

Ellwood Community Primary School

Believe, Achieve, Belong



Health and Safety Policy

Date reviewed: July 2026

Next renew date: July 2027

Statement of Intent

This policy statement is the local supplement to Gloucestershire County Council Corporate Health & Safety Policy Document.

The School's Governing Body and Head Teacher recognise and accept their responsibilities both under law and also under Gloucestershire County Council delegation for local management of schools. As responsible employers and/or persons in control of premises, the requirement to provide a safe and healthy working environment for all employees and others affected by its activities is acknowledged.

The school is committed to managing risks by ensuring that risk assessments are undertaken, control measures implemented and systems are continuously monitored and reviewed led by the school's Governing Body and Head teacher.

In particular, the Governing Body, Business Manager and Head teacher are responsible for:

- providing a safe and healthy working and learning environment and ensuring that the premises are maintained in a safe condition;
- maintaining safe access to and egress from the premises;
- preventing accidents and work related ill health;
- assessing and controlling risks from curriculum and non-curriculum work activities including offsite visits;
- complying with statutory requirements as a minimum;
- ensuring safe working methods and providing safe equipment;
- providing effective information, instruction and training;

- monitoring and reviewing systems to make sure they are effective;
- developing and maintaining a positive health and safety culture through communication and consultation with employees and their representatives on health and safety matters;
- setting targets and objectives to develop a culture of continuous improvement;
- ensuring a healthy working environment is maintained including adequate welfare facilities;
- ensuring adequate resources are made available for health and safety issues, so far as is reasonably practicable;
- ensuring safe use, handling and storage of substances at work.

In addition to the above commitment, the Governing Body, Business Manager and Head teacher also recognise their obligations to non-employees and provide trainees, members of the public, pupils, contractors, etc., or anyone who is or may be affected by the school's activities with the necessary information, instruction, training and supervision available to ensure the safety of those affected.

The Governing Body, Business Manager and Head teacher will ensure adequate resources, including finance to implement the Policy.

The Governing Body, Business Manager and Head teacher are committed to the arrangements stated in this Policy Document and all staff are required to comply. They are encouraged to support the leaders commitment to continuous improvement in the school's health and safety performance. For the Policy Document to be effectively implemented, the school requires the full cooperation of employees and others who use the premises.

This Policy Statement and the accompanying organisation and arrangements will be reviewed at least annually and revised as and when necessary.

This Policy Statement, together with the organisational structure and the following arrangements and procedures, has been approved by the school's Governing Body.

Organisation

Introduction

In order to achieve compliance with the Governing Body, Business Manager and Headteacher's Statement of Intent the school's normal management structure will have additional responsibilities assigned to them as detailed in this part of this H&S Policy Document.

The Duties of the Governing Body

The Governing body has overall responsibility for ensuring compliance with this H&S Policy Document. In consultation with the Headteacher the Governors will ensure that there are effective and enforceable arrangements for the provision of health and safety throughout the school, periodically assessing the effectiveness of this document ensuring that any necessary revisions are made to determine the policy and monitor its implementation.

The Duties of the Headteacher and Business Manager

The Headteacher and Business Manager has day-to-day responsibility for ensuring compliance with this H&S Policy Document. In consultation with the Governors the Headteacher/Business

Manager will ensure that there are effective and enforceable arrangements for the provision of health and safety throughout the school, periodically assessing the effectiveness of this document ensuring that any necessary revisions are made to determine the policy and monitor its implementation. The Headteacher and Business Manager will maintain the profile of health and safety within the school by the development of safe working practices and conditions and will ensure that health and safety standards are maintained at all times.

The Duties of Employees

All employees have individual legal responsibilities to take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and for others who may be affected by their acts or omissions, and must comply with the school's Health & Safety Policy Document and procedures at all times, co-operate with school management in complying with relevant health and safety law, use all work equipment and substances in accordance with instruction, training and information received, report to their immediate line manager any hazardous situations and defects in equipment found in their work places, report all incidents in line with current incident reporting procedure, act in accordance with any specific health and safety training received, inform their line manager of what they consider to be shortcomings in the school's health and safety arrangements and exercise good standards of housekeeping and cleanliness.

Pupils

Pupils, in accordance with their age and aptitude, are expected to exercise personal responsibility for the health and safety of themselves and others, observe standards of dress consistent with safety and/or hygiene, observe all the health and safety rules of the school and in particular the instructions of staff given in an emergency, use and not wilfully misuse, neglect or interfere with anything provided for their health and safety.

School Safety Representatives

The school does not currently have a Health and Safety Representatives, who may be appointed by a recognised Trade Union. However, the Governing Body, Business Manager and Headteacher would recognise the role of Safety Representatives and they would be allowed to investigate accidents and potential hazards, pursue employee complaints and carry out school inspections within directed time but, wherever practicable, outside teaching time. Safety Representatives are entitled to certain information, e.g. information relating to accidents, and to paid time away from the workplace to train for and carry out their health and safety functions. (However representatives are not part of the management structure and do not carry out duties on behalf of the Headteacher or Governing Body).

Temporary Staff

Temporary staff are provided with information and guidance which includes the Health & Safety Policy Document, fire and emergency procedures etc. and are suitably inducted to their role. Temporary staff are directly accountable to the Headteacher whilst on the school site.

Teaching Staff

Teaching Staff have a day to day responsibility for ensuring compliance with this Health & Safety Policy Document and ensuring all persons under their control are aware of the general health and

safety requirements of the school and the detailed requirements for activities relevant to them. Teachers are responsible for the immediate safety of the pupils in his/her classroom. Nominated teachers are responsible for their own classroom and associated equipment and as such it is their responsibility to ensure that it is maintained to a high standard with respect to health and safety issues.

Teaching Assistants

Teaching assistants have a day to day responsibility for ensuring compliance with this Health & Safety Policy Document and are immediately accountable to the teacher in charge whilst the class is in session.

The Duties of Off Site Visit Coordinators (OVC)

The Offsite Visit Coordinator (OVC), Mrs Milford and Mrs Woodhouse ensure that standards for off-site activities and educational visits are followed. The OVC works with trip leaders to ensure the aim of the educational visit is achievable and in line with those of the school. The school refers to the Off-Site Visits / evisits guidance on the SHE webpages and uses the visits portal.

The Duties of Premises Manager

The HT, Business Manager and Caretaker have a day to day responsibility for ensuring compliance with the school Health & Safety Policy Document and taking effective action and/or immediately referring to the Headteacher any health and safety issues brought to their attention, this includes the stopping of any practices or the use of any tools, equipment etc. which are considered unsafe.

Volunteer and Parent Helpers

Volunteer and parent helpers are provided with information and guidance which includes health and safety, fire and emergency procedures etc. Volunteer and parent helpers are directly accountable to the teacher in charge whilst on the school site.

General Arrangements

Arrangements

The following procedures and arrangements have been established within the school to minimise health and safety risks to an acceptable level.

Communication

The school recognises the importance of communication to such as staff, visitors, pupils, parents, volunteers, contractors etc. The School provides an email, text messaging service, dojo, newsletters and other letters home, as deemed appropriate by the Head Teacher. Parents can request hard copies of letters. Other important information is also displayed on the school website.

Consultation with Employees

The school recognises the importance of consulting with employees on health and safety matters. The Head Teacher and other leaders chair Staff meetings (teaching, TA and MDSU) and discussions on an as needed basis. Health and safety is frequently an agenda item for staff and governors meetings.

Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment

The school uses GCC risk assessment process and templates as standard risk assessments and those of relevant professional bodies such as CLEAPPS/AfPE etc.

Risk assessment is the responsibility of the schools staff team at a variety of levels. Those responsible for premises or curriculum areas ensure that risk assessments are undertaken and recorded for significant activities. Risk assessments are reviewed periodically or where there is a change in circumstances.

GCC risk assessments for these subjects are in place e.g PE/Science/DT.

School Trips/Offsite Visits

The school complies with DfE Guidance and the GCC standards on offsite visits and school journeys. A separate school trips procedure has been produced based on GCC guidance. Visits risk assessments are recorded on evisits , where possible and if not available, a paper copy. When visiting locations e.g residential trips, the providers risk assessments are also used.

Working at Height

The risks associated with working at height are identified through risk assessment. Frequent checks take place to ensure the safe working condition of access equipment. Procedures are in place to ensure any damaged access equipment is clearly labelled and removed as soon as practicable. Staff also have a responsibility to ensure their own health and safety and assist in the operation of any systems designed to provide for their safety. Staff are asked not to work at height and to discuss this if it is needed so additional precautions can be put in place.

Noise

The school is aware of its responsibility for assessing the risks of noise and where noise is identified as a significant risk the school ensures appropriate control measures are put in place.

Violence to Staff

The school are aware of their responsibility for assessing the risks of violence to staff and where violence is identified as a significant risk the school ensure appropriate control measures are put in place. Staff report any incident of aggression or violence (or near misses) directed to themselves through the reporting process. All reported incidents of violence are recorded on the SHE Assure system. The school has a vexatious policy.

Security Arrangements Including Dealing with Intruders

Risks to security of the premises and property are assessed through the risk assessment process and appropriate control measures implemented. School has secure doors and CCTV externally.

Personal Security/Lone Working

The school ensures that lone working is risk assessed and that appropriate control measures are put in place to mitigate those risks. Staff assist in the operation of any systems designed to provide for their safety. Staff are encouraged to notify others if they intent to be in school alone.

Hazardous Substances (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health CoSHH)

Where hazardous substances are used, these are kept centrally, risk assessments are undertaken and a hierarchy of control measures adopted which seeks to eliminate or substitute the substance concerned.

Where necessary this H&S Policy Document is supplemented by a local Departmental Policy (e.g. in D&T) relating to the specific activities of the Department or area.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Employees assess on the basis of risk assessment and CoSHH assessments where the need for PPE is identified as a control measure. Where it is assessed that PPE is required PPE is appropriately selected and provided. Staff are responsible for ensuring that they use PPE where it is provided.

School Transport

The school uses the SHE guidance on occupational driving as a basis to ensure safe transportation of pupils for activities such as offsite visits and sports fixtures. Risks associated with driving are evaluated within assessments for activities. Reputable coach companies are used.

Manual Handling (typical loads and handling pupils)

The school considers the risks of manual handling and these are communicated within general risk assessment.

Any activities that involve significant manual handling tasks are risk assessed and where appropriate training provided for staff. Headteachers (or add name of responsible person(s) here) are responsible for assessing the appropriate approach to handling tasks and may seek professional advice from SHE and Occupational Health as necessary.

Curriculum Safety (including extended schools activity/study support)

Specific subject leads ensure that risks related to curriculum areas are identified and controlled where necessary referring to material such as CLEAPSS, AfPE, DATA and SHE guidance etc. For any activity falling outside published a risk assessment is carried out. If there is hazardous chemicals - an inventory is kept of and tools/equipment/machinery are checked, maintained and stored correctly.

Work Experience Placements

The school takes into account the insurance, supervision and safeguarding pupils whilst commencing a work placement at the school.

Display Screen Equipment

The majority of staff within the school are not considered to be DSE users. The school refers to -Working with Display Screen Equipment guidance if needed. Headteachers/Business Manager ensures that DSE workplace assessments are conducted for users. DSE assessments are reviewed and where equipment changes or office layouts change, if needed.

PREMISES

Mechanical and Electrical (fixed and portable)

The school takes appropriate measures to make sure that all electrical equipment is safe and suitable for the purpose intended. All relevant persons are made aware of the associated hazards and of the requirements to adopt working procedures designed to keep the risks to their health, and to the health of any other person, as low as reasonably achievable.

Persons carrying out the testing and/or repair of electrical equipment, or carrying out experimental work on electrical equipment or its associated connections have the appropriate technical knowledge, training and information to enable them to work safely. Results of electrical safety tests (PAT testing and fixed wiring inspections) are recorded and held in school office.

Fixed Wiring Periodic Test and Inspection is carried out every five years.

Maintenance of Machinery and Equipment

The school inspects and maintains its equipment on a regular basis; however the frequency of these inspections is much dependant on the use and type of equipment.

Asbestos

The school asbestos survey is held in the school office. There is no known asbestos within the school. To minimise risk from asbestos containing materials on the school site, the school maintains a safe and healthy environment by:

- complying with all regulations and GCC practices concerning the control of asbestos;
- removing asbestos containing materials where the risk to building users is unacceptable;
- having a named officer who has responsibility for implementing the Asbestos Management Plan in compliance with The Management of Asbestos in County Council Occupied Premises Guidance;
- where necessary communicating to all staff and visitors where asbestos containing materials are located within the school site.

Service Contractors

Service contractors have regular access to site as specified by a contract. The service contract specifies what work is expected of them and what they can expect from the school. Contractors follow their own safe systems of work and their working methods take into account how they will impact upon staff, students and other visitors on site. The school provide details of its safe systems of work to the contractors where relevant and all contractors are consulted over emergency arrangements. A copy of this policy is provided to them.

Building Contractors

This involves work where part of the site is handed over to the contractor. Hazards associated with this activity are controlled by effective supervision of students and contractors whilst on the school site. Large projects are managed by the LA and risk assessed appropriately.

Small Scale Building Works

This includes day-to-day maintenance work and all work undertaken on site where a pre-work site meeting has not taken place.

Lettings (shared working – playgroups etc)

The school follows Asset Management & Property Services (AMPS) guidance and casual hiring agreement form. The school ensures that the hirer/tenant has public liability insurance in place in order to indemnify the school from all such hirers'/tenants' claims arising from negligence. The school lets part of the school to Ellwood Nursery. The nursery leader is Helen Cornock. All letting agreements are kept in the school office. Ellwood Nursery comply with all fire and emergency procedures laid out by the school. Risk assessments are held by the school. Specific risk assessments related to specific nursery related activities and functions are held by the nursery.

Slips/Trips/Falls

The school recognises the main cause of accidents is slips, trips and falls. It is the responsibility of the teacher to ensure that their classroom has clear traffic routes and that exit routes are kept clear. The responsible person ensures regular inspection of communal areas. All hazards, obstructions, spillages,

defects or maintenance requirements are reported to the Headteacher or via a recognised reporting process. All staff are expected to be vigilant and aware of possible hazards.

Cleaning

A cleaning schedule is in place which is monitored by the Headteacher/Business Manager/responsible person from the LA. All waste is disposed of according to appropriate health and safety guidelines. Deep cleaning is undertaken on a regular basis, where necessary. The school ensures general cleanliness, appropriate waste disposal, safe stacking and storage and the checking of general equipment such as ladders etc. All members of staff and students adopt good housekeeping practices to assist in the maintenance of a safe and healthy workplace.

Transport Arrangements (on-site)

The school has entry and exit points for vehicles. There is a path around the outside of the carpark for pedestrians and cyclists to avoid vehicular conflicts.

Reputable coach companies are used for trips/transport. Staff supervise children embarking and disembarking bused.

The school identifies risks associated with caretaking. The school caretaker is Mr Mainwaring (caretaker), the school grounds contractor is supplied by the LA (local Authority) who have their own risk assessments.

Gas and Electrical Appliances (no gas)

Any necessary work and testing of gas and electrical appliances are carried out by qualified contractors. Gas and electrical appliances are also checked visually on a regular basis and subject to appropriate formal inspection.

Glass and Glazing

A risk assessment has been carried out for all glazing on site to ensure it complies with current safety standards. All low level glazing (below 800mm), such as glazing in doors and high risk glazing such as glazing within PE departments is toughened, laminated glass and complies with ACoP/British Standard or has been fitted with safety film. Broken glazing is disposed of correctly. Damaged areas are made safe immediately and repairs carried out as soon as possible. Glazing is also assessed during a regular site inspection.

Water Supply/Legionella

An effective water hygiene management plan is in place to control the risks of legionellosis to pupils, staff and members of the public. Mr Mainwaring, is the responsible person and has a clear understanding of their duty, has undertaken training in water system management and has the competence and knowledge to ensure that all operational procedures are carried out in a timely and effective manner. Regular documented water checks are undertaken and a system is in place to ensure an annual check is carried out. A legionella risk assessment has been documented and the site log book is used. A process is also in place to deal with any actions should they arise. External legionella checks are carried out too.

Snow and Ice Gritting

Grit is provided and easily accessible. In the event of icy/snowy weather the school caretaker / staff will grit access points. There is an emergency plan in place should the school need to close due to adverse weather conditions. The school has a snow and ice policy in place

MEDICAL/FIRE AND EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

Infectious Diseases

The school follows the guidance produced by the Health Protection Agency, which is summarised on the poster, Guidance on infection Control in Schools and other Child Care Settings.

Dealing with Medical Conditions

The school accommodates pupils with medical needs wherever practicable. Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs in School policy sets out the legal framework for the health and safety of pupils and staff.

Responsibility for pupils' safety is clearly defined within individual care plans where necessary and each person involved with pupils with medical needs is aware of what is expected of them. Close cooperation between schools, parents, health professionals and other agencies help provide a suitably supportive environment for those pupils with special needs.

Drug Administration

The school accommodates pupils with medical needs wherever practicable and makes reference to DfE Guidance Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings. Parents have prime responsibility for their child's health and provide the school with information about their child's medical condition. Parents obtain details from their child's General Practitioner (GP) or paediatrician, if needed. The school nurse and specialist voluntary bodies provide additional background information for staff. Staff can administer medication if needed but a form needs to be completed by parents to give permission including the dosage and times (see medicine policy)

First Aid

The school follows the statutory requirements for first aid and provides suitably trained first aid staff (see first aid guidance).

Reporting of Accidents, Hazards, Near Misses

The school reports and investigates all serious accidents, incidents and near misses and adheres to the Accident Reporting and Investigation arrangements as advised by the LA. The aim is to identify and implement means to prevent a recurrence.

Fire Safety and Emergency Evacuation

A fire risk assessment has been carried out and a safety management plan is in place. The LA carry out fire safety audit (usually every three years). There is a clear fire evacuation plan. Clear signage of fire exits. The alarm and call points are tested regularly. Emergency lighting is tested regularly. Regular evacuation practices take place, including lockdowns. Checks are carried out on fire extinguishers annually.

Crisis and Emergency Management

A Crisis Management Team from the LA is in place to assist in the reduction of the consequences of major hazards and risks and to action a recovery plan in the event of a serious accident. The team acts as the decision-making influence for the management of an incident. Procedures and practices are in place for handling emergency situations and communicating these to all staff. All necessary equipment is available for rapid activation during an emergency which includes communications, emergency plans and procedures, a log to record all actions taken during the crisis, necessary office equipment and supplies and appropriate building plans. A test is carried out on a regular basis to ensure that it is feasible and realistic.

The emergency plan is reviewed on an annual basis and after any practice emergency exercise or real emergency. If deficiencies are found remedial action is taken.

Monitoring and Review

Monitoring

Arrangements are monitored and reviewed annually and revised as new topics arise that may affect the process of managing health and safety for staff, pupils, contractors and other visitors.

Inspections

Safety inspections are carried out of premises, grounds, furnishings and fittings. This is either by the LA, external professional's e.g health and safety, fire safety, electricity, legionella but also by staff and governors. All hazards and risks associated with the site are monitored and controlled.

Review

The school has mechanisms for undertaking active monitoring and review of health and safety which includes an arrangement of periodic planned health and safety checks of the school, supplemented by various ad hoc and unplanned checks and inspections.

Auditing

As a means of confirming that the necessary systems to comply with legislation are in place and are being followed the school ensures a complete health and safety audit by competent professionals e.g LA. The action points identified through the audit form part of the school development plan.

Training

Staff Health & Safety Training/Competence

The school is committed to ensure staff are competent to undertake the roles expected of them. The Headteacher/Care Taker/Business manager undertake training and identify the requirements of specific job roles in terms of health and safety, and ensure that appropriate training is delivered and training records held centrally. The training need is reviewed on an annual basis or on the introduction of new legislation.

Supply and Student Teachers

The school's expectations are made clear to any supply and student teacher through the provision of visitors/Staff Handbook. Teachers on supply and student teachers have access to these documents. The Headteacher/Business Manager is responsible for liaising with the supply/student teacher on general school organisation and routines. When supply and student teachers attend the school to cover for staff absence at short notice the Headteacher/Senior staff gives guidance on the work to be covered.

Volunteer and Parent Helpers

Volunteer and parent helpers are subject to the schools safeguarding arrangements. Volunteers receive an induction from the designated teacher for child protection (DSL/DDSL) and general health and safety. Visitors are expected to wear a visitor's badge at all times and follow the school procedures. The relevant teacher is the principal point of contact and volunteers are under his/her direction. Conversations and any documentation to which volunteer/parent helpers may have access are strictly confidential (see confidentiality policy) and are treated as such.

Health and Wellbeing

Pregnant Members of Staff

School will provide rest facilities for expectant and nursing mothers, if needed. Members of staff who are pregnant are required to inform the school in writing so that an appropriate risk assessment of their work routines can be carried out.

Health and Well Being Including Absence Management

The school refers to the Stress Risk Assessment Toolkit (Schools). The school endeavours to promote a culture of co-operation, trust and mutual respect and ensure good management practices are in place and staff have access to competent advice. Staff have regular meetings with the Head Teacher. OH referrals are available should there be a need. The HT and governors consider staff wellbeing regularly.

Smoking / vaping on Site

The School is a no smoking site.

Environmental Management

Environmental Compliance

The school seeks to fulfil its waste management objectives through: using only what is needed; seeking alternatives where possible; recycling as much as practicable; disposing of as little as necessary.

Disposal of Waste

All waste classified as 'hazardous' is collected by specialist firms and disposed of in the approved manner.

Catering and Food Hygiene

Catering and Food Hygiene

All catering contractors have in place a food hygiene management system and competent health and safety advice. All contractors are registered with the Local Authority (Gloucestershire).

Health and Safety Advice

Information

Health and safety advice is obtained from Safety, Health & Environment (SHE) 01452 425350

she@gloucestershire.gov.uk

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/she

Monitoring and Review

The Governing Body will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness.

Review: July 2026

By: Mrs Milford

Due to be Reviewed: July 2027

Signed: Mrs Milford