



## Stowe Group Health and Safety Policy

Author/s	Nominated Health and Safety Governor/ Group Health, Safety & Compliance Manager	
Date of Review	31 January 2023 Version 2.0	
Approved	Chair and the nominated Health and Safety Governor	
Approving Body	Full Governing Body	
Regulatory References	Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974	
	Various H&S related legislation	
Next Review	31 January 2024	

### Document distribution:

ISI requirement to be available on request	<input type="checkbox"/>
ISI requirement to be on School website	<input type="checkbox"/>
StoweNet	<input type="checkbox"/>
ISI Portal	<input type="checkbox"/>

This policy is considered a 'live' document and will be updated as statutory guidance is released.

## Policy Amendments

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## INTRODUCTION

The prevention of accidents and ill health is one of the most important functions of management because:

- Stowe Group does not want any employee or other person to suffer as a result of our work
- Stowe Group as an employer is required to comply with all Health, Safety and Welfare legislation, and
- Stowe Group recognises that accidents, unsafe and unhealthy working conditions can be a considerable drain on the financial resources of the School and demonstrate a lack of efficiency in the business.

This document has, therefore, been prepared to define the way that the Stowe Group intends to manage health and safety and to meet the requirements of Section 2(3) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, which requires an employer to prepare a statement of general policy with respect to the health and safety of employees, others not in their employment but for whom they are responsible, and the organisation and arrangement set up to carry out the policy.

It has been drawn up considering the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 which are summarised as follows (*N.B. this is not a legal interpretation of the Act*):

*Employers must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety, and welfare at work of their employees and others not in their employment but for whom they are responsible by providing:*

- *safe plant and equipment*
- *safe means of handling and transporting articles and substances*
- *adequate training, instruction, information, and supervision, and*
- *a safe place of work with safe access and egress.*

Employees must look after their own health and safety and ensure that they do not endanger others. They must also co-operate with the employer to assist in meeting statutory requirements. No person must recklessly or wilfully interfere with anything provided for health and safety.

Failure to comply with the duties outlined in specific regulations for health and safety can lead to Prohibition or Improvement Notices which will interfere with the progress of work and/or lead to prosecution of the School, individual Governors, managers, or employees with substantial fines for certain offences and even imprisonment.

**Note that the arrangements refer to appropriate legislation and guidance which must be applied to the Stowe Group. Each individual School or department may hold its own Health and Safety Policy outlining the relevant specific regulations, governing bodies and procedures which also must be followed. Any stand-alone Departmental Health and Safety documents must reflect this document.**

**Part 1**

**STOWE SCHOOL  
HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT**

**Background**

The Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 places a duty of care on all employers in respect of the health, safety, and welfare of their employees. The Stowe Group's duty extends to pupils, visitors, contractors, and others who may be affected by the Group's activities. Overall responsibility lies with the School Governors but day to day management responsibility is delegated to the School's Executive. Stowe Group and its partners gives the highest priority to ensuring that health and safety is treated as a collective responsibility, seeking to achieve exemplary standards in compliance with the 1974 Act and other related legislation. Our commitment is to ensure that health and safety is embedded in all activities undertaken by the Group

**Responsibility**

We have vested specific responsibilities for health and safety overview in one member of the Governing Body. As the Governor responsible for the overview of health and safety matters, the Groups Health and Safety Governor will ensure that the Group's responsibilities are properly discharged through the appropriate person at each individual school. The Director of Operations & Estates at Stowe School chairs the Group Health and Safety Committee, which will meet at least once every term. This committee consists of the Group Health and Safety Governor, the nominated appropriate person at each individual school and the Group Health, Safety and Compliance Manager. Each School will also hold its own Health and Safety Committee meeting, which will meet at least once every term. Each department within the School is represented on these committees, which is the formal channel for addressing health and safety issues. A termly report is reviewed by the Group Governing Body and our performance is subjected to independent audit at least every three years.

**Policy**

It is our policy, so far as is reasonably practicable, to ensure that:

- Premises and facilities provided by the Group are maintained in a safe condition
- Equipment and procedures of work, together with arrangements for use, handling and storage of articles and substances for use at work, are safe and without risk to health
- Colleagues are informed, trained, and supervised to secure their safety and that of pupils who may be affected by their actions
- All working environments are safe and any risks to the health of staff, pupils, visitors, and others are minimised, and
- Adequate arrangements are made for the welfare of all staff.

**Duty of Colleagues**

All colleagues have a duty to:

- Take reasonable steps to ensure their own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by their acts or omissions at work
- Respect procedures and instructions given for the purposes of health and safety; and
- Report any concerns or breaches of the Health and Safety Policy to their Line Manager or to the Group Health, Safety & Compliance Manager.

Signed

Head of Stowe Group ..... Chair of Governors.....

Date ..... Date .....

## Part 2

### ORGANISATION FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY Roles and Responsibilities

Overall responsibility for health, safety and welfare rests with the Governing Body but all other employees who are in any way responsible for the School's activities must take account of safety, health and welfare at all times.

All Stowe School employees have health and safety responsibilities within their own working area and throughout the whole School site.

In order to minimise confusion in respect of the responsibilities of individuals or groups with regard to the Health and Safety Policy it is necessary to clearly identify those individuals and clarify their specific responsibilities.

#### PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY

**The Board of Governors are responsible for:**

- Preparing and keeping up to date a Statement of the Groups Policy for Health, Safety and Welfare, ensuring that it is brought to the attention of employees.
- Ensuring that sound working practices are observed as laid down by Codes of Practice, and that work is planned and carried out in accordance with statutory provisions.
- Allocating funds to allow designated staff to provide information and guidance to all those involved with work activities on the School sites.
- Ensuring that any employees failing to satisfactorily discharge their responsibilities for health and safety are dealt with in an appropriate manner.
- Setting an example and maintaining enthusiasm by its own behaviour and involvement in health and safety matters.

**ELT/Heads of Department/Houseparents/Line Managers are responsible for:**

- Ensuring that this policy and other relevant departmental policies are implemented to achieve the highest possible standard of health, safety, and welfare for all persons on the site.
- Ensuring that all those responsible to them understand and discharge their responsibilities and duties in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and other relevant legislation.
- Ensuring that accidents are reported and, where required, accident investigations are carried out and the reports are sent to the Group Health, Safety & Compliance Manager.
- Ensuring that risk assessments are carried out and in place for their areas of responsibility, with evidence (signatures) that the relevant staff have received and read them.
- Ensuring that staff in their charge receive the relevant training for all aspects of their role, including an induction at the start of their employment and regular refresher training.
- Ensuring that all buildings, plant, equipment, and systems of work are safe and operate within the requirements of relevant health and safety legislation.
- Ensuring regular safety inspections of the premises including plant, materials and safety procedures take place.
- Maintaining and promoting good housekeeping and general site tidiness in all working areas.
- Ensuring that articles and substances supplied on site are free from risk as far as is reasonably practicable.
- Ensuring that operations on site present no nuisance to the public or pupils, such as excessive noise.
- Ensuring that adequate consideration is given to health and safety aspects in the planning, implementation, and control of operations, so that those operations will be carried out safely. Involving the Health, Safety & Compliance Manager in all aspects of those considerations, and communication is made throughout the whole process.
- Monitoring the general operation and effectiveness of this policy and ensuring that any major issues are brought to the attention of the Director of Operations & Estates.

Author: RD/MK  
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- Setting an example and maintaining enthusiasm by their own behaviour and involvement in health and safety matters.

#### **All Employees are responsible for:**

- Ensuring that they read and understand the Stowe Group Health and Safety Policy and that they carry out their work in accordance with its requirements.
- Carrying out all reasonable Management requests with regards to Health and Safety
- Reading all relevant risk assessments and understanding the control measures required.
- Using the correct equipment for the job.
- Using all safety devices and equipment, where fitted, correctly.
- Wearing all safety clothing and equipment provided and Department uniforms (where required).
- Ensuring that any defect or damage to plant or equipment is reported to their Line Manager and/or the Group Health, Safety & Compliance Manager and they do not use the equipment until it is safe.
- Working in a safe manner, at all times, and not taking unnecessary risks that could endanger themselves or others.
- Reporting any injury to themselves which results from an accident at work, even if the injury does not stop them from working.
- Reporting Incidents and near miss occurrences to their Line Manager and the Group Health, Safety & Compliance Manager.
- Ensuring that practical jokes or 'horseplay,' which may put the safety of themselves or others at risk, do not take place.
- Ensuring that others, including the public, are protected from hazards arising from all their work activities.

#### **The Group Health, Safety & Compliance Manager is responsible for:**

- Advising the School on the preparation, implementation and review of the Health and Safety Policy including the organisation and arrangements for carrying out the Policy.
- Ensuring that up-to-date information is received and passed to the relevant School departments/staff.
- Assisting Heads of Department/Houseparents to create risk assessments for departments and general areas of the School for activities which pose significant risk to employees, pupils, visitors, and contractors on site.
- Creating/overseeing the undertaking of Fire Risk Assessments and Fire Plans for the School. Assisting/undertaking termly fire evacuation drills. Liaising with the Fire Service when on site.
- Undertaking internal audits to monitor health and safety systems on site, creating a management system for monitoring/following health and safety guidelines.
- Providing guidance for all employees/Heads of Department in creating health and safety documents, systems, and procedures specific to them.
- Providing Health and Safety guidance to the Executive Leadership Team (ELT)/Director of Operations & Estates during planning and preparation for building works and projects throughout the Estate.
- Ensuring that the relevant documentation and health and safety records are available for external inspections and the relevant enforcement officers.
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) related injuries to the Health and Safety Executive on behalf of the School. And monitor those submitted by SHS and WHS
- Delivering and/or arranging health and safety related training to staff as required.
- Giving advice and creating reports for the Board of Governors, as requested on:
  - Legal requirements/School compliance regarding health and safety
  - Proposed changes to legislation and their potential impact on the School
- Assisting the School in any dealings with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) or any other legislative body.
- Carrying out investigations after serious accidents/incidents.

#### **Health and Safety Committee**

The purpose of the Health and Safety Committee is to address ongoing health, safety and welfare issues associated with work activities. The Committee meets once a term under the chair of the Director of Operations & Estates. The



Governor who is responsible for health, safety, and welfare, is also asked to attend these meetings. The Key members of the Committee are: (this will differ on each School site)

- Group Director of Operations and Estates (Chairman)
- Group Health & Safety Governor
- Group Health, Safety & Compliance Manager
- Senior Science Technician
- Assistant Deputy Head (Pastoral) & DSL
- Senior Deputy Head
- Senior Nurse Manager
- Group Head of People
- Group Projects Manager
- Building Services Engineer
- Head of Support Services (Vice Chair)

The role of the Committee is to:

- Discuss matters concerning health, safety, and welfare.
- Review the impact of changes in regulations and the need for compliance.
- Monitor the effectiveness of health and safety within the School.
- Review accidents and near misses and discuss preventative measures.
- Review, update and promote risk assessments.
- Discuss health and safety training requirements for all School staff.
- Monitor the implementation of professional advice.
- Review the Safety Policies and Guidance and update them as required.
- Assist in the development of safety rules and safe systems of work.
- Monitor communication and publicity relating to health and safety in the workplace.
- Encourage suggestions and reporting of defects by all members of staff.

### **Monitoring and Review of the Policy**

All employees will be expected to bring to the notice of the Group Director of Operations & Estates any area where the School's Policy on health, safety and welfare appears to be inadequate. These suggestions will be considered.

At twelve monthly intervals, or as and when legislation dictates, a review audit of the School's performance in accident prevention, compliance with the Policy, School procedures, training etc. will be carried out to establish areas where improvements could be made, and to review and, where necessary, revise the Health and Safety Policy.

### **The Health and Safety (Consultation with Employees) Regulations 1996**

The Executive Leadership Team (ELT) of Stowe School will consult with employees and consider their views before any decisions are taken with regard to new work methods or equipment which may affect their health and safety. This will be discharged through the Director of Operations & Estates.

The SLT/ELT will, in good time:

- provide adequate information on what is proposed
- give those affected sufficient time to express their views, and
- listen and take account of the response.

**Part 3 – (this section should follow the same principles but may have specific arrangements for each School site)**

*\*Dictates standalone arrangements with standalone policies in place for Stowe School*

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE STOWE SCHOOL**

**3.1 Accident Reporting, Recording and Investigation**

Under the direction of Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) (2013) certain types of accident must be reported to the HSE. The employer must keep a record of any reportable injury, disease, or dangerous occurrence. This must include:

- date
- time
- personal details of person affected
- location of accident
- nature of event
- treatment required

**Reporting**

The HSE must be notified of fatal and specified incidents only without delay by telephone 0345 300 9923. This notification must be followed up within 10 days with a written report on Form 2508. All other injuries and dangerous occurrences must be reported via the HSE web site using the online forms. The School Group Health, Safety & Compliance Manager will complete the forms on the HSE website. This information will be shared with the Head, Group Director of Operations & Estates, and the Director of Finance.

The following incidents must be reported on the School's report forms. These should be completed by the member of staff responsible at the time the injury occurs, for example during a lesson/trip/sports match. If the injury occurs in a Boarding House the Houseparent/Matron should complete the forms. It is not the responsibility of the Health Centre to fill out accident report forms. The staff in the Health Centre process the medical information, not the details of what happened or how/when.

The following must be recorded:

- an accident that is the result of any School activity (including any involving contractors)
- an accident that occurs because of the way in which a School activity has been organised or managed
- an accident that is the result of the use of equipment, machinery, or substances
- an accident that occurs because of the design or condition of the premises
- an accident that requires first aid where personal injury has been sustained
- any assault that requires first aid treatment
- any casualty that is referred to hospital or their local GP

**All** sections of the Personal Injury Form **must** be completed, and signatures gained before submission to the Group Health, Safety & Compliance Manager. There can never be enough information on the forms.

All accidents, no matter how small, must be recorded and documented. If in doubt colleagues should assume that they must write it down and report it. This also applies to near miss events that must be monitored as part of the School's Health and Safety management system.

**Near Miss Reporting/Incidents**

Colleagues should report near miss incidents to the Group Health, Safety & Compliance Manager (via email or verbally). These will be recorded and monitored as a proactive measure to prevent accidents occurring. All accidents and near miss occurrences will be reported to the Governing Body through written reports. The Director of Operations & Estates and Heads of Department will be informed of serious issues as soon as possible after the incident by the Group Health, Safety & Compliance Manager. Incidents including damage to property or School vehicles must also be reported.

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### Accident Investigation

Investigating accidents is a requirement if a Form 2508 has been completed, but all accidents, irrespective of severity, should be investigated to prevent further occurrence. Minor accidents should be investigated by the Head of Department and the outcomes shared with the Group Health, Safety & Compliance Manager. HSE reportable accidents will be investigated by the Group Health, Safety & Compliance Manager with the assistance of the Head of Department and other staff as required.

### 3.2 Bullying and Harassment\*

Stowe School holds a standalone procedure for bullying and harassment, copies of which can be accessed from the staff handbook, available on the Stowe Central.

### 3.3 Safeguarding and Child Protection\*

Stowe School holds a standalone Safeguarding Policy, copies of which can be accessed on Stowe Central or obtained from the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead.

### 3.4 Contractors (Management Of) \*

The Group Project Manager, Head of Estates, Maintenance Supervisor, Building Services Engineer, and the Director of Operations & Estates are all responsible for the management of contractors on site. The Chief Executive of the Stowe House Preservation Trust (SHPT) is responsible for contractors engaged on restoration projects for SHPT. All contractors undertaking work on the School site must abide by the School's health and safety rules.

The management of contractors on site is outlined in the Safety Management Systems and Guidance Notes for Contractors. This document must be sent out to all contractors as a **pre-contract** document. Any additional managers outside of the Estates team who have issued tenders for hiring any contractor, or an external tradesman where work is to be carried out on site, must also follow this guidance.

### 3.5 Contractors (Management of Asbestos) \*

The School has produced an Asbestos Policy where details of the procedures are outlined.

All contractors must be made aware of the Asbestos Register and the Asbestos Management Plan **before** they start any invasive work to the fabric of the building, or in underground pipe work. This is the responsibility of the member of staff inducting or issuing the tenders for hiring the contractor.

If the presence of asbestos is suspected at any time, then the School's Asbestos Policy must be followed, and the relevant testing undertaken. No work should be started or continue in the area until the results are shared, and further action is agreed in accordance with the School's policy.

### 3.6 Contractors and Visitors on Site

On arrival on site, visitors should park in the designated visitors' car parking area on the North Front.

All visitors should report to School Reception, where they will be asked to sign in and be allocated a visitor's badge. The badge should remain on show for the duration of their stay. The reception staff should be informed in advance of expected visitor(s). Once the visitor(s) have signed in, the reception staff will contact the relevant member of staff to come and collect the visitor(s). This will prevent visitors wandering around on site without a member of staff and assist the School with good safeguarding practice.

Visitors must be reminded of the above arrangements by the relevant member of staff when arranging appointments.

Colleagues hosting, should inform visitors of any health and safety issues, including the relevant welfare facilities for use on site, and draw their attention to the fire evacuation procedures (laminated evacuation notices around the site, the back of the visitor's badge).

The control of contractor's document must be followed by all colleagues commissioning contractors/tradesmen on site (including into their personal residential properties).

The site is open, and the School buildings (including Boarding accommodation and grounds/sports facilities) can be accessed by the public, with bridleways and public footpaths running around and through the grounds. A Security risk assessment has been undertaken to ensure controls are in place to prevent unwanted site access.

### 3.7 Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) – including compressed gases and radiation\*

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002 (as amended) impose statutory duties upon employers and employees. To enable those statutory duties to be carried out, Stowe Group is committed, so far as is reasonably practicable, to safeguard the health of its employees and other persons who may be exposed through their work with substances hazardous to health.

Stowe School holds a stand-alone COSHH policy which outlines the regulatory requirements in full detail and is available on the School VLE page.

#### Radiation

The School's Science Department Policy must outline the procedures and responsible persons for radioactive substances held on site. The Radiation Protection Officer for the School is Mr Paul Thompson (Head of Physics).

The School recognises that some individuals may experience symptoms that they believe are related to electromagnetic hypersensitivity, a functional disability that they feel is brought about by exposure to the non-ionising radiation associated with sources including wi-fi. Stowe School will make any reasonable adjustment to mitigate the impact of wi-fi on anyone who believes that he/she is affected by the condition. The World Health Organisation (WHO) recognises the condition but neither the WHO nor the UK Department of Health accepts that there is any link to wi-fi transmissions. As long as this is the stance taken by such organisations, the School intends to roll-out wi-fi to meet agreed business needs whilst taking every step to mitigate the effects on staff who may suffer adversely from the effects of wi-fi.

#### Highly Flammable Liquids (HFL)

An HFL is any liquid, liquid solution, emulsion, or suspension which, when tested in the manner specified in the Regulations, gives off a flammable vapour at a temperature less than 32°C and supports combustion. The Fire Procedures and Policy outlines the strict requirements for the use and storage of HFL on site.

#### Radon

Radon is a naturally occurring element. The School is aware that it is geographically situated in an area where Radon levels are known to be higher than normal. Radon testing will be undertaken at periods of five years to monitor this within any buildings on site where it may be deemed to be a potential risk.

### 3.8 Defect Reporting Procedures

All defective equipment must be taken out of use. Defects should be reported to the Department Line Manager/Head of Department. Written Taskman reports of defective equipment for repair should be sent to the Estates Co-ordinator (01280 818240). This will be passed to the relevant manager who will disseminate the information to the relevant team for action. Urgent issues should be reported by telephone to the Estates Co-ordinator (or the emergency call out) for action.

Colleagues should not attempt to repair or undertake maintenance tasks, unless instructed by the Head of Estates, or the task is outlined in their job description, and they have the relevant qualifications to do so.

### 3.9 Display Screen Equipment (DSE)

The Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) (DSE) Regulations 1992 (amended 2002) apply to any employee habitually<sup>1</sup> (for periods longer than half the working day) using any type of display screen equipment for a significant part of the normal week. This includes work done outside the office, including work undertaken at home (with the exception if the home working is a temporary measure). DSE assessments of the workstation must be undertaken, and this should form part of new staff induction if the member of staff is office based.

It is the School's intention to optimise the use and application of DSE within the organisation, whilst safeguarding the health, welfare, and job satisfaction of those involved in operating such equipment.

When new display screen equipment is being selected, consideration will be given to the health and safety aspects of its design. Before commencing work, DSE operators must adjust the workplace to suit their own needs as follows:

- adjust the height and position of the chair
- ensure that lighting is adequate and appropriate, whilst using curtains or blinds to avoid screen reflections
- ensure that the display screen is clean and adjust brightness and sharpness of image as necessary
- position all equipment, such as keyboards, to avoid awkward posture or movements. Particular care should be taken to avoid repeated stretching movements.

Employees should consult their Manager for advice concerning any problems which may arise with the use of DSE.

### **Working with Laptop/Tablet Computers**

Laptops should be compact and easy to carry. However, this results in design compromises, such as smaller keyboards and screens. This can make working positions less comfortable than a normal display screen in prolonged use.

Using a portable computer should be avoided when full-sized equipment is available. However, when using a laptop:

- the user should sit comfortably
- the screen should be angled so it can be seen clearly with minimal reflections
- the user should take frequent breaks if work is prolonged
- the laptop should be placed on a firm surface at the right height for keying

**While the DSE policy does not mention the requirement for pupils using workstations and ICT equipment to undertake a formal recorded assessment, information and instruction on good posture and practices will be given during lessons. ICT stations for pupils will be set up so that they can be adjusted for each user.**

### **Eye and Eyesight Testing**

Under the Display Screen Equipment (DSE) Regulations, those employees classed as habitual users<sup>1</sup> are entitled to request a basic eye test once a written DSE assessment has taken place. Such eye tests only need to be provided by the employer at approximately two yearly intervals, or as otherwise determined by the optician.

Where an employee wishes to undertake an eye test and proposes to seek reimbursement from the School, the tests must be ***specifically for DSE users*** (this is a basic eye test, it does not cover an enhanced eye test) and must be arranged with the knowledge of the Group Health, Safety & Compliance Manager. A form should be requested BEFORE the test date and completed and taken to the optician. The optician will then provide the relevant information required by the School to process any expenses claim. The employee should then return the form to the Group Health, Safety & Compliance Manager. Forms will not be accepted, and claims will not be paid retrospectively.

### **Visual discomfort**

Where an employee experiences visual difficulty and has reason to believe that this may be caused by work with DSE, the School will offer a basic eyesight test after the DSE assessment has been updated.

### **Costs of testing**

The full cost of the basic eye test will be met by the School provided that the test has been agreed by the Group Health, Safety & Compliance Manager and the relevant form is completed *prior* to the appointment. Where an employee has arranged a test independently and without the knowledge of the School, even if the test is specifically related to display screen use, the School will not be responsible for the costs incurred.

### **Supply of glasses**

Where glasses or replacement lenses are found to be necessary, ***specifically for the use of DSE***, the School will contribute up to £70 towards the cost, on the production of appropriate receipt documentation. The School will not contribute towards the cost of bifocal or varifocal lenses. Request for funds must be made before going for an eye test.

#### Safety Glasses

Where the risk assessment dictates that safety goggles/ eye protection is required an assessment of needs will be made by the Group Health, Safety and Compliance Manager if the employee can have a pair of prescription safety glasses for this task. Where this is deemed a requirement, as PPE the School will cover the basic cost of the corrective lenses.

#### Care and replacement of glasses and/or frames

Employees are personally responsible for the safekeeping of glasses and/or frames and are expected to show the same degree of care as for any other item of School property. Where a change in an employee's vision is found and a different prescription is required, the School will bear the cost of replacement (subject to the maximum amount shown above) providing the procedures outlined above have been followed.

### 3.10 Electricity at Work

The Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 require that precautions be taken to reduce the risk of death and injury from electricity in the workplace. Risk assessments for the use of electrical equipment must be carried out by the relevant department. Specific details and guidance for high-risk activities should be outlined in the relevant Department Policy for example maintenance work on live electricity. Only qualified staff (18<sup>th</sup> Edition) must work on the School's electrical systems and equipment.

For general electrical equipment used by staff:

- All electrical systems should be constructed and maintained to prevent danger. No staff should work on electrical systems without being competent and qualified to the relevant standards (18<sup>th</sup> Edition).
- All portable electrical equipment on site must be subject to regular testing. This equipment should display identification of inspection.
- There must be suitable means of isolating or cutting the electricity supply off to any item of equipment.
- Items outlined on the School Electrical items 'Banned list' must not be used for example double/ triple adaptor plugs as they contribute to fire hazards.
- Drum extension cables must be fully unwound when in use. This should not create a trip hazard in the area of use.
- Extension cables should not feed additional extension cables (daisy chains).
- Staff should visually check the equipment before use. If any issues are found, the equipment should be turned off, isolated from the power supply and the defect reported to the Line Manager.
- Any electrical equipment created by Stoics (as part of a design project or as part of a performance) must be checked by a competent electrician before it is used. It is the responsibility of the member of staff in charge of the project to ensure that this takes place.
- All electrical equipment that is not in use should be unplugged/ turned off. This is particularly important overnight and during holiday periods.

Guidance for the use of electrical equipment by specific departmental staff and contractors on site must be outlined in the contractors' company's policy and risk assessments.

An Electrical testing policy has been created for the School and is available from the School Services Engineer.

### 3.11 Fire Precautions and Emergency Plans\*

It is essential that all employees familiarise themselves fully, not only with the established escape route from their own areas, but also with the routes from other areas. Evacuation signage is displayed in all departments and Boarding Houses outlining the School's evacuation points.

The School has a Fire Procedures and Policy in place. This outlines action to be taken in an emergency and names the School's designated Fire Wardens and their specific areas of duty. This document, along with the School Contingency Plan, outlines in more detail the fire and evacuation procedures. Hard copies of the Contingency Plan have been disseminated to the ELT and other designated staff

### 3.12 First Aid and Medication\*

In line with the Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981 (amended 2018) the School has undertaken a first aid risk assessment. This document outlines the requirement for first aid provision on the School site.

Employees must make themselves aware of who the department First Aider is, or how to contact a First Aider in the area. The appointed people will monitor and replenish the first aid box located in their area.

Further guidance is contained in the Stowe School First Aid Policy; this also includes accident reporting procedures. Copies of the policy are available from the Group Health, Safety & Compliance Manager or on the Policy page Stowe central.

#### Pandemic/Infectious Disease Outbreak

Where it has been identified that a local, or national infectious disease breakout has occurred the School will follow the advice from:

- The School's GP and associated Medical Practice
- Public Health England
- The Local Health Authority
- Government Guidance

In turn the relevant policies, procedures and risk assessments will be undertaken and implemented for the duration of the outbreak.

#### Drugs and Alcohol

Alcohol or drug abuse by employees and sub-contractors (including supervisory and management staff) can adversely affect the health and safety of themselves and/or others on the site. Therefore, it is the policy of the School that any person known to be, or strongly suspected of being, affected by alcohol or drugs must be referred to the appropriate Manager who must arrange for that person to be removed from site. The staff handbook outlines the School's Drugs and Alcohol policies.

### 3.13 Housekeeping, Cleaning & Waste Disposal

Housekeeping operations take place throughout the site on a daily basis. These are organised and controlled by the Head of Support Services. Colleagues are responsible for keeping their own workspace/departments tidy and are required to undertake the regular removal of day-to-day waste and unwanted items into bins so that the Housekeeping teams can remove it.

Good housekeeping is a major control measure in the prevention and reduction of fire and slip, trip and fall hazards.

Staff should not bring cleaning products in from home to use in the School to clean their work areas. Products are controlled and available from the Head of Support Services on request.

Waste is collected in the site's industrial bins or the School compactors which are removed from site by an external contractor. If colleagues have large items for removal, assistance should be sought from the House Staff, or Estates Department if a skip is required.

Clinical waste is removed from site by external contractors, this also includes 'sharps' used by the Health Centre. All clinical waste must be disposed of through a registered Contractor. Used first aid items which have been contaminated by body fluids must be placed in yellow hazard bags (available in first aid boxes and in the hazard care bags held by House Matrons) and taken to the Health Centre for disposal.

### 3.14 Lettings/Shared Use of Premises

Since 1989 the National Trust has been responsible for the management and upkeep of the landscape gardens and the associated monuments and temples. As a result, Stowe School shares the management of the Estate and the associated risks. The National Trust conducts risk assessments to cover its obligations in property management, but the School also manages the risk posed by the Estate (lakes etc.) to the pupils.

The commercial events which take place at the School are organised by Stowe Enterprises Limited. Procedures and documentation for each event will be created by the individual event organiser and shared with the relevant departments and staff as required. Meetings will be held with key staff before large events to ensure that

procedures are in place, in order to fulfil the School's duty of care to colleagues, pupils and members of the public. This must include producing risk assessments.

### **3.15 Lifting Equipment (including lifts, hoists, and evacuation chairs)**

Under the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER) the School must have safe systems of work and/or risk assessments in place for the use of lifting equipment. In the department's where lifting equipment is used, information will be available in the department policy. Colleagues must be aware of the control measures required and undertake the tasks following the safe working methods.

Lifting equipment that does not have the appropriate certification must not be used for lifting personnel, for example tractor buckets or trailers.

All lifting equipment must be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Equipment such as lifts, and hoists must be tested every six months by a qualified, competent person. Records of the maintenance will be retained on site by the relevant department, or the School's Building Services Engineer.

### **3.16 Lone Working and Personal Safety**

Lone working on site should be the exception, rather than the rule, particularly with high-risk activities such as confined space work, and working at height. Due to the layout of the site and the buildings, at times colleagues may find themselves working in remote areas. Communication with others at this time is paramount. Colleagues must be involved with producing their own personal lone working risk assessments for the activities they are undertaking and be fully aware of the risks of lone working. This will ensure that all necessary control measures are in place and followed.

Colleagues must make their Line Manager aware of any lone working issues they encounter and produce a risk assessment in agreement with the Group Health, Safety & Compliance Manager.

It is recommended that the Security Team is informed when colleagues are lone working on site. They must sign in and out at the Security Cabin as part of their personal lone working risk assessment.

### **3.17 Maintenance/Inspection of Equipment including fume cupboards**

Maintenance of all workplace equipment is required under the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER). Heads of Department must ensure that checks are carried out on the relevant equipment. This may be a visual check each time the equipment is used, or formal inspections at designated time periods by qualified competent persons. This will be arranged through the Estates Department/Building Services Engineer or agreed by the Head of Department who is responsible for the area. Communication between the Head of Department and the School Building Services Engineer/Estates Department must be made to ensure that there is no confusion as to responsibility and that service/maintenance is not missed.

Where equipment is formally inspected records must be held for a period of five years by the relevant person as above.

### **3.18 Manual Handling\***

The Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992, as amended in 2002, apply to a wide range of manual handling activities such as pushing, pulling, lifting, lowering, and carrying. Loads in the workplace may be inanimate such as a box, trolley, or animate such as a person or animal. The School has a duty under the Regulations to avoid, assess, and reduce these activities.

Departmental risk assessments must be in place for manual handling activities and staff must be appropriately trained to undertake the tasks required of them.

### **3.19 Passenger Carrying Vehicles (PCV)/ School Vehicles\***

Stowe School's Passenger Carrying Vehicle Policy and Procedures is available on Stowe Central policy page and held in the PCV folders. All drivers of the School PCV/vehicles must read this document before taking a vehicle off site. Colleagues driving any of the School fleet must have registered on the School's external providers electronic system for fleet management. (Also see section 3.30).

### **3.20 Monitoring Arrangements**



Under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 the School will monitor the health and safety management structure and performance. To help this process, the Governors and Head will, through designated staff, ensure that all reasonable inspection facilities and information are provided on request to officers of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Trade Union health and safety representatives and any other external inspectorate bodies.

Departmental audits will be undertaken by the Group Health, Safety & Compliance Manager, with the assistance of the Heads of Department and other designated staff. All actions and outcomes will be discussed with the Director of Operations & Estates. This information will be made available to the Governors and the Head through the Health and Safety Committee, or on request.

The Head will undertake periodical 'snap' checks to identify the current position of the School and to raise awareness if further action needs to be taken.

The School's Health and Safety Management structure will be based on current guidelines such as British Standard ISO 45001.

### 3.21 Noise at Work

The Noise at Work Regulations 2005 put the employer under a general duty to reduce the risk of hearing damage to the lowest level reasonably practicable.

Lower Exposure action: Daily or weekly exposure *of 80 dB(A)*

Upper Exposure action: Daily or weekly exposure *of 85 dB(A)*

#### The Risk of Damage to Hearing

Generally, the sensitivity of hearing deteriorates with age. Loud noise can also induce hearing loss, the degree of which depends on several factors including:

- overall intensity of noise
- duration of exposure
- individual susceptibility

Normally the first sign of damage is a temporary dullness of hearing. This may be accompanied by a ringing in the ears, known as tinnitus. This normally passes after exposure ceases. However, if exposure is repeated before recovery is complete, some degree of permanent damage may set in. Sometimes peak pressure and sound waves from impact noise may be so great that there is a risk of instantaneous damage.

#### Noise Risk Assessments

Departmental risk assessments must be carried out where it is felt that noise is excessive. All such results must be made known to employees. Where exposure is at 85 dB or above, the issuing and wearing of ear protection is mandatory for **all** people including visitors in those areas. The School should look for active ways to manage down the noise levels. Colleagues who are deemed to be exposed will also be asked to attend mandatory Health Surveillance for hearing tests every two years while in employment at Stowe.

It should be noted that there is no cure for permanent hearing loss.

### 3.22 Educational Trips and Visits\*

The School's legal 'Duty of Care' still operates when pupils are taken off site to partake in any activity such as field trips, day visits and sporting fixtures. Whilst pupils can derive a good deal of educational benefit from taking part in visits away from the School, particularly as they have the opportunity to undergo experiences not available in the classroom, it is essential that those leaders leading the activity demonstrate a high level of safety awareness, so that such visits take place without incident.

All off site activities must be risk assessed by the member of staff taking the trip. Generic risk assessments can be used by staff who are responsible and lead regular visits to the same place. However, one copy must be signed and dated at the start of the activity and reviewed annually if the same trip/activity continues to take place. Generic risk assessments should be added to if there are any changes during the course of the visit.

School trips must be organised and booked with the agreement of the Educational Visits Coordinator to ensure that all the requirements are in place before the activity commences. Trips from the School include those outside the United Kingdom, where stringent planning and arrangements must be in place.

Arrangements will be in place to ensure that the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award leaders and the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) undertake risk assessments and apply safe systems of work/lesson plans for the activities which they oversee. These will follow DofE and the Ministry of Defence guidance and recorded on their relevant recording system.

Colleagues should refer to the Educational Trips and Visits Policy on the Policy page on Stowe Central.

### 3.23 Outdoor Equipment (assault course)

The Combined Cadet Force (CCF) undertake a range of activities on site. Due to the nature of these activities, pupils can be faced with high-risk hazards such as working at height and the use of firearms.

Risk assessments and safe systems of work will be in place for the activities. These are undertaken and shared with all the activity leaders. Leaders who instruct CCF lessons and activities in the School (including the lakes) will hold the relevant qualifications and have the authorisation of the School to access the areas.

Additional standards will also be followed by colleagues. These include:

- Cadet Training Safety Precautions
- Obstacle Course Standing Orders
- Cadet Training Manual

These documents are held by the CCF School Staff Instructor.

Where the assault course is used by Stowe Enterprises Ltd for commercial use, relevant SEL Manager is responsible for ensuring that relevant health and safety measures will be in place.

### 3.24 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 state that every employer shall ensure that suitable personal protective equipment is provided to employees who may be exposed to a risk to their health or safety while at work, except where and to the extent that such a risk had been controlled by other means which are equally or more effective.

When the departmental risk assessment and/or safe systems of work require personal protection, only clothing and equipment which affords the desired level of protection and requirements of the current British Standards is to be made available as a last resort of control. This may include:

- eye protection - goggles, face guards, shields (prescription safety glasses)
- protective footwear - boots or shoes with toe/sole full foot protection
- hand protection - gloves
- ear protection - ear plugs, ear defenders
- head protection - hard hats, bump caps, hair nets
- protective clothing - overalls, insulating clothing, high visibility clothes

This list is not exhaustive. Where PPE has been provided it should be looked after by the member of staff to whom it is issued and replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's guidance, when damaged or lost. The employee's responsibility is to ensure that the equipment supplied is not damaged or lost on purpose, and any defects or damage to the equipment is reported to the Line Manager immediately. PPE must be worn in the correct manner whilst on sites where this is indicated in the rules.

### Information, Instruction and Training

Where PPE is provided to an employee, adequate information, instruction, and training must be given to enable the employee to know the risk (s) which the PPE is designed to avoid or limit. The purpose for and the manner in which PPE is to be used should also be explained.

Pre-use visual inspection must be undertaken by the operative before using PPE to ensure it is suitable and sufficient and it is not defective in any way.

### 3.25 Ponds, Lakes, and Water Features

The School will work with the National Trust and Anglian Water to ensure that the water courses and lakes are not affected by any of the School's acts or omissions. The School will work closely with the above, as required for cleaning, maintenance and monitoring of the water courses and lakes.

Where the lakes are used for educational or recreational purpose, the relevant departments will undertake suitable and sufficient risk assessments outlining the required control measures. The immediate hazards to pupils, colleagues and visitors from the water are drowning/death and illness due to pollution. Without adult supervision the lakes are out of bounds to Stoics.

### 3.26 Risk Assessments\*

Undertaking risk assessments is a requirement under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999. This requires the School to assess the risks to the health and safety of workers and any others who may be affected by the work carried out for the purpose of identifying measures needed to be taken to comply with other legislation. Carrying out these assessments will help to identify all the protective and preventive measures that must be taken to comply with the Regulations. Department Heads and Line Managers are responsible for ensuring the relevant RAs are in place for their departments.

Copies of risk assessments should be in date and signed by the assessor and the responsible person(s) undertaking the tasks. These should be held in the area of work. Electronic copies can also be shared with the Group Health, Safety & Compliance Manager, allowing them to be available for inspection by the HSE, Governing Body and the outside inspectorates as required. They will also be internally audited by the Group Health, Safety & Compliance Manager during departmental audits.

Risk assessments should be reviewed and revised:

- Annually or sooner if required.
- When there is reason to suspect the assessment is no longer valid. This may become apparent through accidents, safety complaints, ill-health trends, or the employer may become aware that a relevant piece of legislation has fallen out of date.
- When there has been a significant change in the matters to which the assessment relates (such as the introduction of new work equipment, changes in management personnel, new markets or applications for the School's products, cutbacks in training etc).

All significant findings should be recorded and brought to the attention of relevant personnel, with signatures provided as evidence that the information has been read and received by those undertaking the tasks.

Specific risk assessments, which the School should have in place under current regulations are:

- Fire Risk Assessment
- Young workers employed by the School/Work Experience
- New and Expectant Mothers
- Control Of Substances Hazardous to Health
- Lone Working
- Asbestos Control
- Legionella Control

### 3.27 Smoking on Site\*

The School must adhere to the current Regulations which make up 'Smoke-free England;' there are five in all. In accordance with these Regulations, smoking is prohibited in School vehicles and in the vicinity of all hazardous storage. All buildings are designated no smoking areas. There is a permanent designated smoking area by the minibus parking in the designed smoking shelter. Staff wishing to smoke electronic cigarettes may only do so in the designated area by the smoking shelter. A strict ban exists on naked flames within the Mansion and areas attached to Boarding Houses.

Visitors, contractors, and the public attending corporate events must be reminded of the School's no smoking policy by the relevant departments (during induction). Complying with the policy will ensure that the School and individuals abide by the law and as outlined in the School's Fire Risk Assessments, reduce the fire risk to the building/s. For specific events in the Mansion, provision will be made for smokers to take a break on the North or South Front away from the building.

The School's 'No Smoking Policy' is available on the policy page of the VLE.

### 3.28 Swimming Pool\*

All activities which take place in the School's swimming pool must be assessed for risk to the users. The School must follow the guidance outlined in HSG 179 *Managing Health and Safety in Swimming Pools* for the maintenance and running of the pool and the activities which take place there. This, amongst other requirements, instructs that two specific written documents must be in place; **Normal Operating Procedure** (NOP) and **Emergency Action Plan** (EAP). The Director of Sport and the Group Health, Safety & Compliance Manager are responsible for ensuring that the two documents are in date and relevant for the pool use at Stowe. A copy is held in the pool office.

Staff must only swim when a lifeguard and the required number of first aid or additional colleagues are present during the designated timetabled event.

Where the pool is used by the School for commercial use, risk assessments must be completed, and the NOP & EAP must be followed. This is the responsibility of the Stowe Enterprises Limited Venue Manager.

### 3.29 Training and Development related to Health and Safety

Section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 imposes a general duty on the School to provide as much information, instruction, training, and supervision as is necessary to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety at work of the employees:

- as part of their induction training
- on being exposed to new or increased risks because they are being transferred or given a change of responsibility
- on the introduction of new work equipment or work procedure
- on the introduction of new technology

The current qualifications must be reviewed to ensure that the employee is still qualified (e.g., First Aid) as outlined by the certifying body.

#### Induction Procedure

An induction procedure should be carried out by the new employee's Line Manager, or the nominated deputy, on the new employee's first day(s) of work. The School will use relevant forms to record the process relating to H&S tasks. Other aspects of the new employee's work should be shown to him/her, including any departmental policies, rest areas and other welfare facilities.

#### Mandatory Training

Where the School has dictated that specific training is mandatory, all employees within this requirement must undertake this within the required time and frequency.

#### Specific Training

No employee will carry out tasks for which he/she has not received adequate training. He/she must also be deemed 'competent' to undertake the task. In particular, training must cover asbestos awareness, manual handling, the

operation of dangerous machinery, mechanical or electrical maintenance of equipment or machinery, and department/ health and safety policies and risk assessments that are in place.

### **Refresher Training**

An employee's competence will decline if skills are not used regularly. Training, therefore, needs to be repeated periodically to ensure continued competence. Information from personal performance monitoring, health and safety checks, accident investigations and near-miss incidents can help establish a suitable period for re-training. Specific qualifications such as first aid and fire marshal training require that refresher training be delivered at regular time intervals.

All refresher training must be recorded, and a record kept on file by the Head of Department (Group Health, Safety & Compliance Manager only retains records of training delivered through H&S Department).

### **3.30 Vehicle Movement on Site\***

Due to the layout of the site, vehicles will travel from one location to the other during the course of the School's daily business. This will include colleagues working in School owned vehicles (vans, lorries, PCV's, tractors etc.) and their own private cars.

Colleagues using cars on site should observe current speed and parking restrictions, and drive and park with consideration for others while on site. Contractors will also be using a wide range of vehicles ranging from vans, trucks, cranes, and diggers from time to time; these must all be covered in the contractor's risk assessment regarding their movement on site.

### **Driving**

All employees are required to have a full UK driving licence (for over one year and two years for PCV driving) and to have registered with the external regulated body (through the Transport Manager) in order to drive any School or hire vehicle, or their own vehicle on behalf of the School. This is the requirement to be covered under the School's motor insurance policy. This information may need to be shared with third parties in the interest of the School only.

Employees *must* observe and obey all current traffic laws, speed restrictions etc. including the use of seat belts while driving on School business. If they drive Stowe School vehicles, they must also follow their departmental risk assessments for doing so.

### **Accidents**

It is mandatory for any drivers involved in an accident while driving as part of their job role to report the accident to the Director of Operations & Estates. If the accident occurs on a road, the driver must immediately stop and report any damage caused to property (including other vehicles or property on or immediately adjacent to the road) or to certain animals (including dogs, horses, and sheep but not cats) or to persons (passengers, pedestrians, other drivers), to any person having reasonable grounds for requiring the information. If this cannot be done, then the police must be informed as soon as possible and, in any case, within 24 hours.

Failure to stop or report an accident to the police which occurs on a public highway is a criminal offence. The incident/ accident and injuries must be reported following the School's Accident Reporting procedures.

### **People Carrying Vehicles (PCV)**

The School has not only a moral but also a legal responsibility to ensure that all School PCV provide a safe method and quality of transportation. Passengers are entitled to assume that the vehicle in which they are travelling is fit for that purpose, so therefore the operator (i.e., the School) and the driver (assumed to be always a member of Stowe staff) ultimately has the duty of providing a safe vehicle, driven safely. Current road laws will apply to the vehicle and driver whilst driven on the public highways.

The School has a policy for the use of PCV which is available on the Policy page of Stowe Central. Colleagues using a School PCV are required to read this policy. It is the responsibility of Heads of Department to ensure that the relevant staff have done so.

### 3.31 Water Hygiene – Control of Legionella\*

Under the Health & Safety at Work Act (1974) and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (2002) the School has a duty to consider risk from legionella bacteria which may affect colleagues, pupils, and members of the public on site, through the hot/cold water services and systems. This requires them to take suitable and sufficient precautions.

The School's Director of Operations & Estates is the current Legionella duty holder.

The School has created a Legionella Policy which outlines the control in detail, and this is available on the Policy page of Stowe Central.

### 3.32 Staff Welfare and Facilities

The School has a duty under the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 to provide, as far as it is reasonably practicable, welfare facilities to all staff, including those with disabilities.

#### Offices

Office cleaning will be undertaken on a regular daily basis for weekdays. Suitable artificial lighting is to be provided and maintained in all offices, passageways, and stairways. Trailing electrical leads etc. should be positioned so as not to create a potential trip hazard. All fire exits and firefighting appliances should be kept free from obstruction. Step ladders/kick stools or steps should be provided to access items at a higher level.

#### Ventilation

The School will have effective and suitable provision to ensure that every enclosed workspace is ventilated by a sufficient quantity of fresh or purified air. Air which is hot and humid due to the processes or equipment in the workplace is to be replaced at a reasonable rate. Any mechanical ventilation systems (including air conditioning) should be regularly and thoroughly cleaned and tested to ensure that they are kept free from anything which may contaminate the air. This will be carried out by the Estates Department, or competent external contractors.

#### Temperature

During working hours, the temperature in all working places should be reasonable without the need for special clothing. Where it is impractical due to hot or cold processes, the School will take all reasonable steps to achieve a temperature which is as close as possible to comfortable using local heating or cooling or suitable clothing.

Reasonable account should be taken with regard to the outside temperature and the type of work being carried out. Thermometers can be provided to enable persons at work to measure temperatures throughout the workplace, on request.

#### Lighting

Lighting will be sufficient to enable every employee to work and move from place to place safely and without experiencing eyestrain. Stairs should be well lit. Windows and skylights should be cleaned at regular intervals and kept free from obstruction to allow maximum daylight. External lighting on site must be dealt with sympathetically due to the location and nature of the site, however, it is important that areas are well lit to carry out tasks, and to allow safe passage around the site both for pedestrians and vehicles. This will be monitored via audits undertaken at various times of the year. Results of the audits will be discussed with the Director of Operations & Estates for possible improvement or change.

#### Cleanliness and Waste Materials

Every workplace and the fittings therein shall be kept sufficiently clean. Cleaning should be carried out by an effective and suitable method and without creating or exposing anyone to a health and safety risk. Cleaning methods must not expose anyone to substantial amounts of dust or to health or safety risks arising from the use of cleaning agents. So far as is reasonably practicable, waste materials shall not be allowed to accumulate in a workplace except in suitable receptacles.

Waste of a controlled nature shall be removed or destroyed in accordance with the Duty of Care - Waste Management in line with the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

#### Room Dimensions and Workstations

Rooms should have enough free space to allow people to get to and from workstations and to move within a room with ease. Any obstructions should be clearly marked and visible to those using the area. Workstations must be arranged to enable each task to be carried out safely and comfortably. All frequently used equipment and materials should be in easy reach without undue bending or stretching.

### **Floors and Traffic Routes**

Floors should be of sound construction and should have adequate strength and stability. Where there are potholes or dips, adequate precautions should be taken to prevent accidents. Due to the age and nature of the School building, areas may have uneven surfaces, potholes etc, and staff must be aware of this as they travel around the School site. Staff are advised to always wear sensible shoes.

Where a leak or spillage occurs and it is likely to represent a slipping hazard, immediate steps must be taken to fence it off and mop it up or cover it with absorbent granules. Floors and traffic routes should be kept free from obstructions which may present a hazard and impede access. Every workplace shall be organised in such a way that pedestrians and vehicles can circulate in a safe manner.

Where large vehicles must reverse, measures for reducing risks to pedestrians must be considered and whatever measures are adopted, a safe system of work should operate at all times. This should be outlined in the relevant department risk assessments.

### **Mental Health Awareness\***

The School has created a separate policy to outline the requirements for the awareness of, and provision for colleagues Mental Health within the workplace.

### **Stairs**

All stairs should be well lit, free from any obstruction and have handrails where possible (although due to the age and nature of the site, this is not always possible). They should be well maintained and kept clean and free of anything which may cause slips, trips, and falls. Due to the nature and the age of some areas of the buildings, stairs may suffer damage and be in a poor condition due to their age. This will be monitored and assessed on a regular basis by the responsible person in the area and the Group Health, Safety & Compliance Manager. A full step and stairs survey of the site has been undertaken and this will form part of the monitoring process. Defects will be reported to the Estates Department.

### **Sanitary Conveniences and Washing Stations**

The School shall provide suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences at accessible places for both adult men and women (separate from pupils). Toilets, urinals, and the rooms containing them are to be kept in a clean and orderly condition. Suitable washing facilities will be provided in the vicinity of the conveniences and must include a supply of hot/ cold or warm running water, soap, and drying facilities. Colleagues are required, as part of the School's Safeguarding Procedures to use, where possible, the adult facilities.

### **Drinking Water**

An adequate supply of clean drinking water shall be provided for all persons in the workplace and be readily accessible at suitable places. There shall also be enough suitable cups or other drinking vessels unless the supply of drinking water is in a jet form which persons can easily drink from. Safe drinking water signage will be in place above every tap on site to comply with requirements from the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI).

### **Changing and Clothing Facilities**

Suitable and sufficient facilities shall be provided for any person in the workplace to change clothing in all cases where:

- the person must wear special clothing for the purpose of work
- the person cannot, for reasons of health or propriety, be expected to change in another room

### **Rest Rooms**

Rest areas and rest rooms are to be clean to enable employees to use them without experiencing discomfort whilst sitting or eating. The common room and the dining hall are all areas available for colleagues to use at the required

times. Many departments have made colleague areas in their designated areas. These should be fit for purpose to allow the required rest and recuperation.

### 3.33 Work Experience Pupils

Specific legislative requirements concerning the Protection of Young Persons were contained in the Health and Safety (Young Persons) Regulations 1997. These Regulations were incorporated into the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999. The implications for the School are still the same. A 'young person' is defined as being someone who has not attained the age of 18, and a child as being someone who is not over compulsory school age. This legislation applies to the employment of all young people, regardless of the number of hours worked or the duration of the period of work, including those on any relevant training schemes. It is also the School's Duty of Care to undertake risk assessments for young persons on work placements or who are working at the School during the holiday periods. Managers who take on young persons for the above must have risk assessments and induction documents in place before he/she undertakes his/her chosen job role.

#### Specific Risk Assessments

The employer must make a risk assessment specifically related to the young person before employing him/her, and it should consider:

- the immaturity and inexperience of the young person and any consequential lack of awareness of risks
- the health and safety training to be given
- the extent of exposure to any chemical, biological or physical agents
- the nature and layout of the work area
- the types of equipment, methods of use and work activities to be undertaken
- the employment of young and vulnerable persons

### 3.34 Working at Height

The Work at Height Regulations 2005 came into force on 6 April 2005. The Regulations apply to all working at height where there is a risk of a fall liable to cause personal injury. They place duties on employers, the self-employed, and any person who controls the work of others (for example Heads of Department who may contract others to work at height).

The Work at Height (Amendment) Regulations 2007 additionally apply to those who work at height or who provide instruction or leadership to one or more people engaged in caving or climbing by way of sport, recreation, team building or similar activities in Great Britain. They apply to the use of the assault course by the CCF and by the Stowe Enterprises team who may hire out the area to members of the public.

As part of the Regulations, duty holders must ensure that:

- all work at height is carefully planned and organised.
- those involved in work at height are competent to conduct the activity.
- the risks from work at height are assessed and appropriate work equipment is selected and used.
- the risks from fragile surfaces are properly controlled; and
- equipment for work at height is inspected and maintained, with the relevant departments holding the records of the inspections.

There is a simple hierarchy for managing and selecting equipment for work at height. Employers must:

- avoid work at height where they can.
- use work equipment or other measures to prevent falls where they cannot avoid working at height; and where they cannot eliminate the risk of a fall, use work equipment or other measures to minimise the distance and consequences of a fall should one occur.

The Regulations include schedules giving requirements for existing places of work and means of access for work at height, collective fall prevention (e.g., guardrails and working platforms), collective fall arrest (e.g., nets, airbags etc), personal fall protection (e.g., work restraints, fall arrest and rope access) and ladders.



Where scaffolding and tower scaffolds are used, a competent person must erect them. Scaffolding must display a safety tag to confirm that it has been checked and is safe to use. Ladders and steps must never be used on scaffolding, this must be outlined in the risk assessment. Contractors will not be allowed to borrow/ use any of the School working at height equipment.

When it is required to work on the roof of a building, whether for planned maintenance or for emergency repair, written risk assessments must be in place outlining the required control measures for that task. Where possible, no persons should work on the roof alone. Generic risk assessments for working on a roof must be checked and updated to ensure that they are relevant for the specific task. Emergency repairs can present different risks to those noted in generic risk assessments; therefore, a specific assessment is required as the generic assessment may not record the additional control measures that are required.

**Appendix 1****ADDITIONAL POLICIES**

Some of the arrangements in earlier sections refer to subject policies\*. The School has created and adopted separate policies for the following subjects. These policies give further information and guidance and contain more depth and detail of the specific practices and procedures that must be followed. Managers are responsible for ensuring that staff have access to these documents, and that they have made themselves aware of the contents relating to their work practice.

- Anti-Bullying
- Boarding House Kitchen Policy
- Control of Asbestos (including Asbestos Register and Asbestos Management Plan)
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Policy (COSHH)
- Contingency Plan
- Drone (Small Unmanned Aircraft - SUAs) Policy
- Equality Policy and Action Plan
- First Aid Policy
- Fire Procedures and Policy
- Firearms Policy
- Food Allergy and Intolerances Policy
- Legionnaires Disease and Water Hygiene Policy
- Manual Handling Policy
- Passenger Carrying Vehicles and Driving on School Business Policy and Procedures
- Educational Trips and Visits Policy and Guidance
- Provision of Workplace Equipment Policy (PUWER)
- Risk Assessment Policy
- Safety Management System and Guidance Notes for Operations Contractors
- Smoking Policy
- Security Policy
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy

These can be accessed by contacting the Group Health, Safety & Compliance Manager and are available on the Stowe Central Policy page. These policies are all subject to annual review and change. Colleagues will be informed via email and newsletter of any changes that have been made.