

# **COVENANT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY**

As a Christian school, it is the responsibility of the whole body to be vigilant at all times for the health and safety of the children and each other. The Bible teaches us that we are all deemed to be extremely precious in God's eyes; even the very hairs on our heads are all numbered (Matthew 10:30).

There are many examples in the Bible where Jesus showed concern for the health and safety of the children for example

1. Jairus' daughter - Mark 5 v 21 - 43
2. Freeing a child from demon possession - Mark 9 v 14 - 27
3. Jesus cares about the children - Matthew 19 v 14

With this in mind, our aim as a Christian school is to protect the children, staff and visitors in our care to the best of our ability, as taught in the Bible. Safety is of prime importance in all Covenant Christian School activities. Pupils must never be placed in situations which expose them to an unacceptable level of risk.

### **THE LAW**

Health and Safety responsibilities are derived from the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and associated regulations especially the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 and the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995. These are enforced by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Under common law the proprietor and all the staff have a duty to take care of pupils in the same way that a prudent parent would.

### **AIMS**

The aims of this policy are to:-

1. provide a safe and healthy environment for students, teachers, parents and all other people who come on to the school premises;
2. ensure that all members of the school community understand their own responsibilities in maintaining a safe and healthy environment;
3. ensure that all necessary health and safety training takes place.

This policy deals generally with health and safety. There are other school policies that deal with specific situations. These include the following.

- COSHH
- Electrical Appliances Policy
- First Aid and Application of Medicines Policy
- Fire Safety Policy
- Out-of-School Visits Policy
- Outdoor Education Policy
- Breaktime Supervision Policy
- Regulated Substances Policy
- Risk Assessment Policy
- Transport Policy

## **RESPONSIBILITIES AND ROLES**

The proprietor must take reasonable steps to ensure that staff and pupils are not exposed to risks to their health and safety. This includes activities on or off school premises. To this end he must

- 1) assess the risks to staff and others affected by school activities in order to identify the health and safety measures that are necessary and, in certain circumstances, keep a record of the significant findings of the assessment;
- 2) introduce measures to manage those risks such as the formulation of risk assessments and tell the staff about them; and
- 3) ensure that adequate health and safety training is provided.

Staff working with a greater amount of risk may need specific training.

Children also need to understand how to manage the risks that are a normal part of life and understand that this means they must follow instructions designed to keep them safe.

Specific teaching on health and safety will be given in the Man Himself project.

The Management Committee has responsibility to ensure that this policy is adhered to and to monitor it and its implementation. It also must discuss health and safety matters with the proprietor whenever he requires them to do so.

Day-to-day management of health and safety is delegated to Dr Roger Slack.

All members of the school community (teachers, students and parents) should

- 1) be aware of their own responsibilities for maintaining a safe and healthy environment;
- 2) use common sense at all times to take reasonable care of their own safety and that of others;
- 3) be familiar with instructions, policies and guidance on health and safety within the school; and
- 4) report any identifiable hazards to the head teacher without delay.

In addition school staff must be aware of risk control measures and plan and implement risk assessments whenever a school activity or situation presents with a significant hazard.

## **INSPECTIONS**

Regular inspections and risk assessments will be carried out in accordance with HSE Guidelines.

## **PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES**

Common sense should be used when assessing and managing the risks of any activity. The procedures adopted for each activity should always be in proportion to the associated risks.

- All accidents involving students, staff or visitors, serious or otherwise, must be recorded in the Accident Book kept in the morning room using the forms therein. If the accident is such that it is reportable to the HSE then this must be done on the appropriate form. A copy of the HSE document explaining which accidents fall into this category is appended as an annex to this policy.
- Parents must be informed of any injury to their child, in particular any bump to the head
- All staff should be vigilant to spot potential causes of accidents and to take action to

prevent them wherever possible.

- PE and sports equipment is to be checked regularly by the teacher in charge of sports activities.
- Electrical and gas appliances are to be checked regularly and reports are to be kept in the school records.
- Electrical equipment should be positioned carefully to avoid trailing leads and other hazards.
- All litter should be disposed of in the bins provided.
- The school gates must be kept closed on every school day except when entry or egress is required between 9am and 3pm.

### **ACCOMPANYING INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE**

Reference is made to the following publications produced by the DfE and the HSE:-

- Health and Safety: Responsibilities and Powers
- Health and Safety of Pupils on Educational Trips
- Guidance on First Aid for Schools
- Five Steps to Risk Assessment
- A Guide to Risk Assessment Requirements
- RIDDOR 2013 (a guide to requirements for reporting injuries etc)
- <http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/index.htm>

### **REVIEW**

This Policy should be reviewed every 3 years unless:-

- 1) there is a change in personnel;
- 2) there is a change in the school's location; or
- 3) there is a significant change in Health and Safety legislation.

when it should be reviewed earlier.

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