accidents and incidents, to staff, visitors and contractors are reported to WSCC using the online accident reporting system. Minor incidents to pupils are recorded locally. Major injuries and direct visits to hospital are also reported to WSCC using the online system. The School Business Manager is responsible for reporting accidents

The Head teacher will monitor accidents and incidents in order to identify trends and report to the governing body.

Administering medicines

The Medicines on School Policy details the procedures followed by the school and is based on WSCC policy and procedures. The lead for the administration of medicines is Admin Assistant. A copy of the policy is available from the school office.

Asbestos

The school holds an asbestos register and follows the WSCC Code of Practice regarding monitoring and record keeping. All contractors working on the building are made aware of the location of asbestos and sign the register. Staff are made aware of the location of asbestos and the procedures to follow if discovering disturbed asbestos. The Premises Manager is responsible for asbestos management.

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)

All hazardous substances stored and used within the school are to be risk assessed and the precautions identified by the risk assessment shall be communicated to staff and implemented. These assessments will be held in the school's COSHH risk assessment file, along with the relevant data sheets and made available to all employees who are required to use these substances in their work. The Premises Manager is the designated person for ensuring that the COSHH risk assessment file is kept up to date and communicated to relevant staff.

Contractors

Maintenance and servicing contractors receive an induction to the school site (including asbestos), its facilities and emergency arrangements. Contractors undertaking large scale building work receive all of above and an induction pack which includes relevant school policies, procedures and risk assessments. The school adheres to WSCC self-managed process and uses only WSCC approved contractors. Contractors are continuously monitored whilst on site. The Premises Manager is responsible for the management of contractors

Curriculum Safety

The governors recognise that some curriculum areas represent an increase in risk; these departments hold department specific health and safety arrangements, which are regularly reviewed and communicated to the relevant staff.

The Headteacher – responsible for Design and Technology

The Headteacher – responsible for Drama and Theatre Arts

The PE lead – responsible for Physical Education

The STEM lead – responsible for Science

Display Screen Equipment (DSE)

Every DSE user will have a risk assessment completed to make sure they know how to adjust and set up the workstation correctly. It is the responsibility of The School Business Manager to request that assessments are completed by relevant staff. The risk assessment can be carried out by the workstation user through the e-Learning programme and assessment checklist. This is available on Health and Safety A-Z pages of the Services for Schools.

DSE user risk assessments will be reviewed periodically by The School Business Manager, at least annually, or if there have been any significant changes to the workstation. A review of the original assessment must be undertaken as soon as practicable by the line manager

when an employee complains of musculoskeletal or other health issues that could be attributed to, or aggravated by, working with DSE

Electricity

All portable electrical equipment within the school is to be tested annually and records of these tests will be held at the school.

Private portable electrical equipment must not be brought into the establishment and used without the appropriate checks.

A five-yearly check of the fixed electrical installation is completed and records kept. Electrical safety is managed by The Premises Manager.

Emergency Provision/Business Continuity

The Emergency Plan details the procedures and arrangements to be used in the event of an emergency. This includes liaison with WSCC and the emergency services, provision for the continuation of school business and arrangements to contact interested parties i.e. parents and the press. All staff are trained in the procedures contained within the emergency plan and are able to take the appropriate action if required. The emergency plan is regularly monitored and reviewed by The School Business Manager.

Fire Safety

The Headteacher, is the designated person for fire safety within the establishment. The designated person will ensure that:

- The school's fire risk assessment is kept up-to-date by annual review or in response to significant changes to premises or work arrangements.
- There is reasonable fire-fighting equipment in the school, it is maintained and maintenance records are kept.
- The fire safety equipment, e.g. fire alarm, emergency lighting, etc. is regularly checked, maintained and records are kept.
- There are no general fire hazards around the building, particularly near escape routes, escape routes are unobstructed and that there is access for fire fighters.
- Staff and pupils are practised in evacuating the premises by performing termly drills, monitoring their effectiveness and keeping records.
- Develop personal emergency evacuation plans (PEEP) for those staff and/or pupils who require additional assistance to evacuate the premises.

They will also ensure that the establishment has in place an up to date **Emergency Fire Plan**, which details the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire. The plan must be prepared to ensure that people within the establishment know the action to take if there is a fire, and to ensure the establishment can be safely evacuated.

Where necessary, the Emergency Fire Plan will include the following features:

- Action on discovering a fire and calling the fire service (these notices will also be displayed throughout the establishment)
- The location of the assembly point for roll call
- Liaison with emergency services
- Identification of key escape routes
- The type and location of fire-fighting equipment provided
- Specific responsibilities in the event of fire (adequate number of fire wardens to assist with the evacuation)
- Training (in house fire safety awareness training is carried out annually for all staff).
- Any need to co-operate or co-ordinate with other responsible persons that will be operating within the premises.

First Aid

The lead First Aider is the Admin Assistant and the names of the trained First Aiders are located in the first aid policy and displayed in the first aid station at the rear of the school as well as in the school office. The School Business Manager monitors first aid training to ensure certification remains in date.

A first aid risk assessment has been completed and provision is in place, following the findings of the risk assessment. Suitable and appropriate first aid cover is provided at all times during the working day and after hours to cover breakfast and after school clubs and all staff members are aware of the arrangements in place.

The First Aid policy details the designated person(s) for ensuring the first aid kits are kept fully stocked and items are within date, checks of first aid kits are recorded as completed.

Food Safety

The lead for Food Safety is Easy Lunch. The Food Safety lead will ensure that there are arrangements for safely and hygienically receiving food from suppliers and preparing it for serving to pupils. The kitchen, servery and dining area are to be cleaned daily and after each use.

A risk assessment is in place for lunchtime meals (hot and cold) and all incidents that occur during the lunch-time serving session in the hall are reported to the Food Safety Lead.

Glazing

The school holds an up to date Glazing Survey and regularly monitors glazing as part of the premises inspection. The Premises Manager is responsible for glazing management.

Gas Safety

The school ensures that the gas boilers and other gas appliances are serviced and maintained regularly. The Premises Manager is responsible for gas safety.

Induction

All new employees are informed of the school's health and safety arrangements and procedures using the induction checklist available within the Health and Safety A-Z on the WSCC Services for Schools website. Staff will also complete the eLearning 'Your Own and Others' and records will be kept. The Headteacher is responsible for the induction of staff.

Infection Control

The school seeks to manage the spread of infection to prevent ill health from disease i.e. coronavirus, norovirus, hepatitis etc. The school follows the exclusion periods for all infectious diseases set by Public Health England and these are communicated to parents. Risk assessments are completed for infection control and specific diseases and these are communicated to staff. These risk assessments are supported by infection control procedures i.e. hand washing, increased hygiene and cleaning protocols and where identified by risk assessment, personal protective equipment (PPE) is worn by staff. Where the school is aware of a risk of transmission of an infectious disease, specific arrangements are in place for the administration of first aid to a potentially infectious pupil, visitor or member of staff. As required under the Reporting of Incidences Diseases Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) infectious diseases that meet the RIDDOR criteria are reported via the online accident reporting system and onto the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) by the WSCC.

Lone Working

Lone working is discouraged, however where employees are required to work alone, the risks should be assessed and adequate controls put in place. The Headteacher is responsible for risk assessing and producing lone working procedures.

Play equipment

Internal physical education (P.E.) equipment is serviced by Universal Services. P.E. equipment is checked prior to every use by the teaching staff any defects are reported immediately to the Headteacher. The Premises Manager regularly monitors external play equipment and defects are reported immediately to the Headteacher. **West Sussex County Council also audit the external play equipment three times per year.** Faulty equipment is immediately decommissioned.

Premises Maintenance

The internal and external premises will be inspected at regular intervals by The Premises Manager, the inspections are recorded and resulting issues reported to the Headteacher. The school is to be kept clean, tidy and free from hazardous obstacles. Staff must report any defective equipment; furniture or premises issues to The Premises Manager using the defects log. The Headteacher will sign and date completed actions in the log.

Monitoring, audit and review

The Governing Body shall receive termly reports on Health and Safety and will regularly inspect and monitor the premises. Regular review of procedure shall be undertaken in the light of operational practice, new laws and new policy/directives of the Local Authority. The operational practice and procedure shall be constantly monitored by the head/local safety officer. The Governing body shall prepare an annual action plan to address deficiencies in health and safety arising from the Head teachers' annual report.

Moving and Handling of Customers and the Manual Handling of Inanimate Loads

Manual handling is defined as the transporting or supporting of a load (including the lifting, putting down, pushing, pulling, carrying or moving thereof) by hand or bodily force. Consequently, the Manual Handling Operations Regulations apply to a wide range of operations; in this context it applies to both the moving of inanimate loads (manual handling) and the moving and handling of children where they are unable to do this unaided (moving and handling).

Where manual handling or moving and handling tasks are undertaken, The Governing body will designate suitably competent staff to undertake risk assessments of the activities, and ensure staff working in these areas receive the necessary training and instruction. The Premises Manager is responsible for developing and reviewing moving and manual handling risk assessment.

New and Expectant Mothers

Any staff member who becomes pregnant is to inform the Headteacher of this and an appropriate risk assessment is to be undertaken following the guidance contained within the Health and Safety A-Z on the WSCC Services for Schools website. The school recognises the changing nature of pregnancy and will regularly review risk assessments to ensure that working at the school will not pose any risk to their health and safety and that of their unborn child.

Off-site activities

All off site activities are risk assessed using the WSCC system. The school's systems are audited by WSCC Outdoor Education Advisor. The School Business Manager is the schools Educational Visit Co-ordinator (EVC)

Risk Assessments

Risk assessments are a legal requirement under health and safety law and the Headteacher will assess all risks arising out of the curriculum and associated work which the school undertakes. In accordance with corporate guidance risk assessments will be recorded in writing and reviewed annually or following a significant accident and or incident.

Staff Welfare/Stress

The governing body considers staff welfare of paramount importance, and seeks to promote a work/life balance amongst their staff. The Headteacher is constantly monitoring staff workload and every effort is made to make effective changes if staff are experiencing stress either at home or work. The school also utilizes the services of Health Assured and Occupational Health. The Family Welfare Officer is responsible for positively promoting the Mental Health and Well-being Policy within the school.

Water quality

The Premises Manager is responsible for monitoring and recording water temperatures at the school to ensure water quality is maintained. A bi-annual water quality risk assessment is produced and reviewed by 3C Environmental technology.

Working at height

Teaching staff must avoid working at height to put up displays unless they have undertaken the appropriate 'Working at Heights' training, (this includes the standing on desks or chairs. Ladders, step stools and other access equipment are kept on a ladder register and regularly inspected and maintained by The Premises Manager.

Training

The school ensures that all staff are provided with adequate information, instruction and training to perform their roles. Training requirements are discussed during induction, professional development reviews and one to one supervision. Training records are kept and reviewed by The School Business Manager.

Linked policies

- Mental Health and Well-Being Policy
- Children with health needs who cannot attend school
- First Aid policy
- Policies on Medicines in School
- Asthma Policy
- Lettings Policy
- Sun Safe Policy
- Fire Safety Policy
- Risk Assessment Policy