

HEREFORDSHIRE PUPIL REFERRAL SERVICE



HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY & PROCEDURES

Version: Jan 2025	Statutory
Responsible Management Committee (MC)	Finance
Date last approved by MC	Jan 2025
Responsible Person	School Business Manager
To Review Date	Jan 2027
Last Amended Date	Jan 2025

Aims

- Provide and maintain a safe and healthy environment throughout HPRS
- Establish and maintain safe working procedures amongst staff, pupils and all visitors to HPRS
- Have robust procedures in place in case of emergencies
- Ensure that the premises and equipment are maintained safely, and are regularly inspected

Legislation and statutory guidance

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education on health and safety in schools and the following legislation:

- The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, which sets out the general duties employers have towards employees and duties relating to lettings
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992, which require employers to make an assessment of the risks to the health and safety of their employees
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, which require employers to carry out risk assessments, make arrangements to implement necessary measures, and arrange for appropriate information and training
- The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002, which require employers to control substances that are hazardous to health
- The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 2013, which state that some accidents must be reported to the Health and Safety Executive and set out the timeframe for this and how long records of such accidents must be kept

- The Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations 1992, which require employers to carry out digital screen equipment assessments and states users' entitlement to an eyesight test
- The Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998, which require work on gas fittings to be carried out by someone on the Gas Safe Register
- The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, which requires employers to take general fire precautions to ensure the safety of their staff
- The Work at Height Regulations 2005, which requires employers to protect their staff from falls from height

The school follows national guidance published by Public Health England when responding to infection control issues.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Management Committee

The Management Committee has ultimate responsibility for health and safety matters at HPRS, but will delegate day-to-day responsibility to the Head of Service and School Business Manager.

The Management Committee has a duty to take reasonable steps to ensure that staff and pupils are not exposed to risks to their health and safety. This applies to activities on or off the school premises.

The Management Committee as the employer, also has a duty to:

- Assess the risks to staff and others affected by school activities in order to identify and introduce the health and safety measures necessary to manage those risks
- Inform employees about risks and the measures in place to manage them
- Ensure that adequate health and safety training is provided

The member of the Management Committee who oversees health and safety is

Head of Service & School Business Manager (SBM)

The Head of Service and SBM are responsible for health and safety day-to-day.

This involves:

- Implementing the health and safety policy
- Ensuring there are enough members of staff to safely supervise pupils
- Ensuring that the school building and premises are safe and regularly inspected
- Providing adequate training for school staff
- Reporting to the Management Committee on health and safety matters
- Ensuring appropriate evacuation procedures are in place and regular fire drills are held
- Ensuring that in their absence, health and safety responsibilities are delegated to another member of staff
- Ensuring all risk assessments are completed and reviewed
- Monitoring cleaning contracts, and ensuring cleaners are appropriately trained and have access to personal protective equipment, where necessary

Health and safety lead

The nominated health and safety lead for HPRS is the School Business Manager.

Staff

Members of staff have a duty to take care of pupils in the same way that a prudent parent would do so.

Staff will:

- Take reasonable care of their own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by what they do at work
- Co-operate with HPRS on health and safety matters
- Work in accordance with training and instructions
- Inform the appropriate person of any work situation representing a serious and immediate danger so that remedial action can be taken
- Model safe and hygienic practice for pupils
- Understand emergency evacuation procedures and feel confident in implementing them

Pupils and parents

Pupils and parents are responsible for following the school's health and safety advice, on-site and off-site, and for reporting any health and safety incidents to a member of staff.

Contractors

Contractors will agree health and safety practices with the Head of Service/SBM before starting work. Before work begins the contractor will provide evidence that they have completed an adequate risk assessment of all their planned work.

Site Security

The Site Manager is responsible for the security of the HPRS premises in and out of school hours. They are responsible for visual inspections of the sites, and for the intruder and fire alarm systems.

The Site Manager is the main key holder and will respond to an emergency.

The HPRS Site Manager is Mr Michael Steele.

HEALTH & SAFETY PROCEDURES

Fire

- Emergency exits, assembly points and assembly point instructions are clearly identified by safety signs and notices.
- Emergency evacuations are practised at least once a term.
- The fire alarm is a loud continuous bell
- Fire alarm testing will take place once a week.
- New staff will be trained in fire safety and all staff and pupils will be made aware of any new fire risks.
- The fire risk assessment of HPRS will be reviewed regularly.

In the event of a fire:

- The alarm will be raised immediately by whoever discovers the fire and emergency services contacted. Evacuation procedures will also begin immediately
- Fire extinguishers may be used by staff only, and only then if staff are trained in how to operate them and are confident they can use them without putting themselves or others at risk
- Staff and pupils will congregate at the assembly points. These are clearly marked in the carpark at St David's Centre, across the road at the front of The Aconbury Centre, and by the entrance gate at H3.
- The admin team will take a register of all staff and pupils supported by teachers.
- Staff and pupils will remain outside the building until the emergency services say it is safe to re-enter

The school will have special arrangements in place for the evacuation of people with mobility needs and fire risk assessments will also pay particular attention to those with disabilities.

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)

HPRS controls hazardous substances, including:

- Chemicals
- Products containing chemicals
- Fumes
- Dusts
- Vapours
- Mists
- Gases and asphyxiating gases
- Germs that cause diseases, such as leptospirosis or legionnaires disease

COSHH risk assessments are completed by the Site Manager and circulated to the School Business Manager to pass onto all employees who work with hazardous substances. Staff will also be provided with protective equipment, where necessary.

Our staff use and store hazardous products in accordance with instructions on the product label. All hazardous products are kept in their original containers, with clear

labelling and product information. Access to hazardous products for teaching is always supervised by a member of staff.
Any hazardous products are disposed of in accordance with specific disposal procedures.

Emergency procedures, including procedures for dealing with spillages, are displayed near where hazardous products are stored and in areas where they are routinely used.

Gas safety

- Installation, maintenance and repair of gas appliances and fittings will be carried out by a competent Gas Safe registered engineer
- Gas pipework, appliances and flues are regularly maintained
- All rooms with gas appliances are checked to ensure that they have adequate ventilation

Legionella

- A water risk assessment will be completed and regularly updated. The site manager is responsible for ensuring that the identified operational controls are conducted and recorded in the school's water log book
- This risk assessment will be reviewed every year and when significant changes have occurred to the water system and/or building footprint

Asbestos

- Staff are briefed on the hazards of asbestos, the location of any asbestos in the school and the action to take if they suspect they have disturbed it
- Arrangements are in place to ensure that contractors are made aware of any asbestos on the premises and that it is not disturbed by their work
- Contractors will be advised that if they discover material which they suspect could be asbestos, they will stop work immediately until the area is declared safe
- A record is kept of the location of asbestos that has been found on HPRS premises. These asbestos registers are located at each site.

Equipment

- All equipment and machinery is maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. In addition, maintenance schedules outline when extra checks should take place
- When new equipment is purchased, it is checked to ensure that it meets appropriate educational standards
- All equipment is stored in the appropriate storage containers and areas. All containers are labelled with the correct hazard sign and contents

Electrical equipment

- All staff are responsible for ensuring that they use and handle electrical equipment sensibly and safely

- Any pupil or volunteer who handles electrical appliances does so under the supervision of the member of staff who so directs them
- Any potential hazards will be reported to Site Manager immediately
- Permanently installed electrical equipment is connected through a dedicated isolator switch and adequately earthed
- Only trained staff members can check plugs
- Where necessary a portable appliance test (PAT) will be carried out by a competent person
- All isolators switches are clearly marked to identify their machine
- Electrical apparatus and connections will not be touched by wet hands and will only be used in dry conditions
- Maintenance, repair, installation and disconnection work associated with permanently installed or portable electrical equipment is only carried out by a competent person

PE equipment

- Pupils are taught how to carry out and set up PE equipment safely and efficiently. Staff check that equipment is set up safely
- Any concerns about the condition of the gym floor or other apparatus will be reported to the [The site manager

Display screen equipment (DSE)

- All staff who use computers daily as a significant part of their normal work have a display screen equipment (DSE) assessment carried out. 'Significant' is taken to be continuous/near continuous spells of an hour or more at a time
- Staff identified as DSE users are entitled to an eyesight test for DSE use upon request, and at regular intervals thereafter, by a qualified optician (and corrective glasses provided if required specifically for DSE use)

Lone working

Lone working may include:

- Late working
- Home or site visits
- Weekend working
- Site manager duties
- Site cleaning duties
- Working in a single occupancy office

Potentially dangerous activities, such as those where there is a risk of falling from height, will not be undertaken when working alone. If there are any doubts about the task to be performed then the task will be postponed until other staff members are available.

If lone working is to be undertaken, a colleague, friend or family member will be informed about where the member of staff is and when they are likely to return.

The lone worker will ensure that they are medically fit to work alone.

Working at height

We will ensure that work is properly planned, supervised and carried out by competent people with the skills, knowledge and experience to do the work.

In addition:

- The Site Manager retains ladders for working at height
- Pupils are prohibited from using ladders
- Staff will wear appropriate footwear and clothing when using ladders
- Contractors are expected to provide their own ladders for working at height
- Before using a ladder, staff are expected to conduct a visual inspection to ensure its safety
- Access to high levels, such as roofs, is only permitted by trained persons

Manual handling

It is up to individuals to determine whether they are fit to lift or move equipment and furniture. If an individual feels that to lift an item could result in injury or exacerbate an existing condition, they will ask for assistance.

The school will ensure that proper mechanical aids and lifting equipment are available in school, and that staff are trained in how to use them safely.

Staff and pupils are expected to use the following basic manual handling procedure:

- Plan the lift and assess the load. If it is awkward or heavy, use a mechanical aid, such as a trolley, or ask another person to help
- Take the more direct route that is clear from obstruction and is as flat as possible
- Ensure the area where you plan to offload the load is clear
- When lifting, bend your knees and keep your back straight, feet apart and angled out. Ensure the load is held close to the body and firmly. Lift smoothly and slowly and avoid twisting, stretching and reaching where practicable

Off-site visits

- When taking pupils off the school premises, we will ensure that:
- Risk assessments will be completed where off-site visits and activities require them
- All off-site visits are appropriately staffed
- Staff will take a school mobile phone, a portable first aid kit, information about specific medical needs of pupils, along with the parents' contact details
- There will always be at least one first aider on school trips and visits

Lettings

This policy applies to lettings. Those who hire any aspect of the school site or any facilities will be made aware of the content of the school's health and safety policy, and will have responsibility for complying with it.

Violence at work

We believe that staff should not be in any danger at work, and will not tolerate violent or threatening behaviour towards our staff.

All staff will report any incidents of aggression or violence (or near misses) directed to themselves to their line manager or the Head of Service immediately. This applies to violence from pupils, visitors or other staff.

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted anywhere on HPRS premises. This is made explicitly clear to staff, visitors and pupils.

Infection prevention and control

We follow national guidance published by Public Health England when responding to infection control issues. We will encourage staff and pupils to follow this good hygiene practice, outlined below, where applicable.

Handwashing

- Wash hands with liquid soap and warm water, and dry with paper towels
- Always wash hands after using the toilet, before eating or handling food, and after handling animals
- Cover all cuts and abrasions with waterproof dressings

Coughing and sneezing

- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue
- Wash hands after using or disposing of tissues
- Spitting is discouraged

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- Wear disposable non-powdered vinyl or latex-free CE-marked gloves and disposable plastic aprons where there is a risk of splashing or contamination with blood/body fluids (for example, nappy or pad changing)
- Wear goggles if there is a risk of splashing to the face
- Use the correct personal protective equipment when handling cleaning chemicals

Cleaning of the environment

- Clean the environment frequently and thoroughly
- Clean the environment, including toys and equipment, frequently and thoroughly

Cleaning of blood and body fluid spillages

- Clean up all spillages of blood, faeces, saliva, vomit, nasal and eye discharges immediately and wear personal protective equipment
- When spillages occur, clean using a product that combines both a detergent and a disinfectant and use as per manufacturer's instructions. Ensure it is effective against bacteria and viruses and suitable for use on the affected surface
- Never use mops for cleaning up blood and body fluid spillages – use disposable paper towels and discard clinical waste as described below

Laundry

- Wash laundry in a separate dedicated facility
- Wash soiled linen separately and at the hottest wash the fabric will tolerate
- Wear personal protective clothing when handling soiled linen
- Bag children's soiled clothing to be sent home, never rinse by hand

Clinical waste

- Always segregate domestic and clinical waste, in accordance with local policy
- Used nappies/pads, gloves, aprons and soiled dressings are stored in correct clinical waste bags in foot-operated bins
- Remove clinical waste with a registered waste contractor
- Remove all clinical waste bags when they are two-thirds full and store in a dedicated, secure area while awaiting collection

Animals

- Wash hands before and after handling any animals
- Keep animals' living quarters clean and away from food areas
- Dispose of animal waste regularly, and keep litter boxes away from pupils
- Supervise pupils when playing with animals
- Seek veterinary advice on animal welfare and animal health issues, and the suitability of the animal as a pet

Pupils vulnerable to infection

Some medical conditions make pupils vulnerable to infections that would rarely be serious in most children. The school will normally have been made aware of such vulnerable children. These children are particularly vulnerable to chickenpox, measles or slapped cheek disease (parvovirus B19) and, if exposed to either of these, the parent/carer will be informed promptly and further medical advice sought. We will advise these children to have additional immunisations, for example for pneumococcal and influenza.

Exclusion periods for infectious diseases

- The school will follow recommended exclusion periods outlined by Public Health England, summarised in the appendix.
- In the event of an epidemic/pandemic, we will follow advice from Public Health England about the appropriate course of action.

New and expectant mothers

- Risk assessments will be carried out whenever any employee or pupil notifies the school that they are pregnant.
- Appropriate measures will be put in place to control risks identified. Some specific risks to consider:
- Chickenpox can affect the pregnancy if a woman has not already had the infection. Expectant mothers should report exposure to antenatal carer and GP at any stage of exposure. Shingles is caused by the same virus as chickenpox, so anyone who has not had chickenpox is potentially vulnerable to the infection if they have close contact with a case of shingles

- If a pregnant woman comes into contact with measles or German measles (rubella), she should inform her antenatal carer and GP immediately to ensure investigation
- Slapped cheek disease (parvovirus B19) can occasionally affect an unborn child. If exposed early in pregnancy (before 20 weeks), the pregnant woman should inform her antenatal care and GP as this must be investigated promptly

Occupational stress

We are committed to promoting high levels of health and wellbeing and recognise the importance of identifying and reducing workplace stressors through risk assessment.

Systems are in place within the school for responding to individual concerns and monitoring staff workloads.

Accident reporting

Accident record book

- An accident form will be completed as soon as possible after the accident occurs by the member of staff or first aider who deals with it.
- As much detail as possible will be supplied when reporting an accident
- Records held in the first aid and accident book will be retained by the school for a minimum of 3 years, in accordance with regulation 25 of the Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1979, and then securely disposed of.

Reporting to the Health and Safety Executive

The School Business Manager will keep a record of any accident which results in a reportable injury, disease, or dangerous occurrence as defined in the RIDDOR 2013 legislation (regulations 4, 5, 6 and 7).

The School Business Manager will report these to the Health and Safety Executive as soon as is reasonably practicable and in any event within 10 days of the incident. Reportable injuries, diseases or dangerous occurrences include:

- Death
- Specified injuries. These are:
 - Fractures, other than to fingers, thumbs and toes
 - Amputations
 - Any injury likely to lead to permanent loss of sight or reduction in sight
 - Any crush injury to the head or torso causing damage to the brain or internal organs
 - Serious burns (including scalding)
 - Any scalping requiring hospital treatment
 - Any loss of consciousness caused by head injury or asphyxia
 - Any other injury arising from working in an enclosed space which leads to hypothermia or heat-induced illness, or requires resuscitation or admittance to hospital for more than 24 hours

- Injuries where an employee is away from work or unable to perform their normal work duties for more than 7 consecutive days
- Where an accident leads to someone being taken to hospital
- Where something happens that does not result in an injury, but could have done
- Near-miss events that do not result in an injury, but could have done.
Examples of near-miss events relevant to schools include, but are not limited to:
 - The collapse or failure of load-bearing parts of lifts and lifting equipment
 - The accidental release of a biological agent likely to cause severe human illness
 - The accidental release or escape of any substance that may cause a serious injury or damage to health
 - An electrical short circuit or overload causing a fire or explosion

Information on how to make a RIDDOR report is available here: How to make a RIDDOR report, HSE <http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/report.htm>

Training

Our staff are provided with health and safety training as part of their induction process.

Staff who work in high-risk environments, such as in science labs or with woodwork equipment, or work with pupils with special educational needs (SEN), are given additional health and safety training.

APPENDIX:

Recommended absence periods for preventing the spread of infection

This list of recommended absence periods for preventing the spread of infection is taken from non-statutory guidance for schools and other childcare settings from Public Health England. For each of these infections or complaints, there is further information in the guidance on the symptoms, how it spreads and some 'do's and don'ts' to follow that you can check.

Infection or complaint	Recommended period to be kept away from school or nursery
Athlete's foot	None. Individuals should not be barefoot in their setting, or share towels, socks or shoes.
Campylobacter	Until 48 hours after symptoms have stopped.
Chicken pox (shingles)	Cases of chickenpox are generally infectious from 2 days before the rash appears to 5 days after the onset of rash. Although the usual exclusion period is 5 days, all lesions should be crusted over before children return to school. A person with shingles is infectious to those who have not had chickenpox and should be excluded from school if the rash is weeping and cannot be covered or until the rash is dry and crusted over. Pregnant staff should contact their GP or midwife.
Cold sores (herpes simplex)	None. Avoid contact with the sores.
Conjunctivitis	None. If an outbreak or cluster occurs, contact your local UKHSA health protection team .
Respiratory infections including coronavirus (COVID-19)	Individuals should not attend if they have a high temperature and are unwell. Individuals who have a positive test result for COVID-19 should not attend the setting for 3 days after the day of the test. Individuals with mild symptoms such as runny nose, and headache who are otherwise well can continue to attend their setting.
Diarrhoea and vomiting	Individuals can return 48 hours after diarrhoea and vomiting have stopped. If a particular cause of the diarrhoea and vomiting is identified, there may be additional exclusion advice, for example E. coli STEC and hep A.
Diphtheria*	Exclusion is essential. Preventable by vaccination.
Flu (influenza) or influenza like illness	Until recovered
German measles (Rubella*)	5 days from appearance of the rash. Preventable by vaccination.
Glandular fever	None

Hand, foot and mouth	Children are safe to return to school as soon as they are feeling better, there is no need to stay off until the blisters have all healed.
Head lice	None
Hepatitis A	Exclude until 7 days after onset of jaundice (or 7 days after symptom onset if no jaundice).
Hepatitis B, C, HIV	None. These are blood borne viruses and not infectious through casual contact.
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment.
Measles	Cases are infectious from 4 days before onset of rash to 4 days after, so it is important to ensure cases are excluded from school during this period. Children may then return if they are well enough.
Meningococcal meningitis* or septicaemia*	Until recovered
Meningitis* due to other bacteria	Until recovered
Meningitis viral	None. Milder illness than bacterial meningitis. Siblings need not be excluded.
Mpox	Until confirmed safe to return by their clinician or in line with any current guidance . Contact your UKHSA health protection team for further advice on management and support for anyone considered a close contact of the confirmed case.
MRSA	None. Good hygiene, in particular handwashing and environmental cleaning, are important to minimise spread.
Mumps*	5 days after onset of swelling. Preventable by vaccination.
Ringworm	Exclusion not needed once treatment has started.
Scabies	The infected child or staff member should be excluded until after the first treatment has been carried out.
Scarlet fever*	Children can return to school 24 hours after commencing appropriate antibiotic treatment. Individuals who decline treatment with antibiotics should be excluded until resolution of symptoms. In the event of 2 or more suspected cases, please contact your local UKHSA health protection team .
Slapped cheek, Parvovirus B19, Fifth's disease	None (not infectious by the time the rash has developed).
Threadworms	None
Tonsillitis	None. Virus, will not respond to antibiotic treatment.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fever	Seek advice from environmental health officers or the local health protection team.

Tuberculosis* (TB)	Pupils and staff with infectious pulmonary TB can return to school after 2 weeks of treatment if well enough to do so and if they have responded to anti-TB therapy. Pupils and staff with non-pulmonary TB do not require exclusion and can return to school as soon as they are well enough.
Warts and verrucae	None. Should be covered in gyms, changing rooms and swimming pools.
Whooping cough* (pertussis)	A child or staff member should not return to school until they have had 48 hours of appropriate treatment with antibiotics, and they feel well enough to do so or 14 days from onset of coughing if no antibiotic treatment.

*denotes a notifiable disease. Registered medical practitioners in England and Wales have a statutory duty to notify their local authority or UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) health protection team (HPT) of suspected cases of certain infectious diseases.