



# HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

## IRTHINGTON VILLAGE SCHOOL

Author/owner	Date written	Approved by governors on	Date of next review
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### Notes for schools (please remove once read)

**This model has been developed to cover the majority of risk areas, but you should tailor this document to reflect the structure and management arrangements in your school. You may delete any sections, e.g. trees, ponds, swimming pools, if they are not applicable to your premises.**

**To update the contents table following any amendments, right click on the table above and select update field and then update entire table. This will then update page numbers and headings.**

## Introduction

This document outlines the local arrangements we have in place to manage health and safety. We refer to the advice and guidance provided by Cumbria County Council as well as nationally recognised safety standards. These arrangements support our Health and Safety Policy Statement which is displayed in school and available on request.

All staff and any other relevant persons will be made aware of the policy statement and arrangements at induction and following each review. We will also make them aware of any supporting guidance, contacts, systems, relevant risk assessments or training requirements which support these arrangements. All staff will be required to sign a [Declaration of Acceptance](#) following communication of the Policy Statement and arrangements.

## Professional health and safety support, advice and assistance

Cumbria County Council's Corporate Health and Safety Team provides our specialist Health and Safety Advisory service. They provide written safety guidance, model policies and template forms via the schools' portal and other supporting systems.

Corporate Health and Safety Team Cumbria County Council Carlisle East Community Fire Station Eastern Way, Carlisle CA1 3RA	Telephone: (01228) 221616 Email – <a href="mailto:healthandsafety@cumbria.gov.uk">healthandsafety@cumbria.gov.uk</a>
Lead contacts:	
<b>Judith Chandler</b> – Health, Safety and Wellbeing Manager	Email: <a href="mailto:judith.chandler1@cumbria.gov.uk">judith.chandler1@cumbria.gov.uk</a> Mobile: 07584 534670
<b>Kevin Hewitson</b> – Health, Safety and Wellbeing Adviser	Email: <a href="mailto:kevin.hewitson@cumbria.gov.uk">kevin.hewitson@cumbria.gov.uk</a> Mobile: 07788 396193
<b>Judy Hutchinson</b> – Assistant Health, Safety and Wellbeing Adviser	Email: <a href="mailto:judy.hutchinson@cumbria.gov.uk">judy.hutchinson@cumbria.gov.uk</a> Mobile: 07825 340473
<b>Matt Ellis</b> – Outdoor Learning and Educational Visits Advisor, Derwent Hill	Email: <a href="mailto:Evas@sunderland.gov.uk">Evas@sunderland.gov.uk</a> Telephone: 017687 72005
<b>Emergency out-of-hours service</b>	The Local Authority Health and Safety Team also operates a 24/7 out-of-hours service for emergency safety advice and support. This can be accessed by dialling <b>0300 303 1042</b> .  You can then leave a message including your contact telephone number, and a Safety Adviser will contact you as soon as possible.

## Health and safety arrangements

### Communication, co-ordination and consultation

The governing body will recognise, co-operate, and consult with properly-appointed health and safety representatives to enable them to fulfil their statutory functions and ensure that effective arrangements are in place for consultation and communication with staff within school. Provision will be made for specific staff safety committees where requested.

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Any additions and alterations to the Health and Safety Policy or arrangements will be consulted on and circulated promptly to staff.

Health and safety will be a standing item on the agenda for staff and relevant governors' meetings. Both union staff representatives and non-union staff representatives will be invited to attend and will report back to their own department or team on issues raised and discussed.

Information and/or advice on matters relating to the health, safety and welfare of employees will be circulated via staff meetings unless it is of immediate importance to any individual employee or group of employees.

### References and useful links:

Schools' portal:

[SIGN 09 - Health and Safety Governance and Consultation](#)

[County Council Safety Procedure 03 - Health and Safety Governance and Consultation](#)

## Health and Safety Management Plan

The governing body will develop a written Health and Safety Management Plan which will be used as a working document. This will be used to record and keep track of planned safety-related actions such as routine maintenance, safety-related training, document reviews and actions from inspections and audits. The plan will include the name of person responsible, priority rating, costs, and planned timescales.

*We have adopted the Health and Safety Management Plan template on the schools' portal **and this is updated throughout the year by Lynne Lawson.***

## Training, awareness, competence and training records

We will ensure that staff are competent to perform tasks that may impact on health and safety. Competence is defined in terms of appropriate training and/or experience. Training procedures will consider differing levels of responsibility, ability, literacy, and risk.

A formal health and safety training plan is maintained as a working document. This will record all health and safety training that has been carried out. It will include health and safety training, such as IOSH Managing Safely, provided for those with specific health and safety responsibilities, e.g. Headteacher and Health and Safety Co-ordinator. The training plan will highlight any statutory refresher training that may be required.

## Induction training

Safety Information Guidance Note SIGN 08 sets out our arrangements for health and safety induction for all new members of staff (including volunteers, students, and pupils).

*We have **developed our own Health and Safety Induction Checklist which is communicated to new staff on appointment.***

### References and useful links:

Schools' portal:

[SIGN 08 - Health and Safety Induction](#)

## Monitoring, review and audit

The governing body with the support of the Headteacher will, at intervals that it determines appropriate, monitor and review the school's health and safety management system to ensure its continuing suitability. Relevant staff and other parties will be involved as appropriate. Reviews of

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specific risk areas may also be undertaken. Reviews shall be documented where appropriate.

The review process aims to identify where changes to policy, objectives and other elements of the health and safety management system are required. Typically, the review would cover such information as accident statistics and trends, results of audits and inspections, hazard identification and risk assessments.

Actions following a review would include revisions to risk assessments, health and safety policies, and corrective actions assigned with target dates for completion and review.

## External health and safety management audits

Cumbria County Council's Corporate Health and Safety Team will undertake a full health and safety management system audit at three yearly intervals. These audits will be carried out by a qualified safety advisor. Following this process, we will be supplied with a detailed report containing requirements and recommendations to improve our existing arrangements. Any recommended actions arising from these audits will be addressed by the Headteacher and governing body within the recommended timescales and with the support and guidance of the Corporate Health and Safety Team where required.

### References and useful links:

Schools' portal:

*County Council Safety Procedure 05 - Auditing and Active Monitoring*

*Managing for health and safety (HSG65) (hse.gov.uk)*

## Archiving and document control

Health and safety-related documentation will be retained securely and in accordance with the **2019 IRMS Schools Toolkit**. This is made available to us via the schools' portal: [Records Management](#)

We recognise our duties under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Data Protection Act 2018. Due care will be taken with records management in terms of personal data and in the use of any media which may clearly identify pupils.

### References and useful links:

Schools' portal:

*Data Protection, Freedom of Information and Records Management*

## Risk management and risk assessments

We create, tailor, and adapt risk assessments following the model school risk assessments provided by Cumbria County Council via the schools' portal to establish safe ways to work and protect staff, pupils, contractors, and visitors who may be affected by our school activities.

The person carrying out an activity or task is often best placed to provide details on the associated hazards and risks and should participate fully in the completion of the risk assessment. Specific training in developing a risk assessment is required through completion of health and safety training such as IOSH Managing Safely.

For Educational Visits and Outdoor Learning we tailor model risk assessments supplied on the County Council's **EVOLVE** system at: [www.cumbriaccvisits.org.uk](http://www.cumbriaccvisits.org.uk)

Where model risk assessments are used as a basis, we will ensure that these are tailored to reflect the actual activities and controls in place in relation to the school.

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Risk assessments will be reviewed at least annually, following incidents, or sooner should circumstances change, to ensure they remain effective. They will be signed and dated by the person undertaking them.

Completed risk assessments will be available at all times for staff to view and will be held as working documents.

### Specialist or specific risk assessments

For **Science, Food Technology** and **Design Technology** we utilise CLEAPSS model assessments and hazards provided at [www.cleapss.org.uk](http://www.cleapss.org.uk). The relevant head of department or nominated leads will ensure that suitable and sufficient risk assessments are undertaken, in order to comply with relevant legislation and to follow recognised good practice issued by professional and specialist bodies. We have separate health and safety policies for these subjects.

In addition to the above specialist risk assessments we will also ensure we have risk assessments for the following areas where appropriate:

- Physical education.
- Construction activities.
- Cleaning.
- Occupational road risk/transport.
- Fire.
- Legionella – by a competent contractor accredited to Legionella Control Association
- Risk assessments relating to individual pupils or staff, e.g. moving and handling, young workers, or new and expectant mothers.
- New and expectant mothers.
- Young persons at work.

Advice will be sought from the Local Authority's Health and Safety Team to support us where required.

#### References and useful links:

Schools' portal:

*SIGN 10 - Risk Assessment in Educational Establishments*

*SIGN 07 - New and Expectant Mothers*

*Cumbria County Council Safety Procedure 15 - Risk Assessment*

[www.cleapss.org.uk](http://www.cleapss.org.uk)

### Supervision of pupils

Risk assessment will be used to determine staff ratios for effective pupil supervision. During school hours pupils will not be left unsupervised, including at break times. Any areas that are out-of-bounds, or where there are special hazards, will be drawn to the attention of all relevant persons.

**Children are not permitted to enter the entrance hall and front office unsupervised.**

### Before and After School

Parents have a legal duty to ensure that their child attends school at the appropriate time and that children are collected from school within reasonable time of the school finishing.

There is no legislation which covers the supervision of pupils before and after school. The school recognises, however, that pupils cannot all be expected to arrive at school at the same time. Differing transport arrangements might mean that there are some early arrivals in the morning and perhaps some pupils waiting for transport after school.



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The school's duty of care exists so long as pupils are on the school premises with the school's consent, but it is unreasonable for the school to have to take responsibility for those arriving at school before supervision could reasonably be expected to be in place.

In the case of pupils arriving/leaving on school transport, staff will be available to supervise pupils as they arrive at school. Depending on the age and/or ability of the pupils, supervision may begin when they enter the school grounds. In some cases, however, circumstances may dictate that pupils are collected from the vehicle by a member of staff in person.

Should it be felt that the transport is arriving at the school at an unreasonable time, the County Council's School Transport Team or other transport providers will be contacted to address any issues.

The school website/prospectus outlines when the school will take responsibility for children before school opens and at the end of the day, and reminds parents that before/after then, there will be nobody to supervise pupils. If, for any reason, arrangements have to be changed, parents will be told well in advance.

Younger, i.e. foundation age pupils, will be kept in school and handed over to parents/carers once they arrive. This may also be undertaken for pupils in key stage one but is not a statutory requirement. Any pupils with special educational needs will be considered separately, and risk assessment will be used where necessary to determine the supervision and handover procedure of the pupil concerned.

Pupils who arrive at school knowing that supervision arrangements are not in operation are there at their own risk, and parents will be informed that, during this time, the responsibility for the safety of those pupils rests with the parent/carer. However, should a member of staff be present and a dangerous situation develops, the member of staff will attempt to intervene or to seek assistance as the situation requires.

In the event of an incident, a full written report will be recorded and held. Ofsted will be made aware of any serious childcare incidents but usually only if the police or Children and Young People Services are involved and concerns remain for a child's welfare.

The following protocols will be followed:

<b>15 minutes after non-collection at the normal time</b>	Call pupil's emergency contact numbers in hierarchical order.
<b>30 minutes after non-collection at the normal time</b>	Continue to make repeated attempts to contact the normal emergency contact numbers provided by the parent/carer.
<b>1 hour after non-collection at normal time</b>	Telephone Children's Services Safeguarding Hub on 0333 240 1727 and seek further advice, providing the pupil's name, age, and the details of all provided contact numbers. <a href="https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrenservices/childrenandfamilies/intervention.asp">https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrenservices/childrenandfamilies/intervention.asp</a>

### References and useful links:

*Children & Families Services: Cumbria County Council*

## Security of persons and premises

We operate internal procedures to ensure the security of staff, pupils, and the premises.



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The Headteacher will ensure that systems are in place for checking external lighting and security alarms. Any faults will be reported and recorded in the defects book for action.

## Accidents, incidents, ill health, and near misses

Safety Information Guidance Note SIGN 03 sets out our arrangements for reporting and recording accidents and incidents, ill health and near misses.

The Headteacher and Health and Safety Co-ordinator are responsible for ensuring that the procedures for reporting accidents, incidents, work-related ill health and near misses are made known to all new employees at induction.

The Headteacher or person delegated by them will be responsible for ensuring such events are properly investigated, and that a report is made and returned in the manner outlined by Cumbria County Council within its procedures.

Accident statistics are reported to the governing body on an annual basis to identify patterns and determine where necessary, suitable measures to prevent recurrence

**Without exception, all employees are required to report work-related accidents, incidents and near misses to their respective supervisors or other responsible persons as soon as possible, providing as much detail and information as possible.**

<sup>1</sup>As a **local authority school** we will ensure that in the event of a serious accident/incident we will inform the Headteacher **and** the **Local Authority Corporate Health and Safety Team** by the quickest possible means (usually telephone) so that the appropriate support and follow up can be arranged.

It is important that accident/incident forms (especially for serious incidents) are forwarded by the quickest possible means and certainly within 7 days of the accident/incident.

The pupils' accident book will be completed for all incidents/accidents involving children/pupils.

The Local Authority's accident/incident form will also be completed in all but the most minor cases of injury. The rule of thumb is to complete one if a parent/carer has to be contacted to collect the child from school to seek further medical advice, they are taken to hospital by staff or ambulance, or if a pupil has suffered a bump to the head.

The school reports all injuries to parents. 'Bump letters' are sent home with pupils following any accident involving head injuries. **Accident slips are also sent home with children who travel on the school bus.**

## Accidents involving adults (staff, visitors, contractors etc.)

The Local Authority's accident/incident form will be completed **in all cases** and signed off by the Headteacher. It must be completed in all cases involving work-related ill health (excluding stress) and violence to staff. Completed forms should be sent to the Corporate Health and Safety team via the Health and Safety Inbox for inclusion in the E-Safety accident database.

The official Social Security accident book (with tear-out pages) must be completed for all incidents/accidents involving adults at the same time as the Local Authority's accident/incident

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<sup>1</sup> In Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools, the Local Authority is the employer and therefore any accidents or incidents **must** be reported to the Corporate Health and Safety Team.

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form, but there are no restrictions on who completes the entry.

After each entry is made, the page will be torn out, placed in a sealed envelope and passed to the nominated member of staff who will file it in a secure/confidential location in line with the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018.

## RIDDOR reporting

Any accident or incidents which trigger RIDDOR reporting requirements **must** be sent through to the Corporate Health and Safety Team by the quickest possible means

Advisors will check all submitted accident/incident forms and will report to the Health and Safety Executive on our behalf. They may contact us for more information or to notify us when RIDDOR reports have been made.

## Post-incident investigation and further actions

The Headteacher and Health and Safety Co-ordinator are responsible for ensuring that all cases of accidental injury, ill-health, violence, dangerous occurrences and near misses are properly investigated. The Corporate Health and Safety Team can support us with our investigations.

### References and useful links:

Schools' portal:

*SIGN 03 – Reporting, recording and investigation of adverse events*

*County Council Safety Procedure 06 - Recording, Reporting and Investigation of Adverse Events*

## Liability claims

We utilise the assistance of the **County Council's Insurance Section** and will notify them on the day a letter of claim or CNF is received. We will not acknowledge receipt of the letter as the Insurance Section will do this on our behalf.

Email to: [Insurance.Section@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:Insurance.Section@cumbria.gov.uk) .

Where we receive a letter of claim or a claim notification form (CNF) in the event of a personal injury, we will:

- immediately forward the letter of claim or CNF to the County Council Insurance Section in order that they can acknowledge receipt of the letter of claim or CNF within one business day;
- promptly provide information requested by the Health and Safety Team or Legal Services, who are required to investigate employee injury claims within 30 business days;
- promptly provide information requested by the Health and Safety Team or Legal Services, who are required to investigate all other public liability claims (i.e. non-employees) within 40 business days.

## First aid

Safety Information Guidance Note SIGN 02 sets out our arrangements for the provision of first aid. First aid must be administered by staff members only. Pupils are not permitted to give first aid. Details of the nominated first aiders are displayed in school and included in [Appendix 1](#) .

If there are any concerns about a pupil's health or wellbeing, appropriate action will be taken dependent on the circumstances, e.g. contacting the emergency services or parents/carers to

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collect the pupil. If parents/carers cannot be contacted, a staff member will take the pupil to the nearest Accident and Emergency department.

### First aid records

We will record all first-aid treatment given by first aiders and appointed persons.

This will include:

- the date, time, and place of the incident;
- the name (and class) of the injured or ill person;
- details of the injury/illness and what first-aid was given;
- what happened to the person immediately afterwards (e.g. went home, resumed normal duties, went back to class, went to hospital);
- name and signature of the first aider or person dealing with the incident.

### Supporting pupils with medical conditions

We recognise our duty under Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 to support pupils with medical conditions and maintain a list of pupils with particular medical needs. We operate documented procedures to enable adequate plans and support to be put into place.

We refer to the [E-School Nurse](#) for support where required.

### Infection control in schools and other childcare settings

If a child is absent through illness, it is the responsibility of the parents to inform the school of the reasons for absence. If no contact is made by 9.30 a.m., the school will contact the parents. If doubt is expressed regarding a child's health during school hours, parents are contacted and requested to take the child home. If the condition of a child's health gives cause for concern, medical advice may be suggested, and a request made that information be relayed to the school as soon as possible.

We refer to '[Health protection in schools and other childcare facilities](#)' in school. This provides information regarding the care of children and of adults dealing with 'infection control'. If required, we will seek advice from the Council Public Health consultants through the [EducationIPC@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:EducationIPC@cumbria.gov.uk) mail box.

#### References and useful links:

Schools' portal:

[SIGN 02 - First aid in schools](#)

[County Council Safety Procedure 07 - Essentials of First Aid](#)

### Violent and aggressive behaviour

Safety Information Guidance Note SIGN 04 sets out our arrangements for managing violent and aggressive behaviour in school.

We take a serious view of any incidence of violence against our employees and take responsibility for protecting all of our staff and pupils from acts of violence and aggression. Such acts must never become an acceptable hazard of working life.

A system of reporting and monitoring incidents of violence and aggression using the Local Authority accident/incident form is adopted so that appropriate action can be taken to improve safety for employees in the workplace.

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The school considers the safety aspects which could arise in relation to behaviour. A Behaviour Management and Positive Handling Policy for the school is held separately and can be provided on request.

### References and useful links:

*Schools' portal:*

*SIGN 04 - Violence and aggression at work*

*County Council Safety Procedure 14 - Personal Safety and Security at Work*

## Lone working

Safety Information Guidance Note SIGN 06 sets out our arrangements for lone working.

**Lone working is not permitted when working at height, carrying out hot works (e.g. cutting and welding), working in confined spaces, or for the use of potentially dangerous machinery (e.g. lathes, bench saws, chainsaws).**

### Reference and useful links:

*Schools' portal:*

*SIGN 06 - Lone Working*

*Model Risk Assessment for Lone Working*

*County Council Safety Procedure No 24 - Lone Working*

## Stress management

Safety Information Guidance Note SIGN 23 sets out our arrangements for managing the causes of work-related stress

The Headteacher and governing body will ensure that a 'whole school' risk assessment in relation to stress at work is carried out in line with Cumbria County Council's Safety Procedure 20 - Managing the Causes of Work-Related Stress. Where an individual reports stress-related issues, we will utilise the SIGN 23 individual stress risk assessment questionnaire (based on the HSE return to work form) to identify where further action or support is required.

### References and useful links:

*Schools' portal:*

*SIGN 23 – Managing the causes of work-related stress*

*Stress and Wellbeing in Schools*

*County Council Safety Procedure 20 - Managing the Causes of Work-Related Stress*

*HSE Work-related stress*

*ACAS Mental health resources during coronavirus*

## Information and Communications Technology (ICT) including display screen equipment (DSE)

Safety Information Guidance Note SIGN 05 sets out our arrangements for the use of ICT including the safe use of display screen equipment.

Interactive whiteboards will be fixed and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. All display screens and interactive whiteboards must be shut down when not in use.

The school online safety policy and procedures will help to ensure safe and appropriate use, and will help young people (and their parents) to be responsible users and stay safe while using the internet and other communications technologies for educational, personal, and recreational use.

### References and useful links:

## Educational visits and off-site activities

The school uses the EVOLVE online system ([www.cumbriaccvisits.org.uk](http://www.cumbriaccvisits.org.uk)) for educational visits approval. The Council's Outdoor Learning and Educational Visits Advisor approves school visits involving adventurous activities, residential stays, and trips abroad, as well as providing advice to the school. This service is provided by Derwent Hill Outdoor Centre (Sunderland City Council).

The school adopts the National guidance for the management of outdoor learning, off-site visits and learning outside the classroom <http://oeapng.info/>

## Physical Education (PE) and play equipment

We follow the guidance issued by 'AfPE' Association for Physical Education:

- Risk assessments are undertaken for all PE activities and suitable control measures implemented.
- The responsible person will ensure that staff have had relevant training in any specialised activities (e.g. climbing, trampolining etc). Records will be kept of qualification and renewal dates.
- Pupils will be instructed in safe movement of equipment where they undertake this task.
- Jewellery is not permitted to be worn during any form of PE or movement exercises.
- Staff will supervise the erection and dismantling of PE equipment and not allow children to do this on their own (unless their age and capabilities allow).
- The teacher in charge will ensure that there are sufficient children involved in moving the equipment to avoid any strain or discomfort, and will themselves assist in the actual process of erecting and dismantling.
- Appropriate verbal instruction on the correct methods of moving and handling will be given to children who are assisting with moving any equipment.
- There will be adequate supervision of activities, and staff will be competent to lead activities in their given areas of expertise.
- PE mats are held **safely in a store cupboard**
- Regular inspections will be made of halls, floors, gyms, and equipment.
- PE equipment will be inspected before use, and outdoor fixed play equipment will be inspected regularly by staff to identify obvious hazards that can result from vandalism, wear, or weather conditions (e.g. broken parts, broken glass, exposed foundations, slippery surfaces).
- If at any inspection equipment is found to need repair, it will be removed, replaced, or repaired immediately. If this is impractical, steps will be taken to ensure that it presents no danger to children by immobilisation or erecting protective fencing.
- Inspections and maintenance programmes will cover the whole play area and not just the play equipment or the impact-absorbing surface.
- Equipment will also be formally inspected at least annually by a competent contractor in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to establish the overall condition of the equipment, foundations, and surfaces. The level of competence of the person carrying out the inspection will vary with level of risk associated with the complexity of the equipment.

## Drama in education

We will ensure that prior to any performances we will conduct a risk assessment to identify any potential hazards including but not confined to:

- Suitability of staging:

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- In the case of stage blocks/modular staging, the stage is put together following the manufacturer's instructions. Pupils are permitted to assist, but are supervised at all times and given suitable safety instructions;
- Fixed stages are maintained to a safe standard and regularly inspected to identify hazards and prevent accident and injury.
- Floor surfaces.
- Portable appliances/equipment:
  - use of dry ice and smoke machines;
  - strobe lighting;
  - use of residual circuit breakers (RCDs).
- Lighting, props, and storage of items.
- Working at height.
- Manual handling.
- Accessibility.
- Evacuation procedures/safety instructions to audience.
- Housekeeping.
- First aid.

### References and useful links:

*Health and safety in a drama setting ([artsonthemove.co.uk](http://artsonthemove.co.uk))*

## Food safety arrangements

We aim to provide the highest standard of food safety and hygiene. In particular, we will ensure that the food and drink prepared and sold on our premises is both safe and wholesome. We will ensure that legal requirements relating to food safety and hygiene will be complied with fully. We will provide hygienic premises and ensure hygienic equipment is provided for the safe preparation of food.

We will ourselves, or through the use of a carefully selected contractor, put in place documented food safety management procedures based on the principles of HACCP (hazard analysis and critical control point).

Any employee involved with the handling and preparation of food will hold, as a minimum, the CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety or equivalent, renewed at intervals not exceeding three years.

## Manual handling and lifting

Safety Information Guidance Note SIGN 19 sets out our arrangements for manual handling.

We will undertake manual handling risk assessments for all hazardous manual handling tasks that cannot be avoided. This includes the handling of people as well as objects.

### References and useful links:

Schools' portal:

*SIGN 19 - Manual Handling*

*Manual Handling (objects) Risk Assessment*

*County Council Safety Procedure 19 - Manual Handling Operations*

## Health and safety inspections of premises and activities

The governors (or Health and Safety governor) will undertake a health and safety inspection of the school premises on a termly basis and report back to the health and safety co-ordinator and headteacher. The findings of these inspections will be recorded. Any corrective actions required following these inspections will be reported and discussed with the Headteacher. Where possible,



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action will be taken immediately, or if planned actions are required these will be added to our Health and Safety Management Plan. Any health and safety union representative for the school will be invited to attend these inspections.

We will use the inspection checklists available on the schools' portal to carry out the inspections.

### References and useful links:

Schools' portal:

*Inspection and Monitoring (Health and Safety)*

## Workplace environments

### Heating

A comfortable working temperature will be maintained of at least 16°C. In the event of the need for portable heating or cooling, any equipment provided to achieve this will be suitable for use, free from defects, and safely sited so as not to create additional hazards.

**We will not use radiant heaters.**

### Lighting

The school will be lit by natural daylight wherever possible. Where artificial lighting is employed, this will be in good repair and suitable for the tasks being undertaken.

### Noise

Children will be kept at a **safe distance** from the front of loudspeakers used for discos, performances etc.

### Welfare facilities

Suitable welfare facilities will be maintained in a safe and clean condition for all staff and pupils.

### Ventilation

An adequate supply of fresh air will be maintained. Where possible this will be from natural ventilation from windows.

### Access and egress

We will implement inspection procedures, defect reporting and extra attention during inclement weather. We will bring our winter gritting plan to the attention of staff, pupils, and parents/guardians to ensure safe routes are followed during periods of snow and ice.

### Outdoor working

Appropriate measures will be taken to avoid the effects from working in inclement weather and in hot sun. We ensure that we follow the latest health and safety advice in respect of skin protection and prevention of ill health.

## Defect identification and reporting

We recognise that defective equipment or dangerous conditions can lead to personal injury or harm. **No defective electrical appliance or lead, and no defective mechanical device or tool that might give rise to danger may be used.**

All defects to equipment or furniture and minor defects to doors, floors, walls etc. are to be reported to a nominated person. That person will ensure that the necessary action is taken to rectify each



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defect without delay. Any defective items will be removed/made safe to ensure that they cannot be used whilst faulty. Where the repair of low risk defects is a longer-term objective, these will be added to the school's Health and Safety Management Plan.

**All staff are required to report accidents, incidents, near misses, defects, and hazards.** If, following their report, they are not satisfied with the actions taken to address their concerns, they may raise the issue through their usual line management route. If the problem remains unresolved, then the issue may be referred to the Headteacher or governing body.

### References and useful links:

Schools' portal:

[County Council Safety Procedure 11 - Health and Safety Inspections for CCC Workplaces](#)

[County Council Safety Procedure 28 - Building Management and Health and Safety Coordination](#)

## Fire and emergency procedures

Safety Information Guidance Note SIGN 17 sets out our arrangements for fire and emergencies:

- Our comprehensive fire safety arrangements are in place and communicated to new staff during induction and regular reminders given.
- A documented fire risk assessment is in place, kept up-to-date and made available to all staff. A copy is held off site. The risk assessment will be reviewed and updated annually or sooner should there be any significant alterations, incidents, or changes in school.
- Any member of staff (or visitor) discovering a fire must raise the alarm using the fire alarm manual break glass points located around the school and shouting 'fire'.
- Fire evacuation exercises are held at the beginning of each new term and recorded in the fire logbook.
- Fire Action notices are displayed next to each fire alarm manual call point detailing the assembly points.
- Plans detailing escape routes, location of fire extinguishers etc. are also clearly displayed around the building and within classrooms.
- All visitors and contractors must be signed in and instructions provided in the event of an emergency.
- Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs) will be developed outlining how vulnerable people and people with disabilities will be evacuated or assisted to evacuate the premises.
- A 'buddy' system will be set up for visitors with disabilities whereby named persons will be responsible for ensuring these persons are assisted to evacuate the building quickly and safely.
- Class teachers will act as fire wardens and ensure that roll call information is provided to the fire safety co-ordinator.
- Lone workers will be made aware of the emergency arrangements and how and where to evacuate the building.
- Midday supervisors are responsible for co-ordinating an evacuation from dining areas, and registers will be taken to assembly points to enable a roll call to be taken.

In the event of a full school evacuation, a reception centre is available and located at **Irthington Parish Church in the first instance or at Newtown Village Hall if the reception centre is required for a longer period of time.**

Details of the nominated fire wardens are displayed in school and included in [Appendix 1](#)

## Bomb threats, suspicious packages and lockdown

Although very rare occurrences, we recognise the importance of ensuring that emergency plans and procedures need to be in place for dealing with potential or actual threats. These will include measures if suspicions are raised by a verbal threat or unidentifiable package on the school site.

We have effective lockdown procedures in place, and these are regularly practiced by all staff and pupils. We follow the guidance set out in the Government publication [Protecting against terrorism](#).

## Bereavement in educational settings

We refer to the web page and resources available at [Bereavement in Educational Settings - A Guide for Schools](#) for support following a sudden death or other critical incident.

## School closures - emergency and planned

The Headteacher will be responsible for taking the decision to close the school in an emergency. The school will follow the procedure outlined in [Cumbria County Council's Closures Advice for Schools](#) displayed on the school website. All parents will be contacted by the quickest available means. Should there be no contact available, any affected children will remain in school. Details of the school closure must be recorded on the schools' portal.

### References and useful links:

Schools' portal:  
[Fire Safety](#)  
[Crisis Management and Emergencies in Schools](#)

## Environmental protection

Steps are taken to minimise the risk of environmental pollution, including liquid spillages, smoke, and environmental noise. All cases of environmental pollution are recorded and reported using the accident/incident form or adverse events form.

## Traffic management and transport

We have adopted the Cumbria County Council School Traffic Management Plan Template to ensure that any vehicles accessing and leaving our site do so safely.

We implement risk assessment and control procedures to control the risks to staff driving for work purposes (occupational road risk). We liaise with the Local Authority Commissioning and Procurement Team, Cumbria Transport Operation Team, and providers where required, to ensure the safe operation of home to school transport arrangements.

Where we are responsible for transporting pupils during term time, we will employ competent transport contractors and ensure that pupils and staff wear appropriate seatbelts/restraints. We actively encourage parents/carers to act responsibly when dropping off and collecting pupils and should issues arise, we take appropriate action to report and address problems.

### References and useful links:

Schools' portal:  
[School Traffic Management Plan Template](#)  
[County Council Safety Procedure 25 - Managing Occupational Road Risk](#)

## Ponds on school site

Safety Information Guidance Note SIGN 20 sets out our arrangements for managing ponds on the school site.

### References and useful links:

[science.cleapss.org.uk/Resource-Info/GL019-Using-ponds-safely.aspx](http://science.cleapss.org.uk/Resource-Info/GL019-Using-ponds-safely.aspx)

## Animals in school

Safety Information Guidance Note SIGN 21 sets out our arrangements for managing animals in school.

Recognised publications and guidance (e.g. CLEAPSS guides) will be used to determine suitable animals, inform risk assessments, and will be available when keeping animals in school.

### References and useful links:

[science.cleapss.org.uk/Resource-Info/GL202-Choosing-animals-to-keep-in-school.aspx](http://science.cleapss.org.uk/Resource-Info/GL202-Choosing-animals-to-keep-in-school.aspx)

## Trees on school site

Where we have trees in our grounds, tree surveys are undertaken at appropriate intervals by the Local Authority and a copy of the tree survey report is held in school. All recommendations are appropriately actioned using a contractor who is a member of the ARB Approved Contractor Scheme (run by the member of the Arboricultural Association).

We contact our local district council before any SIGNIFICANT work is undertaken on our trees.

### References and useful links:

[County Council Safety Procedure 33 - Tree Safety Management](#)

## Use and control of contractors and consultants

### Contractor competence and compliance

Safety Information Guidance Note SIGN 18 sets out our arrangements for CDM and Contractors in school.

We retain and provide access to the health and safety file (required by CDM).

All contractors will be issued with and must comply with the Cumbria County Council's Contractor Health and Safety Code of Practice. This will be issued by Cumbria County Council for County Council projects and by the school for any works they procure outside this arrangement.

Governors and the Headteacher will ensure that all contractors and sub-contractors are properly selected and vetted with regard to their health and safety competence. The selection of contractors will consider contractor competence, i.e. membership of and accreditation by recognised bodies, liability insurance and other related factors, to ensure health and safety compliance is met. Questionnaires are available from the Health and Safety Team to assist in the selection process.

### Control of contractors on school sites

All building contractors will be issued with a copy of the Cumbria County Council Contractor Health and Safety Code of Practice and the school's Contractors Safety Information Sheet.

**Contractors will be always be referred to the school Asbestos Register**, which highlights the known or presumed areas that may contain asbestos, before any intrusive works are permitted to commence.

The contractor must sign the Safety Information Sheet before work can commence  
Contractor risk assessments must be carried out prior to commencement of the work and the Headteacher notified of any additional hazards they might create during the course of their work.

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Suitable public protection arrangements will be required for all works – pupils are excluded from any work sites or areas where work is taking place, especially including areas where vehicle movements may take place.

### Permits to work

Permits to work will be considered for high risk activities on the school site including:

- hot works - for work of any type where heat is used or generated (e.g. by welding, flame cutting, grinding) or which might generate sparks or other sources of ignition;
- work in confined spaces;
- work on electrical systems;
- roof access and other work at height with significant risk;
- excavations;
- any other work specifically requiring a permit under a written safe working procedure or where potential risks warrant use of a permit.

#### References and useful links:

Schools' portal:

*SIGN 18 - CDM and contractors in schools*

*Contractors and Construction*

*County Council Safety Procedure 18 - Managing Health and Safety in Construction*

### Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)

We refer to CLEAPSS specialist advice and support in science and technology for information regarding COSHH. We retain copies of safety data sheets for any cleaning chemicals or other substances that are covered by the regulations.

Where possible we will avoid the use of hazardous cleaning chemicals and use eco-friendly alternatives.

Portable/fixed dust extraction/fume cupboards undergo a thorough examination and test every 14 months by a competent person.

#### References and useful links:

Schools' portal:

*County Council Safety Procedure 10 - Control of Substances Hazardous to Health*

*CLEAPSS*

### Control of asbestos

Safety Information Guidance Note SIGN 13 sets out our arrangements for the management of asbestos:

- Our buildings have been surveyed for the presence and condition of any asbestos containing materials. The County Council will retain overall duty holder responsibilities for schools which are its assets.
- Where asbestos is present or presumed, we hold a register to show its location, condition and any action required to ensure it remains in a safe condition. We also label asbestos materials wherever practical.
- Locally we will visually monitor and record the condition of materials termly in-house.
- We draw to the attention of contractors, staff and other people who might be likely to disturb any asbestos containing materials, the presence of such materials by providing access to our Asbestos Register.

### References and useful links:

Schools' portal:  
*SIGN 13 - Management of asbestos in school buildings*  
*Asbestos*  
*County Council Safety Procedure 29 - Management of Asbestos*

## Water hygiene management

### Control of Legionella

Safety Information Guidance Note SIGN 14 sets out our arrangements for dealing with the control of Legionella.

Water hygiene risk assessments have been carried out by a contractor registered with the Legionella Control Association. The water system and legionella risk will be maintained and checked as per the water hygiene risk assessment.

### References and useful links:

Schools' portal:  
*SIGN 14 - Legionella*

### Preventing scalds and burns

We will ensure measures are in place to prevent scalds and burns from hot water and surfaces/pipes by using thermostatic mixing valves to hot water outlets and using low surface temperature radiators or appropriate covers.

### References and useful links:

Schools' portal:  
*County Council Safety Procedure 30 - Management of Legionella*  
*HSE Health Services – Scalding and burning*

## Electricity at work

Safety Information Guidance Note SIGN 15 sets out our arrangements for managing electrical safety. In general, these are:

- All portable electrical appliances are maintained in a safe condition and are inspected/tested by a competent person at suitable periods (HSG 107);
- Suitable records are maintained;
- No personal equipment is to be used *unless it has been deemed safe by a competent person*;
- Staff will undertake 'before use' visual inspections of electrical appliances;
- Electrical equipment is suitably located, and we have good cable management so as to prevent electrical risks, slips, trips and falls, and damage to equipment etc.;
- Residual current devices (RCDs) are provided and used where applicable;
- Electrical water heaters will be inspected/serviced every 12 months or as per manufacturers recommendations;
- Only competent, trained persons are permitted to carry out work on fixed electrical installations (lighting, wiring, etc.). All installation, repair, modification and testing of fixed electrical systems is to be undertaken using competent persons;
- We will ensure that any contractor working on electrical installations or equipment is registered on the Electrical Safety Register for non-domestic work:  
<http://www.electricalcompetentperson.co.uk/>

### References and useful links:

Schools' portal:  
*SIGN 15 - Electrical Safety*  
*Electrical Safety*  
*County Council Safety Procedure 12 - Use of Electricity at Work*

## Gas, oil, and biomass

We will ensure that appropriate systems and maintenance programmes are in place to ensure that systems, equipment, and storage remain in good, safe condition.

This will include:

- Convector heaters are serviced/cleaned annually;
- School boilers and appliances including fixed equipment in kitchens, Science and D & T departments are serviced annually by a Gas Safe Registered Engineer (gas) or OFTEC Registered Engineer (oil) and records are kept in the Buildings Register;
- Gas cylinders will be subject to before and after use checks, and annual safety checks/servicing by the owner of the cylinder;
- Regulators must be replaced or refurbished every 5 years from date of manufacture or as per manufacturer's recommendations;
- Biomass boilers (e.g. wood pellet) and fuel storage/feed hoppers are monitored and inspected in accordance with manufacturer's guidance and operating instructions, as they require more frequent monitoring and inspection than fossil fuel alternatives.

### References and useful links:

*HSE - Gas health and safety*  
*HSE - RR1077 - Safe storage of wood pellet and wood chip fuel*

## Work equipment and maintenance

Our Health and Safety Management Plan identifies and sets out the frequencies for maintenance of work equipment.

All staff are expected use any work equipment provided to them in accordance with any training and instructions they have been provided with.

All other servicing and maintenance will be carried out by competent contractors.

Records of servicing and maintenance will be filed within our Buildings File.

## Routine maintenance and servicing requirements

**Fire:** Fire maintenance and servicing will be carried out in accordance with County Council Safety Procedure 8 - Fire Safety Management Guidance Notes 1-8, and the fire safety section of this policy.

**Electricity:** Electrical maintenance will be carried out in accordance with County Council Safety Procedure 17 - Provision and Use of Work Equipment, County Council Safety Procedure 12 - Use of Electricity at Work, SIGN 15 - Electrical Safety, and the electrical safety section of this policy. Items not covered directly in these are detailed in the table below.

**Gas:** Gas maintenance and servicing will be carried out in accordance with the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 originally 1998, as stated in the gas, oil and biomass section.



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**Oil:** Oil-fired boilers should be serviced in line with OFTEC and manufacturers recommendations as detailed in the gas, oil and biomass section. There is no legal requirement to have a safety certificate or an annual service, but undertaking these ensures compliance with health and safety legislation, and improves efficiency and protects against possible expensive repairs.

**Biomass:** Biomass boilers and appliances will be maintained, inspected, and serviced in line with manufacturer's instructions and OFGEM requirements as detailed above.

**Water:** Maintained and recorded checks are carried out as per our water hygiene risk assessment detailed in the water hygiene management section above. Portable air conditioning units should be maintained as per manufacturer's instructions.

**Lightening protection system:** Installed systems will be maintained and inspected in line with the British Standard in force at the time of installation, BS EN 62305 which is the current standard since 2008, or BS 6651 before that. The accepted industry standard is every 11 months so that over a period of time all atmospheric conditions are considered.

**Intruder alarms:** Remote sensor intruder alarms (connected to call centre/police etc.) preventive maintenance should be undertaken at least twice a year. Audible only intruder alarms preventive maintenance should be carried out annually.

**COSHH substances, equipment, and radiation:** Will be maintained and inspected as detailed in the COSHH section and other relevant sections.

## Work at height

Safety Information Guidance Note SIGN 16 sets out our arrangements for Working at Height.

Wherever possible, working at height will be avoided. Where it cannot be avoided, suitable equipment and procedures will be put in place to minimise risk.

Ladders and stepladders will only be used for jobs of short duration where there is no suitable alternative access. Staff using ladders and stepladders will receive suitable information and instruction in their safe use.

Ladders and stepladders will not be used by pupils.

The only ladders and stepladders approved for use will be those constructed and marked to EN131, or to BS 1129:1990 Class 1 or BS 2037:1994 Class1. Ladders and stepladders will be subject to routine six monthly checks by a competent person, and before and after use checks by users to ensure they remain in a safe condition.

### References and useful links:

Schools' portal:

[SIGN 16 - Working at Height](#)

[Working at Heights](#)

[County Council Safety Procedure 26 - Working at Height](#)

## Personal protective equipment (PPE)

PPE will be provided where risks cannot be fully controlled in other ways. Staff can request PPE through the Health and Safety Co-ordinator. [See separate LA risk assessments linked to Covid.](#)

Re-usable PPE will be subject to periodic inspection to confirm its continued suitability, and where appropriate, subject to routine maintenance.

Staff must use PPE as instructed and report any defects or other problems promptly to the Health



## Irthington Village School

and Safety Co-ordinator.

### References and useful links:

*HSE – Risk at Work - Personal protective equipment (PPE)*

## Smoke-free policy

Our school operates a complete smoke-free policy which applies at all times.

Smoking is NOT permitted in any part of the schools premises, including within buildings, within the entrance area to the school, or on land adjacent to the school building (car park, garden areas, walkway etc.) where this forms part of the school premises.

This also applies to any vehicle being used for school business.

The school's disciplinary procedure will apply for dealing with employees who breach the smoking ban at work.

These rules apply to employees, parents, visitors, members of the public, contractors and others working in or using the school's premises or vehicles. This will be clearly advertised and visitors to the school will be informed of it.

Pupils breaching smoke-free rules will be dealt with according to the school's behaviour policy.

## Appendix 1 - Persons with specific responsibilities

**This document supports the school's Health and Safety Policy and arrangements dated November 2021**

Although everyone has a responsibility for health and safety in school, the governing body and Headteacher have delegated certain tasks and roles to the following persons:

ROLE	NAME
Health and Safety Co-ordinator	Lynne Lawson
Health and safety governor(s)	Mike Ridley
Trade union/employee safety representative	N/A
Workplace first aider(s)	All staff
Paediatric first aider(s)	All staff
Site security issues, CCTV etc.	Lynne Lawson
Defects are to be reported to:	Lynne Lawson
Training and development co-ordinator (H&S), e.g. first aid, manual handling, Team Teach etc.	Lynne Lawson
Asbestos co-ordinator, responsible for visual inspection and the recording of termly condition monitoring	Lynne Lawson
Coordinator of risk and/or COSHH assessments	Lynne Lawson
Disclosure and Barring Scheme checks	Lynne Lawson
Educational Visits Co-ordinator	Fiona Sweetman
Fire safety co-ordinator, including organising practice evacuations, testing/checking the fire alarm, testing emergency lighting, checking fire extinguishers and fire doors, visual housekeeping and inspection, and maintaining the fire logbook	Lynne Lawson
Fire wardens	Lynn Harrison, Lynne Lawson, Fiona Sweetman, Mark Harrison
Holder of accident/incident records, pupil accident book and official site accident book	Lynne Lawson
Ladder register is maintained by:	Lynne Lawson
Organisation for equipment repairs, maintenance and routine servicing	Lynne Lawson
PE and fixed play equipment visual checking	Lynne Lawson / Sue Lupton
PE and fixed play inspection and maintenance	Lynne Lawson Sportsafe
Radiation Protection Supervisor	N/A

Heads of department/managers with specific responsibilities for health and safety management within their own areas are:

**Class teachers and support staff are responsible for monitoring and identifying risks within their own classrooms.**

### Location of supporting systems/documents

In order to effectively implement our health and safety arrangements, we refer to a variety of supporting internal and external documents and procedures. This section outlines where you can

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access key documents and information in school.

This advised list is not exhaustive so please add to it as required:

<b>Key documentation</b>	<b>Location</b>
Displayed H&S Policy Statement and arrangements	Entrance hall
General school risk assessments	Filed in school office
Emergency/fire/crisis management plans (copies also to be held off site)	School office Ryan Patterson Parent Governor - Holywell House, Irthington Phil Prince Chair of Governors - 2 Irthing Court, Irthington
Health and Safety Management Plan	School office
Asbestos Register and management plan	School office
Water hygiene risk assessment	School office
Defect reporting system/book	School office
Maintenance and servicing records (Buildings File)	School office
Pupils' accident book	School office
Official accident book	School office
A list of pupils with specific medical conditions/needs	School office

## REVIEW SHEET

The information in the table below provides details of the earlier versions of this document and brief details of reviews and, where appropriate amendments which have been made to later versions.

Version Number	Version Description	Date of Revision
1	Original provided by Cumbria County Council	November 2015
2	First adopted by school	January 2016
3	Re-written for Irthington Village School by Governors C and P committee	May 2018
4	Minor amendments made by staff meeting review regarding staff First Aiders and pupil absence.	November 2019
5	New sample policy from CCC adopted with amendments tailored to IVS	November 2021
6	Minor amendments made by governor meeting review regarding who holds copies of Emergency Fire Crisis and Management Plan off site	June 2022
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