



Full Governing Body Paper – Health and Safety	
From: Ms. D. Buchanan	Date: 10 th July 2024
Date of meeting: Monday 22 nd July	Agenda Item No.
Aim of paper: For the Governing body to review the Health and Safety Update	
Action required: For the Governing body to receive and note the report.	
Strategic Objective: (Business Admin). To provide a supportive, inclusive, challenging environment with enriching experiences that enable pupils to fulfil their potential	

Background

The governing body has a duty to ensure compliance with all relevant statutory health and safety requirements and to help support the Competent Person the Caretaker.

Sensible health and safety management means making sure that the focus is on real risks with the potential to cause harm, not wasting resources on trivial matters and unnecessary paperwork. The Governing Body follow a sensible and proportionate approach to health and safety management that promotes risk awareness rather than risk avoidance.

An over cautious approach would result in pupils missing out on challenging and exciting activities and learning opportunities, and the chance to develop new skills.

Update

1. Understanding Regulatory Requirements:

The Governing Body demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of all applicable health and safety regulations relevant to the education sector and Beam County Primary School. This includes laws such as the Health and Safety at Work Act and other relevant local regulations.

2. Implementation of Policies and Procedures:

The Governing Body are actively involved in developing, implementing, and maintaining health and safety policies and procedures. This involves creating protocols for hazard identification, risk assessment, and emergency response.

3. Conducting Regular Inspections and Audits:

Regular site inspections and audits are conducted to identify potential hazards and ensure compliance with established health and safety protocols. This proactive approach helps in addressing issues promptly and maintaining a safe working environment.

4. Providing Training and Awareness Programs:

The Governing Body organizes training sessions and awareness programs for employees to educate them about health and safety practices. This includes proper handling of equipment, emergency procedures, and personal protective equipment (PPE) usage.

Support Provided to the Caretaker:

1. Collaborative Approach:

The Governing Body works closely with the Caretaker to align health and safety initiatives with the overall operational goals of the school. This collaborative approach ensures that health and safety considerations are integrated into all aspects of site operations.

2. Data Analysis and Reporting:

The Caretaker will be provided with regular reports on health and safety performance, including incident trends, near-misses, and compliance status. This data-driven approach helps in identifying areas for improvement and making informed decisions.

3. Emergency Response Planning:

Collaborating with the Caretaker, the Governing Body contributes to the development of comprehensive emergency response plans. This includes conducting drills, establishing communication protocols, and ensuring all personnel are trained and prepared for emergencies.

4. Continuous Improvement:

The Governing Body participates in continuous improvement initiatives related to health and safety by suggesting and implementing best practices. This proactive approach helps in enhancing safety standards and reducing the likelihood of incidents.

Conclusion:

Effectively managing compliance with statutory health and safety requirements and supporting the Caretaker in this endeavour is crucial for maintaining a safe work environment. The Governing Body's dedication to ensuring compliance, providing support, and actively contributing to health and safety initiatives plays a significant role in creating a culture of safety within the organization.

The Highs

A 'classroom checklist' (see Appendix A) has been used to complement the steps taken across the school to manage risks such as fire, legionella, asbestos, manual handling, violence etc.

This checklist doesn't cover drama and sports facilities or specialist classrooms, including laboratories, art, IT, design and technology facilities. In these specific environments, where more specialist equipment and/or substances are in use, risk assessment and management appropriate to the activities have been put in place.

Next Steps

Every member of the management team will ensure that risk is managed responsibly and proportionately. It is about creating a safe learning environment, giving pupils an appreciation of risk and how to deal with it. It means doing what is reasonably practicable to reduce significant risks by putting in place control measures to manage the real risks.