

Health and Safety Policy

Prepared with reference to the DfE publication "Health and safety: advice on legal duties and powers for local authorities, school leaders, school Staff and governing bodies" April 2022.

Also with HSE publication Incident reporting in schools (accidents, disease and dangerous occurrences).

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The management team of The Iona School are committed to the principles contained in the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. We recognise the company's responsibilities for ensuring the health, safety and welfare of employees whilst at work, and our duty of care towards others who may be affected by our undertakings.

We will do all that is necessary to prevent personal injury, ill health, damage to property and equipment and to protect everyone from foreseeable work hazards.

This policy also extends to non-employees of The Iona School in so far as they may be affected by the undertakings of the company and its products.

In particular we will, so far as is reasonably practicable, provide and maintain:

- Plant, equipment and systems of work that are safe and without risk to health, safety and welfare.
- Safe arrangements for the use, handling, storage and transportation of articles and substances.
- Sufficient information, instruction, training and supervision to enable employees to avoid hazards at work, and to contribute positively to the health, safety and welfare of themselves and others.
- A safe place of work and safe means of access and egress.
- A safe and healthy working environment.
- Adequate welfare facilities.

We also feel it is important that;

- Children should be able to experience a wide range of activities. Health and safety measures should help them to do this safely, not stop them.
- Children learn to understand and manage the risks that are a normal part of life.
- Common sense should be used in assessing and managing the risks of any activity.
- Health and safety procedures should always be proportionate to the risks of an activity.
- Staff should be given the training they need so they can keep themselves and children safe and manage risks effectively
- Employees have a responsibility to look after their own health and safety.

This policy will be revised: when there are major changes in the size and nature of the business, when necessary to take into account new legislation, and following any significant health and safety-related incident or near-miss.

To ensure that the policy remains up-to-date, it will be formally reviewed at least once per year.

Safety Organisation Responsibilities

The following defines the responsibilities and authority at each level of management, and of all employees, to ensure that the objectives of the General Policy Statement are achieved.

NB In companies where a sole director has responsibility, all of the directors responsibilities listed below will apply to the sole director.

The School Trustees – Louise Lipman, Hannah Malhotra, Terri Gilbertson

Who have overall responsibility for the health and safety performance of the company, will:

1. Oversee the effective application of the Health and Safety Policy.
2. Ensure that adequate funds and facilities are available to meet the requirements of the Health and Safety Policy.
3. Ensure that any significant accident or incident is formally reported, recorded and investigated.
4. Review health, safety and welfare standards and practices within the company on a regular basis.
5. Ensure that the company disciplinary procedure is adequate to deal with those who breach the company Health and Safety Policy.

The Business Manager – Nick Delaforce-Sanders

Who is accountable to the trustees for implementing and monitoring the schools Health and Safety Policy, will:

1. Read, understand and implement the Health and Safety Policy.
2. Be responsible for ensuring that, where appropriate, rules and safe working practices are developed, formalised and implemented.
3. Bring the Health and Safety Policy to the notice of all members of staff.
4. Ensure that all safe working rules and practices are brought to the notice of staff and are complied with at all times.
5. Provide sufficient safe plans and safe systems of work covering all activities carried out by members of staff.
6. Provide adequate arrangements for the safe use, handling, storage and transportation of articles and substances by employees.
7. Investigate accidents, near-misses and dangerous occurrences and evaluate practical means of preventing a reoccurrence.
8. Ensure all reportable accidents and incidents - RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995) are reported to the enforcing authorities.
9. Report to the Trustees on the effectiveness of the Health and Safety Policy termly.
10. Maintain liaison with official organisations and professional bodies.
11. Maintain a health and safety information library.
12. Keep records relating to the health and safety performance of the company.
13. Comply with all Covid-19 prevention measures.

The Kindergarten and School Managers – Emma Stacey, Rob Strafford, Nick Delaforce-Sanders

Have responsibility for:

1. Providing staff with the necessary information, instruction, training and supervision.
2. Ensuring that all employees have a safe place to work, with safe means of access and egress.
3. Maintaining a safe working environment and adequate welfare facilities.
4. Acting immediately upon any observed or reported breach of the safety rules.
5. Encouraging staff to identify and report any hazards or risks that may require attention.
6. Arranging for any health and safety training that is needed, and reviewing the health and safety training needs at regular intervals.
7. Reporting any accidents, near-misses or dangerous occurrence to the Commercial Director.
8. Seeking the advice of external specialists as and when required.
9. Taking steps to promote health and safety awareness amongst employees.
10. Ensuring that all who purchase products or contract services request relevant health and safety information (COSHH etc.) from the supplier. Therefore, establishing that all such products and services comply with current health and safety legislation.

11. Provide PPE for Covid protection.

All Employees

Have responsibility to comply with the company Health and Safety Policy, and as a condition of employment must:

1. Take reasonable care for the safety of themselves and other persons.
2. Understand, obey and use the safety rules and practices relating to their work.
3. Maintain all tools and equipment, and keep them in a clean, tidy and safe working condition.
4. Draw to the attention of the relevant manager any significant safety risks.
5. Report all accidents, even if no-one was injured (near miss), and report any first-aid equipment used from the first-aid box.
6. Wear the safety footwear and other protective clothing provided.
7. Report to management any defects in tools or equipment.
8. Avoid improvisation, short cuts and deviation from approved work methods as this entails unnecessary risks.
9. Bring forward any constructive suggestions about ways of eliminating hazards, and improving the standards of health and safety.
10. Ensure that all necessary inoculations have been before working with risk
12. Take all necessary steps to enable the company Health and Safety Policy to be implemented in an effective way.

Arrangements Risk Assessment

What does assessing and managing risks mean?

Health and safety law requires the employer to assess the risks to the health and safety of staff and others affected by their activities.

The terms risk assessment and risk management are used to describe the process of thinking about the risks of any activity and the steps taken to counter them.

Sensible management of risk does not mean that a separate written risk assessment is required for every activity. We always take a common sense and proportionate approach, remembering that in schools risk assessment and risk management are tools to enable children to undertake activities safely, and not prevent activities from taking place. Sensible risk management cannot remove risk altogether but it should avoid needless or unhelpful paperwork. Some activities, especially those happening away from school, can involve higher levels of risk.

If these are annual or infrequent activities, a review of an existing assessment may be all that is needed.

If it is a new activity, a specific assessment of significant risks must be carried out, this also relates to entering into an area that has the possibility of change since the last one.

For instance, the Land, a quick risk assessment prior to letting the children onto the land to ensure that no faeces contaminates the area or that no braches are overhanging can save unnecessary injury

All staff receive regular training for the assessment task understands the risks and is familiar with the activity that is planned.

Where a risk assessment is carried out the employer must record the significant findings of the assessment on the risk assessment form.

Blank copies are stored on the teacher's computer and should be given to the school manager to review and file

Classrooms and outdoor areas are risk assessed weekly, there is an entire weekly assessment for the school Kindergarten risk assess outdoor & indoor environments daily.

If children are taken on an overseas trip then up to date information can be found at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/services/education/faqs.htm#school-trips>

In case of an accident to staff member or pupil

Accidents at work

- This policy outlines the procedures which are to be adopted when any employee, visitor or contractor suffers an accident during the course of their employment or whilst on site. The same principles apply when an employee, visitor or contractor has experienced a near-miss or dangerous occurrence.
For the purposes of this policy, brief definitions and examples of an accident and a near-miss are given below:
 - **Accidents**
Are unplanned events which cause injury to persons, damage to property or a combination of both. Examples include: cuts, bruises, fractures, falls, effects of exposure to substances, damage to property.
 - **Near-misses**
Are unplanned events which did not cause injury or damage, but could have done so. Examples include: items falling near-by to personnel, short-circuits on electrical equipment, tripping over objects.
1. Carry out emergency first aid or ring for an ambulance, ensure the area, pupil or staff member are safe.
 2. Read this policy in line with our first aid policy to ensure procedure is followed
 3. If there is a safeguarding concern go to the nearest DSL/DSP this can be run in addition with the accident reporting.
 4. Collate statements from any witnesses on an all incident report form, these must be given to Nick Delaforce-Sanders within 24 hours.
 5. If the pupil has suffered a reportable injury as per our first aid policy, this must be reported to Ofsted and RIDDOR within 10 days. Form F2508 for major incidents will need completing within 48 hours.
 6. Report the injury to our insurance company
 7. Fill out an accident investigation form
 8. Check the area where the accident happened, was there any way this accident could have been avoided? Was it foreseeable? Has it been included in the weekly risk assessment?
 9. Photograph the area, consider any further action that could have been put in place to stop this happening
 10. If the accident was to a child, was proper supervision put in place to avoid this?
 11. Have any steps been taken in past to avoid this accident? If they were successful, what went wrong?
 12. What could be done to stop this happening again?
 13. All accidents must be recorded in the accident book.
 14. Entries in the accident book will be regularly reviewed to ascertain the nature of incidents which have occurred in the workplace. This review will be in addition to an individual investigation of the circumstances surrounding each incident.
 15. All near-misses must be notified to management as soon as possible so that action can be taken to investigate the causes and to prevent recurrence.
 16. The accident book must be retained for at least three years from the last date of entry.

Details to be recorded, in the accident book.

- a) The date and time of the incident.
- b) The full name and address of person(s) affected.
- c) The person completing the entry if different from the above.
- d) Occupation of person(s) affected.
- e) The nature of injury or condition.
- f) Place where the accident or near-miss occurred.
- g) A brief but clear description of the circumstances.
- h) Treatment given.

Reporting Procedure – Staff

- a) In addition to an entry in the accident book, any accident or dangerous occurrence must be reported to a responsible person. Injuries which occur whilst carrying out work duties off-site must be reported in the same way, and the occupier of the site should be advised accordingly.
- b) If an injury renders an employee unable to make an entry in the accident book, this should be completed by a witness, or someone who is able to enter an account of the incident. The employee's account must be entered as soon as possible after the event. Employees must ensure that they are aware of the location of the accident book.
- c) Where an accident results in absence from work, employees must notify either Nick Delaforce-Sanders or in his absence, Rob Strafford at the earliest opportunity.
- d) Employees who are absent as a result of an accident at work must keep the company informed of their progress, up to and including a return to normal duties.

Accident Reporting Procedure - Visitors/Contractors

- a) Any non-employee who experiences an accident or near-miss incident whilst on the premises must report the incident immediately to the person responsible for their presence on site.
- b) If the person responsible is not available, the visitor/contractor must obtain the assistance of a responsible person to ensure that company procedure is adhered to.
- c) All injuries must be reported, however minor. If the visitor/contractor is unable to enter their own account into the book, they must arrange for another person to make an entry on their behalf. The visitor/contractor should also notify their own employer where applicable.

Actions in the event of an accident

- a) Obtain treatment for the injury from a first-aider or other appointed person.
- b) Clear away any debris following the incident where this is necessary to safeguard other personnel in the vicinity (except where the accident resulted in a major injury, in which case the scene should be left undisturbed until advised otherwise by the enforcing authority).
- c) Enter details in the accident book and ensure treatment is recorded and signed for by the parent or person receiving treatment if over 18
- d) Inform your manager (or a responsible person) of the incident so that an investigation can be carried out.
- e) Keep the school informed about any after-effects of the incident, including periods of total or partial incapacity to attend work/school.

CATERING AND VENDING

1. It is the policy of The Iona School to ensure that employees have reasonable access to enable them to prepare hot food and drinks during working hours.
2. The place for taking meals should be away from the normal place of work except in exceptional circumstances.
3. Any persons entering into a commercial arrangement to bring prepared foods such as sandwiches or buffets into the premises must ensure that the food provider has a valid licence from the local authority.
4. Self-Catering Facilities
 - a) Self-catering facilities (e.g. kettle, microwave oven, and refrigerator) are provided at some locations for the use of employees.
 - b) Employees must give due care and consideration for the safe use of catering equipment, and may only use this for the intended purpose and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
 - c) The school may impose certain restrictions on the hours that catering facilities may be used.
 - d) Staff may not bring their own kettles or catering equipment to work without the express consent of a responsible person.

5. Smoking limitations and high standards of hygiene must be observed in all areas where catering facilities are provided.
6. Suitable fire extinguishers will be installed in any area where cooking facilities are provided.
7. Defects in facilities and equipment must be reported to a responsible person immediately.
8. Microwave ovens should be checked periodically to ensure that there is no radiation leakage at seals.
9. Any case of illness that may be attributable to food hygiene problems at work must be notified without delay to a responsible person.

Safety in the use of catering equipment:

- a) Check all equipment before use to ensure that there are no visible defects. Do not use anything where a defect has been found or is suspected.
- b) Read and comply with all safety instructions relating to the equipment used.
- c) Do not touch plugs or other electrical equipment whilst hands are wet, or when the equipment is in contact with a wet surface.
- d) Clean up any spillages from floors and work surfaces immediately.
- e) Do not use a microwave oven without fully reading and understanding the operating instructions.
- f) Do not overfill any kettle or other receptacle.
- g) Throw away unwanted foods and food that has exceeded the shelf life. Do not leave this in cupboards or in the refrigerator.
- h) Comply with instructions regarding smoking and hygiene standards where these apply to food preparation areas.
- i) Ensure that you leave an area in a clean and tidy condition.
- j) Do not leave cooking equipment unattended whilst in use.
- k) Report any defects or problems to a responsible person immediately.
- l) Ensure that the highest possible standards of personal hygiene are maintained whilst handling or working near foods.
- m) Cover open wounds, cuts and abrasions with suitable waterproof dressings.

USE OF CONTRACTORS

1. It is the policy of The Iona School to ensure that any contractor used is competent for the task.
2. All potential contractors will be required to produce evidence of current and relevant insurance cover.
3. Contractors must advise the company in advance of any health and safety risks likely to be created by their activities.
4. The Iona School will advise the contractor of any significant hazards that may be encountered on site.
5. Contractors must be able to produce evidence that they are complying with health and safety law. This may include sight of risk assessment records, records of test for electrical equipment, method statements etc.
6. A contractor must adopt health and safety standards that are at least equal to or, more stringent than, those operated by The Iona School.
7. Failure to adhere to safe systems of work, or contravention of any company rule, will be deemed to constitute a fundamental breach of contract.
8. A nominated person at The Iona School location will be responsible for coordinating the activities of contractors.
9. Contractors operating in an unsafe manner are liable to be escorted from site.
10. A written document should be given to each contract company to outline our rules. The following sample document should be modified to suit each ABC location as appropriate:

RULES FOR CONTRACTORS

Fire Alarms

Notices are displayed to indicate the action to be taken in the event of an emergency. It is essential that contractors and sub-contractors personnel are fully conversant with emergency procedures and that they react quickly and safely when the alarm sounds.

Contractors are obliged to familiarise themselves with escape routes. They are to be kept free from obstructions at all times.

It is of paramount importance that fire lanes and fire extinguishers remain unobstructed and available for immediate use in the event of a fire. Extinguishers must be available for use at all times.

Electrical Equipment

Any electrical equipment, tools etc, introduced by a contractor and/or sub-contractor to our premises, and must comply with required safety standards. Use of equipment must be in accordance with regulations.

Safety Equipment

Contractors and/or sub-contractors are required to comply with Health and Safety Regulations and Codes of Practice relating to the tasks for which they have been engaged.

Noise

Contractors and/or sub-contractors, employed within our premises, must avoid creating excessive noise. Work which cannot be carried out without high levels of noise or vibration must not commence without agreement from management. Under no circumstances must any statutory noise levels be exceeded.

Site Maintenance and Clearance

During work, the contractor and/or sub-contractor must maintain a safe working environment with the minimum disturbance, dust, and noise. At the end of each working day, the site must be cleared of all surplus materials and rubbish, and left clear of hazards.

Asbestos

The contractor will sign the asbestos register and be fully aware of any asbestos in the school. See asbestos report in main office.

Compliance

Contractors and/or sub-contractors who do not comply with the law, Codes of Practice or our policy relating to the tasks for which they have been engaged, may be asked to leave site. Failure to observe any rules may also result in individual operatives being instructed to leave. Ignoring safety rules will be viewed as a breach of contract.

DISPLAY SCREEN EQUIPMENT

1. It is the policy of The Iona School to take all reasonable steps to secure the health and safety of employees who work with display screen equipment (DSE).
2. The school acknowledges that health and safety hazards may arise from the use of this equipment. It is our intention to ensure that any risks are reduced to a minimum.
3. Whilst it is generally recognised that the use of display screen equipment can be undertaken without undue risks to health, it is appreciated that some employees may have genuine reservations and concerns. The school will seek to give information and training to enable a fuller understanding of these issues.
4. The school will:
 - a) Carry out an assessment of each workstation, taking into account; the display screen equipment, the furniture, the working environment, the worker.
 - b) Take all necessary measures to remedy any risks found as a result of the assessment.
 - c) Take steps (if found necessary) to incorporate changes of task within the working day, to prevent

- intensive periods of on-screen activity.
- d) Review software to ensure suitability for the task.
 - e) In the case of those defined as "DSE users", meet the cost of eye and eyesight tests prior to employment, at regular intervals thereafter and where a visual problem is experienced.
 - f) Arrange for the free supply of one pair of corrective appliances (i.e. glasses) where required by DSE users (as defined) specifically for working with DSE.
 - g) Advise all staff of the possible risks to health and how these are to be avoided.

The precautions that should be taken are as follows:

- Make sure that all your furniture and equipment is functioning correctly.
 - Adjust furniture and equipment so that you are comfortable when working.
 - Take the opportunity to vary activities, breaking up long periods of DSE work.
 - Use your entitlement to eye and eyesight tests.
 - Report symptoms of discomfort or ill health as soon as you are aware of them.
 - Inform your Supervisor of your training needs.
 - To not tamper with electrical equipment - ask for assistance.
5. Each employee who uses DSE will be given such training and information as necessary to enable him or her to work without risk to health. Any training will also cover the provisions of this Policy.

ELECTRICITY AT WORK

1. It is the policy of The Iona School that installation and maintenance and use of electrical systems may only be carried out by authorised and competent persons.
2. Definitions:
 - a) Electrical System:
Any constituent part supplying or using power, e.g. conductors, switchgear, transformers, lighting, electrical apparatus and equipment.
 - b) Authorised Person:
Someone acting in the knowledge and with the permission, or upon instruction, of management.
 - c) Competent Person:
Someone who has sufficient knowledge, experience and understanding of electricity and the electrical system to enable (1) recognition of hazards and any necessary precautions (2) the ability to recognise whether it is safe for work to commence or continue.
3. Electrical systems must be of such construction as to prevent, so far as reasonably practicable, danger arising. Consideration must be given to the likely load and fault conditions, electrical protective devices, environmental factors, ease of testing and maintenance.
4. Electrical systems must be subjected to effective and regular maintenance, with adequate records to enable monitoring of maintenance history. Equipment must be checked and serviced to the manufacturer's recommendations.
5. Fixed cabling must be subject to a visual examination by a competent person on an annual basis. Cables and their routes must be readily identifiable. The security and condition of electrical wiring must be inspected as part of the quarterly departmental inspection routine.
6. An annual assessment must be made by a competent person, to ensure that power circuits are not in danger of being overloaded by the demands upon them.
7. All portable apparatus will be tested by an approved contractor at appropriate intervals, identified by a sticker and logged in a register. This will contain the inspection record and dates of recall.
8. A competent person will determine the frequency of re-test, based upon type of use. In the interim, portable apparatus must be visually examined for defects by a competent person prior to issue and upon return.
9. Plugs and sockets must be checked annually by a competent person. The check must include security of connections, condition of wiring, physical integrity, and suitability of fuse. If power leads are detachable, they

- these must be subject to separate maintenance and checking.
10. Electrical switchgear and riser cupboards must be kept locked. Each switch must be marked to identify the circuit it controls.
 11. Every electrical system must have an adequate means of switching off the supply.
 12. Insulating mats should be sited in front of main electrical switchgear panels.
 13. Persons engaging in electrical work must ensure that disconnection of supply has been achieved. The system must be proved dead before work commences. Lock-off systems must be used where there is a risk of accidental or unintentional re-energising of a circuit.
 14. Only wooden ladders are to be used by those undertaking electrical work at heights.
 15. Metal ladders may not be stored in any electrical switch room.
 16. Accompanied working, i.e. somebody standing by who is not directly engaged in the work, is only worthwhile if that person can contribute significantly to ensuring the prevention of injury.

Live work is only permitted where all the following apply:

- a) It is unreasonable for the live part to be made dead.
- b) It is reasonable in all the circumstances for work to be carried out on or near the live part.
- c) There is use of appropriate protective clothing, insulated tools and equipment.
- d) There is use of appropriate test equipment.
- e) There is effective control of the work area, including prevention of unauthorised access.

All electrical contractors, or other contractors likely to engage in electrical work, must:

- a) Be registered with the National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contractors (NICEIC) or equivalent.
 - b) Inform the Iona School management of, and obtain agreement for, their proposed method of work.
 - c) Inform management of any hazard likely to arise as a result of the contractors' activities.
 - d) Comply in every way with The Iona School health and safety standards and requirements.
17. Employees may only use electrical equipment for which they have received adequate training, and where they are authorised to do so.
 18. No person may attempt to install, repair, service or alter any electrical appliance, plug, wiring configuration etc, unless they are both competent and authorised.
 19. Items of electrical equipment that are not owned by The Iona School (e.g. radios, shavers etc) may only be connected to the electrical system with prior permission, and will be subject to the same electrical test and inspection regime as if owned by the company. The company reserve the right to pass on any costs arising for the testing of personal appliances.

FIRE PREVENTION AND PRECAUTIONS

It is the policy of The Iona School to take all necessary measures to prevent an outbreak of fire, and to ensure the safety of staff, pupils and visitors, if a fire should occur.

Fire Precautions

- Exits and exit routes must be clearly marked and must not be obstructed nor locked at any time during working hours.
- All fire extinguishers must be unobstructed and positioned on routes of exit.
- Fire equipment will be inspected and maintained by an authorised contractor at intervals of not more than 12 months.
- Between annual inspections, and as the occasion arises, the company will designate a person to be responsible for ensuring that used/damaged/missing fire extinguishers are replaced.
- Any damage found to any item of fire equipment is to be reported at once to a responsible person.

- Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the school premises.
- All sources of ignition must be removed from the vicinity of flammable liquids or vapours.
- Waste materials must not be allowed to accumulate in such a way as to create a fire risk.
- Any damaged or defective smoke detector or alarm call point must be repaired/replaced as a matter of the greatest priority.
- The fire alarm system will be checked weekly at a regular time during working hours by operation of manual call points. A different call point will be tested on each occasion, by rotation.
- Fire marshals must check audibility of the alarm during weekly tests and must report inaudibility to a responsible person.
- Staff must be aware that the fire alarm can sound for various reasons: fire, fire drill, bomb threat, false alarm, malfunction, vandalism etc, so every sounding of the alarm must be taken seriously.

Fire Drills

- The objectives of holding practice evacuations are to test the effectiveness of the system, to familiarise staff and pupils and to identify where improvements may be required.
- A practice evacuation will be carried out not less than once per term.
- The organiser must let any visitors/lettings know about the fire drill procedure.
- The organiser must obtain co-operation of any renters or businesses in the building where The Iona School staff are the landlords.
- The organiser must obtain the co-operation of the local fire brigade. They will need to know that it is a practice alarm and that large numbers of people may congregate in a public thoroughfare.
- Where the alarm system is directly linked into an external monitoring system, the operators of the system must be made aware of the test.
- Where considered appropriate, the fire authorities may be invited to monitor and advise on the effectiveness of the drill.
- The date and timing of the drill should take into account any special function of the staff working in the area to be evacuated, and should be agreed after discussion between management and fire marshals.
- Security personnel must be advised prior to a drill. They have the responsibility of maintaining adequate security arrangements during the evacuation.
- The organiser should monitor the drill and meet afterwards with fire marshals to discuss the effectiveness of the exercise.
- The time of the evacuation should be recorded but kept away from the time of the weekly alarm

Duties of Fire Marshals

- The trustees are responsible for appointing an adequate number of fire marshals and deputies.
- When the fire alarm sounds, the fire marshal will walk the area to ensure that there is nobody within that area. The check will include toilets, plant rooms and any area not in direct view.
- If anyone is in difficulty, they should be assisted to a safe area (e.g. a stairwell) and left to be rescued by the emergency services.
- Fire marshals should go to the assembly point and report to the senior Fire Marshal. Give exact details of any problems, or persons who need assistance, so that the emergency services can be told. This will allow early search and rescue to take place.
- Conduct a roll call to establish that all staff and visitors have left the premises.
- Fire marshals must be prepared to return to a position outside a fire exit to stop people entering or returning to the building before authorised.
- It is essential that at no time the fire marshal puts themselves at risk.
- Ascertain whether the fire brigade have been called and make arrangements if they have not.
- When the emergency services arrive, liaison must be established with the Senior Fire Officer, and all the information received from fire marshals must be relayed to this Senior Fire Officer so that suitable action can be taken.

- Fire marshals will be guided by the Senior Fire Officer in relation to return into the building or further relocation from the assembly point.

Fire Procedures

- In the event of fire, do not panic and **do not take any personal risk**. If the fire alarm should sound, or if you are given instructions by a fire marshal or other responsible person, evacuate the building **immediately**.
- Leave the room, closing doors and windows behind you. Do not stop to collect your personal possessions.
- Sound the fire alarm from the nearest call point and inform a responsible person.
- If this is not possible, call the fire brigade by dialling 999.
- Do not stand and watch, nor make any attempt to remove vehicles or property.
- When the alarm sounds, go to the designated fire assembly point and wait there until everybody has been accounted for.
- Remember that no matter which fire exit you use, you must still go to the designated assembly point.
- Do not forget to help and guide visitors or contractors who may be in the building at the time.
- **If it safe to do so**, and only if you have been trained in the correct use of a fire extinguisher, attempt to tackle the blaze. Always sound the alarm first.

FIRST-AID

1. The Iona School are committed to providing sufficient numbers of competent first-aid personnel to deal with accidents and injuries arising at work.
2. The school has several of staff trained as first aiders, there will always be a minimum of one trained per building with all kindergarten staff paediatric first aid trained.
3. Details of the general arrangements for first-aid are highlighted below. These comply with statutory requirements, and with the specific needs of the school
4. Specific arrangements to meet this policy must be put in place at each location.

First-aid Personnel

- First-aid personnel are employees who have volunteered for the role and who have been assessed as being suitable.
- First-aiders are qualified personnel who have received training and undertaken an examination in accordance with Health and Safety Executive requirements.
- The appointed person need not necessarily always be a qualified first-aiders but he/she will be given a clear indication of his/her responsibilities and the training required in order to effectively discharge them.
- First-aid personnel will be provided with re-training at regular intervals in order to ensure that their skills are maintained.
- The company will ensure that there are sufficient first-aid personnel within the workplace to adequately cover for every shift.
- **Notices will be displayed in all work places, giving the location of first-aid equipment and the name(s) and location(s) of personnel concerned.**

First-Aid Boxes

- First-aid boxes are provided within the workplace to ensure that there are adequate supplies for the nature of the hazards involved. All boxes will contain at least the minimum supplies which are required under law.
- Only specified first-aid supplies will be kept. No creams, lotions or drugs, however seemingly mild, will be kept in these boxes.
- **Location of first-aid boxes will be clearly indicated on notice boards throughout the workplace.**
- First-aid boxes will be maintained and re-stocked when necessary by authorised personnel. These personnel will be made aware of the local procedure for re-ordering supplies.

First-aid Travel Kits

Travelling first-aid kits will be made available for those members of staff who are required to work away from the normal workplace, or where access to facilities may be restricted.

Recording Accidents

- a) All accidents must be recorded, however minor.
- b) There will be an accident book at each location in which all incidents must be noted.
- c) It is the responsibility of the employee to ensure that they complete an entry in the accident book as soon as possible after the injury has occurred.
- d) Where the injured person is unable to enter their account into the accident book, the first-aider or witness (where relevant) should enter details on their behalf.
- e) Where an accident results in admittance to hospital, or inability to continue work, Nick Delaforce must be informed immediately.
- f) For the purposes of maintaining first-aid supplies, first-aiders should keep a record of those supplies that are used, by whom and for what reason.

CONTROL OF SUBSTANCES HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH (COSHH)

The policy of The Iona School is to take all reasonable steps to prevent the exposure of staff and others to hazardous substances.

To achieve the above, the company will:

- a) Compile and maintain an inventory of all hazardous substances used at work.
- b) Obtain material safety data sheets for all these substances.
- c) Arrange through school manager to assess the risks to health from use, transport, storage and disposal of these substances.
- d) Keep written records of the assessment.
- e) Ensure that any and all relevant information, training and supervision is provided to staff who use, handle or in any way come into contact with hazardous substances.
- f) The company will, through all its purchasing facilities, ensure that material safety data sheets are obtained for any new substances prior to use.

First-aiders will be given access to information from suppliers about recommended first-aid treatments following exposure.

MANUAL HANDLING

- The policy of The Iona School is to reduce the risk of manual handling injuries and to provide guidance on the measures that should be taken to ensure safe lifting and carrying at the workplace.
- The company will ensure that operations which involve hazardous manual handling are eliminated, so far as is reasonably practicable. Measures to achieve this include ergonomic design of the workplace and activity, and the provision of mechanical aids such as trolleys.

Assessment of Risk:

- a) An assessment of manual handling activities will be carried out by a competent person.
- b) Risks identified will be reduced to the lowest level reasonably practicable.
- c) A written record will be kept of each assessment.
- d) The following factors will be considered during the assessment. (Appendix 1 Manual Handling)

SAFETY INSPECTIONS

1. It is the policy of The Iona School that formal safety inspections take place every week.
2. The inspection take the form of a walk around the area, looking for:
 - a) Obvious defects in the premises and the fixtures and fittings.
 - b) Failure to meet The Iona School safety standards in any respect (e.g. depleted first-aid supplies, blocked fire exit routes, trip hazards etc).
 - c) Any other relevant general observations.
3. It is the responsibility of Nick Sanders to ensure that inspections take place and that each area is covered.
4. Inspections will be conducted jointly by a member of management, and an employee representative.
5. The objective of an inspection is to identify hazards and risks, and to break these down into one of three categories:
 - a) **Immediate Action**
These can be described as immediate risks of serious injury, e.g. the discovery of live electrical equipment. Remedial action must be implemented as soon as practicable and appropriate steps must be taken to prevent recurrence.
 - b) **Short Term Action**
These refer to hazards which require non-emergency remedial action as soon as possible, but certainly within ten working days.
 - c) **Routine Action**
These are hazards which do not pose an imminent risk of personal injury, but still require correction. Remedial action should be implemented as soon as is reasonable, and normally within one month.
6. Formal inspection records are made. The inspection team should retain the original and send a copy to each person with responsibility for remedial action.
7. The person charged with implementing remedial action must complete the work within the time scales above, and should "sign off" the action point by notifying the originator of the inspection report.
8. Where for any reason the action cannot be completed within the time scales above, the originator of the report should be informed accordingly and must be advised of the reason.
9. Regular informal inspections should be carried out between scheduled inspections and are the responsibility of departmental managers.

VISITORS

1. Iona accepts its responsibility to ensure the health and safety of all personnel who come directly or indirectly into contact with this organisation or the consequences of our activities, including visitors to site. Visitor badges must be worn at all times.
2. Any special arrangements required by the visitor(s) must be ascertained, where practicable, before arrival. This may include bringing vehicles or other machinery or substances onto site, or personal needs such as coping with disability or language barriers.
3. Upon arrival the visitor(s) must complete details in a register/visitors' book. Visitors must be informed of the risks to which they may be exposed whilst on site, and the emergency arrangements, including the location of assembly points. Visitors must sign out before leaving the premises and company property must be returned. A suitable record may contain the following information:
 - a) Name of visitor, and name and address of their employer (where relevant) or other contact point in case of emergency.
 - b) Details of visitors' vehicles parked on site.
 - c) Date and time of arrival and anticipated length of visit.
 - d) Person or area to be visited, and identity of person responsible for the visitor.
 - e) Details of any articles or substances which the visitor has brought onto site.
 - f) Confirmation that relevant emergency procedures have been explained.
 - g) Details of any person who may be at greater risk, e.g. children or disabled persons.

- h) Time of departure.
4. Adequate supervision must be maintained during the visitor's presence on site. This includes ensuring the safe handling, transport and use of any articles and substances.
 5. Measures must be taken to prevent the visitor from straying into hazardous areas and exposing themselves to danger.
 6. Children must be accompanied by a responsible person at all times. Permission to bring children onto site must be granted by a responsible person before they enter the premises.
 7. Security arrangements must be adhered to when visitors enter the building. Particular care must be taken of visitors entering areas of higher risk, and all systems of work which are in operation must be fully complied with.
 8. Where a visitor requires to enter an area where limitation of access arrangements apply, access must be authorised and monitored by a responsible person.
 9. All hazardous areas must be suitably controlled, by locking or guarding, at all times, to prevent unauthorised personnel from access.
 10. Full details of emergency procedures must be clearly indicated to visitors upon entering the premises.
 11. Where an emergency arises, measures must be taken by a responsible person to ensure that visitors are accompanied to a place of safety and that they comply with company procedures.
 12. Visitors must be accounted for during emergencies and evacuation drills.
 13. Accidents and near-miss incidents which occur to visitors must be reported and followed-up, in accordance with the Iona accident reporting policy.
 14. Managers have overall responsibility for visitors who enter their areas of authority. It is a management responsibility to ensure that this policy is fully complied with and that any problems have been adequately resolved at the earliest opportunity and before visitors are permitted to proceed with their intended activity.
 15. Employees must seek approval from a responsible person before arranging for a visitor to come onto site.
 16. Employees must take responsibility for visitors in their care and should ensure that the requirements of this policy are adhered to at all times. Additional care and attention must be taken where children or disabled visitors enter the premises.

Appendix 1 – Manual Handling

Factors to be considered:

- a) Bending and stooping to lift a load significantly increases the risk of back injury.
- b) Items should ideally be lifted from no lower than knee height to no higher than shoulder height. Outside this range, lifting capacity is reduced and the risk of injury is increased.
- c) Where items are required to be lifted from above shoulder height, a foot stool or suitable means of access should be used.
- d) Items which are pushed or pulled should be as near to waist level as possible. Pushing is preferable, particularly where the back can rest against a fixed object to give leverage.
- e) Carrying distances should be minimised, especially if the task is regularly repeated. Repetitive tasks should be avoided wherever possible. Tasks which involve lifting and carrying should be designed in such a way as to allow for sufficient rest breaks to avoid fatigue. Avoid tasks which require twisting the body wherever possible.
- f) The load should be kept as near as possible to the body trunk to reduce strain.
- g) Loads must not be of such size as to obscure vision.
- h) An indication of the weight of the load and the centre of gravity should be provided where appropriate.
- i) Unstable loads should be handled with particular caution. The change in centre of gravity is likely to result in overbalancing.
- j) There must be a secure handhold, using gloves where necessary to protect against sharp edges or splinters.
- k) Consideration must be given to age, body weight, physical fitness and personal limitation.
- l) Employees must not attempt to handle loads which are beyond their individual capability. Assistance must be sought where this is necessary.
- m) Persons with genuine physical or clinical reasons for avoiding lifting should have these respected.

- n) Pregnant women should not be required to undertake hazardous lifting or carrying tasks.
- o) Individuals undertaking hazardous lifting or carrying will be given suitable instruction, training and information to undertake the task with minimum risk.
- p) There must be adequate space to enable the activity to be conducted in safety.
- q) Lighting, heating and weather conditions must be taken into account.
- r) Floors and other working surfaces must be in a safe condition.
- s) Use of personal protective equipment whilst carrying out manual handling activities must not restrict safe and easy movement.

Employees must ensure that they comply with the following requirements:

- a) Report to management any personal conditions which may be detrimentally affected by the manual handling activity. These will be treated in confidence.
- b) Comply with instruction and training which is provided in safe manual handling activities.
- c) Never put their own health and safety at risk when carrying out manual handling activities.
- d) Use equipment which has been provided to minimise manual handling activities.
- e) Report any problems relating to the activity to a responsible person.

Poor lifting and carrying techniques can result in discomfort and increase the risk of injury. In extreme circumstances, these injuries can have permanent effects. These risks can be reduced by adopting the following simple precautions:

- a) Make sure that you comply with any formalised systems of work which have been designed for the work activity.
- b) Make full and proper use of aids to lifting and carrying, for example stepladders and trolleys.
- c) Store heavy items between shoulder and hip height. Where possible only store small, light items above shoulder or below knee height.
- d) Use the legs and knees to bend and lift. Do not stoop or bend the back.
- e) Avoid tasks which require stretching or twisting.
- f) Ensure that regular rest breaks are taken where manual handling activities are repetitive or to prevent the onset of fatigue.
- g) Ensure that there are no sharp, hot or cold edges which could cause injury.
- h) Ensure that walkways are free from obstructions.
- i) Report any problems or concerns associated with manual handling operations without delay to a responsible person.

Appendix 2 – Safety Signs

- It is the policy of Iona to use safety signs where required
- General safety signs will comply with the Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996, which stipulate the shapes, colours and symbols that may be used.
- In certain cases a combination of those categories may be used on the same sign.
- Fire safety signs should comply with BS 5499 part 1, or BS 5499 part 2 in respect of self-luminous signs.
- Persons who arrange for the purchase of signs must ensure that this policy is adhered to.
- Safety signs in line with the above policy must be installed to denote at least the following:
 - a) Fire exit routes
"FIRE EXIT"
 - b) Fire doors
"FIRE DOOR KEEP SHUT"
 - c) The outside of final fire exit doors
"FIRE ESCAPE KEEP CLEAR"
 - d) Drinking water

- e) "DRINKING WATER"
Location of first-aid points
"First-aid"
- f) Hazardous plant areas
"AUTHORISED PERSONS ONLY"
- g) No smoking areas
"NO SMOKING"
- h) Redlam bolts to secure fire exit doors
"BREAK GLASS TO RELEASE BOLT"
- l) Bars to open fire doors
"PUSH BAR TO OPEN"
- j) Any mandatory requirement for the wearing of personal protective equipment.
- k) Warning signs in areas where vehicles and pedestrians may circulate.

Appendix 3 – Tools and Equipment

1. It is the policy of the company that no member of staff may use their personal tools/equipment or appliances on The Iona School premises or for company business without the approval of the responsible manager.
2. Employees' own tools and equipment must be kept in good order at all times, and damaged or worn tools must not be kept on the premises.
3. Management reserve the right to periodically inspect employees' own tools and equipment. Employees' own electrical equipment (where specifically permitted) will be subject to electrical testing at the employee's expense. Refer to the policy on Electricity at Work.
4. Tools and equipment provided by the company must be treated with respect and used only for their intended purposes.
5. It is the duty of every member of staff to bring to the notice of their manager any item of equipment or plant which may, in their opinion, be considered to be a hazard to health and safety.

Appendix 4 - Health and Safety Training

1. It is the policy of The Iona School to ensure that adequate health and safety training is given to all personnel.
2. The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 places a duty upon the employer to provide such information, instruction, training and supervision as is necessary to protect the health and safety at work of employees.
3. This duty is comprehensive and requires that appropriate training is given in all aspects of safety at the workplace and during any working activity. The extent of training will vary according to the extent and potential severity of hazards associated with work activities.
4. Those carrying out only low risk activities, e.g. office staff, may only need basic information and training in safe working arrangements and how to report problems. However, those whose work demands a high level of expertise or exposure to particularly hazardous environments will require specific applied knowledge and skills.
5. Some work activities require specialised knowledge and training, e.g. use of abrasive wheels and lift truck operation. This will be achieved by the possession of qualifications awarded by a recognised body.
6. Managers will be given suitable training to ensure sufficient knowledge and skill to recognise situations with potential to cause damage or harm, and to design and implement effective preventative or protective action.
7. New staff are initially likely to be more vulnerable than existing employees. There is usually a great deal of information to absorb about the new workplace and it is easy to overlook the basic safety arrangements. Induction training must be given at each location to all new recruits to prevent this from happening and to meet with legal requirements.

8. Health and safety training specifically required by law is for:
 - a) New staff, or those transferring to tasks with new risks.
 - b) Those whom may be exposed to hazardous substances.
 - c) Designated first-aiders.
 - d) Those engaged in hazardous manual handling operations.
 - e) Users of personal protective equipment.
 - f) Users or operators of display screen equipment.
 - i) All personnel in fire prevention and emergency procedures.
9. Training for Employment
 - a) The company will afford the same standards of health and safety care to any person training for employment.
 - b) This policy extends to those seconded on "work experience" from schools and colleges, as well as to any persons on formal apprenticeship schemes.

Appendix 5

The following principles will help to safeguard our visitors:

- a) Ascertain any special arrangements required by a visitor before their arrival.
- b) Upon arrival the visitor must enter the relevant details into the visitors' book.
- c) All visitors must be advised of the risks to which they may be exposed whilst on site, and the emergency arrangements, including the location of assembly points.
- d) All security arrangements must be adhered to when visitors enter the building.
- e) The responsible person must ascertain from the visitor any risks to themselves or others arising from their activities whilst on site.
- f) Where entry into areas of limited access is required, this must be authorised and monitored by a responsible person.
- g) All visitors must be supervised whilst on company premises for reasons of security as well as safety.
- h) Visitors must be accounted for during emergencies and evacuation drills.
- i) Visitors must sign out before leaving the premises.
- j) All hazardous areas must be suitably locked, guarded and signed as necessary to prevent unauthorised personnel from exposure to risk.

Appendix 6 – Waste Disposal

- The Iona School is committed to ensuring the health, safety and welfare of its employees and of others who may be affected by any waste materials which result from our work.
- Our policy is to arrange for the disposal of all waste products regularly, safely and in accordance with statutory requirements.
- The waste disposal arrangements will be regularly reviewed. Recycling initiatives will be taken where reasonably practicable in order to help protect the environment and make better use of resources.

Waste Disposal Containers:

- a) Suitable receptacles for the collection of waste are provided in strategic positions throughout the workplace.
- b) Waste containers will be emptied regularly and will be removed by an authorised contractor. If additional disposal facilities are required, these may be obtained by request to a responsible person.
- c) Where it can be determined that certain waste is suitable for recycling, the appropriate containers will be supplied and clearly marked.

Disposal of Hazardous Waste: (Nappies, blood and bodily fluid)

- a) Suitable arrangements will be made for the disposal of any hazardous waste that is generated as a by-product of a work activity.
- b) Liquid waste, other than normal effluent, must not be poured into the sewers without prior approval.
 - All persons responsible for the collection of waste from Iona premises must be in possession of appropriate certification from the local authority.
 - Waste transfer notes must be completed and copies held by a responsible person.
 - All employees must ensure that they dispose of waste products in a responsible manner. The following principles apply:
 - a) Use only designated receptacles for holding waste products.
 - b) Do not overfill waste containers.
 - c) Dispose of materials only in the approved manner.
 - d) Report any leakage or overflow of waste from a waste container to a responsible person.
 - e) Ensure that spillage of substances at the workplace is cleared in an approved manner, and that any materials used for clearing these are properly disposed of.
 - f) Make a note of any special arrangements or precautions that will have to be taken by the authorised waste remover.

Issue Date

This policy takes effect from November 2020.

Review Date

This policy will be reviewed and revised on an annual basis.

Endorsement

Full endorsement to this policy is given by:

Name:	Terri Gilbertson
Position:	Trustee
Signed:	
Date:	March 2023

Related Policies

- SEND Policy
- First Aid policy