

Gower House School Health, Safety and Welfare Policy

1 Introduction

- 1.1** The health, safety and welfare of all the people who work or learn at this school are of fundamental importance. We aim to provide a safe, secure and pleasant working environment for everyone. The school takes responsibility for protecting the health and safety of all children and members of staff.

2 The school curriculum

- 2.1** We teach the children about health and safety in order to equip them with the skills, knowledge and understanding to enable them to live positive, successful and healthy lives. Teachers take every opportunity to educate children in this regard in the normal school curriculum. For example, in the geography curriculum the unit of work, 'People who help us' deals with the work of the police and fire service. Through this topic we teach children about the danger of fire, and how to avoid accidents. Through the science curriculum we teach children about hazardous materials, and how to handle equipment safely.
- 2.2** We teach children respect for their bodies, and how to look after themselves. We discuss these issues with the children in lessons and we reinforce these points in design technology, where children learn about healthy eating and hygiene. We also show them how to move and play safely in PE lessons.
- 2.3** Health and safety issues also arise when we teach care for the environment and awareness of the dangers of litter.
- 2.4** Each class has the opportunity to discuss problems or issues of concern with their teacher. Teachers take time to help children discuss and overcome any fears and worries that they may have. Teachers handle these concerns with sensitivity.

3 School meals

- 3.1** Our school provides children with a cooked meal at lunchtimes. We do all we can to ensure that the meals provided have a suitable nutritional value, in line with the requirements of the School Standards and Framework Act of 1998.
- 3.2** Our school promotes a healthy lifestyle. As sweets can damage children's teeth, we discourage the eating of sweets.

4 School uniform

- 4.1** It is school policy that all children wear the school uniform when attending school, or when participating in a school-organized event outside normal school hours. The requirements for school uniform are reviewed regularly.
- 4.2** We always have a sensitive approach where the issue of regulations regarding uniform conflict with any child's religious or cultural beliefs. We have drawn up the regulations regarding school uniform with due regard to issues of equal opportunity and sex discrimination.
- 4.3** It is the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure that the school uniform policy is enforced.
- 4.4** We ask parents not to send their child to school with 'extreme' hairstyles or the sort of appearance that is likely to cause them to draw attention to themselves. We ask parents to discuss any issues relating to their child's appearance if this is influenced by religious belief.
- 4.5** On grounds of health and safety we do not allow children to wear jewellery in our school. The exception to this rule is ear-ring studs in pierced ears.

5 Child protection

- 5.1** There is a named person responsible for child protection in the school. This is normally the headteacher, but he may delegate this responsibility in some circumstances.
- 5.2** If any teacher suspects that a child in their class may be the victim of abuse, they should immediately inform the named person about their concerns.
- 5.3** The school's named child protection officer works closely with social services and the Area Child Protection Committee (ACPC) when investigating such incidents. We handle all such cases with sensitivity and we place paramount importance on the interests of the child.
- 5.4** We require all adults employed in school to have their application vetted through the Criminal Records Bureau in order to ensure that there is no evidence of offences involving children or abuse.

6 School security

- 6.1** While it is difficult to make the school site totally secure, we will do all we can to ensure the school is a safe environment for all who work or learn here.
- 6.2** If any adult working in the school has suspicions that a person may be trespassing on the school site, they must inform the headteacher immediately. The Headteacher will warn any intruder that they must leave the school site straight away. If the headteacher has any concerns that an intruder may cause harm to anyone on the school site he will contact the police.

7 Safety of children

- 7.1** It is the responsibility of each teacher to ensure that all curriculum activities are safe. If a teacher does have any concerns about pupil safety, they should draw them to the attention of the headteacher before the activity takes place.
- 7.2** We do not take any child off the school site without the prior permission of the parent.
- 7.3** If an accident does happen, resulting in an injury to a child, the teacher will do all s/he can to aid the child concerned. We keep a first aid box in the staff room. Several staff at the school have been trained in first aid.
- 7.4** Should any incident involving injury to a child take place, one of the above-mentioned members of staff will be called to assist. If necessary, the school secretary will telephone for emergency assistance.
- 7.5** We record all incidents involving injury in the school accident book, and we inform parents in all cases. Should a child be quite seriously hurt, we contact the parents through the emergency telephone numbers that we keep on the school files. When necessary serious accidents or injuries are reported to HSE under the RIDDOR regulations.

8 Seat belts

- 8.1** We only use coaches and mini-buses where seat belts are provided. We instruct the children to use seat belts at all times when the bus is moving, and check that they do so.

9 Theft or other criminal acts

- 9.1** The teacher or headteacher will investigate any incidents of theft involving children.
- 9.2** If there are serious incidents of theft from the school site, the headteacher will inform the police and record the incident in the school diary book.
- 9.3** Should any incident involve physical violence against a teacher, we will report this to the Health and Safety Executive and support the teacher in question if he or she wishes the matter to be reported to the police.

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10 Monitoring and review

- 10.1** The headteacher, in consultation with professional advisors, carries out regular risk assessments to ensure that the school is a safe environment.
- 10.2** The headteacher implements the school health, safety and welfare policy on a day-to-day basis, and ensures that all staff are aware of the details of the policy as it applies to them.
- 10.3** This policy will be reviewed at any time at least once every two years.

Signed:

Date: