

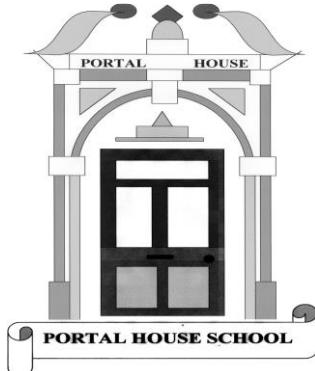


HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY FOR SCHOOLS

PORTAL HOUSE SCHOOL

October 2025

Review date: October 2026



Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT
Of

Portal House School

Statement of Intent:

The head teacher and governors are committed to establishing and implementing arrangements that will:

- ensure staff and pupils are safeguarded when on school premises, or engaged in off-site activities (e.g. school trips, sports events etc.).
- ensure the premises for which they are responsible have safe access and egress for all staff, pupils and visitors.
- provide adequate facilities and arrangements for welfare.
- provide and maintain safe plant and safe systems of work without risks to health.
- ensure safe use, handling, storage and transport of articles.
- provide suitable information, training, instruction and supervision to keep all staff, pupils and visitors safe.

Signed:

Head teacher

Signed:

Chair of Governors

Date:

Date:

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Section A – ORGANISATION

A1: Employer Responsibilities

Kent County Council as the employer has a statutory duty in respect of health and safety in community and voluntary controlled schools to ensure that premises and people are healthy and safe.

The responsibility is devolved to the Headteacher, who has day to day responsibility for staff, pupils and others as 'officer in charge' of the premises.

The head teacher will ensure the overall implementation of the policy.

A2: Head Teacher Responsibilities

- To ensure this policy is reviewed annually, or before if there are any changes in circumstances;
- To ensure that employee responsibilities regarding health and safety are included in his/her job description and that it is properly received and understood;
- To include health and safety issues in the school improvement plan, if necessary;
- To carry out regular health and safety inspections (at least three times a year) and take remedial action as appropriate;
- To undertake risk assessments, record significant findings, and review annually, or before if there is a change in circumstance;
- To receive and deal promptly with raised issues or complaints about unsafe premises, equipment or work practices;
- To liaise with KCC property and infrastructure support and/or the building maintenance consultants and/or with contractors to resolve property maintenance issues;
- To ensure that the requirements of any enforcement officer (e.g. HSE Inspector, Environmental Health Officer, Fire Liaison Officer, or Environmental Agency Inspector) are properly addressed;
- To ensure that emergency evacuation procedures are in place and tested;
- To ensure that adequate first aid provision is available and kept up to date;
- To report health and safety issues to the governing body on a regular basis;
- To monitor and review all health and safety policies and procedures.

NB: Tasks can be delegated to other staff members but the responsibility remains with the head teacher.

A3 – Governors’ Responsibilities

- Responsibility for the health and safety of pupils lies with the governing body of the school, either as the employer of school staff or because it controls school premises (or both).
- The governing body will promote a strategic overview for health and safety.
- The governing body will take all reasonable measures to ensure that the premises and equipment on site are safe and do not put the health or safety of staff, pupils or visitors at risk while they are on the premises.
- The governing body must comply with any directions given by the LA concerning the health and safety of persons in school, or on school activities elsewhere.
- The governing body will make adequate provision for maintenance of the school premises and equipment, either within the KCC ‘Classcare’ scheme or within the school’s delegated budget.
- The governing body will support and monitor health and safety within the school.
- The governing body has appointed a governor to coordinate health and safety from a strategic point of view.

Name of Appointed Health and Safety Governor:
Mr Terry Miller

A4 – Staff Responsibilities

- Must take reasonable care of their own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by what they do or fail to do.
- Will co-operate with their employer on health and safety matters.
- Will not interfere with anything provided to safeguard their health and safety or that of others.
- Have a duty to report all health and safety concerns to the head teacher or their line manager.

A5 – Area Education Officers (AEO)

- The AEO will take responsibility for the strategic overview of health and safety matters in schools, and report concerns to the Corporate Director of Education and Young Person’s Services.
- The AEO will raise specific health and safety issues with the health and safety unit.

Name of AEO: David Adams (AEO) 03000 414989
Lee Round (School Organisation Officer) 03000 412309

A6 –Capital & Premises Development Manager, KCC

- Has responsibility for ensuring that regard is given to health and safety concerns when carrying out property maintenance plans for major maintenance and improvement works.

A7 – Property and Infrastructure Support, KCC

- Will ensure that property matters for which the local authority as the employer has statutory responsibilities, (e.g. regular maintenance and testing of fixed electrical wiring or fixed gas appliances) are properly dealt with, (if necessary, by taking premises or fixed equipment out of use). The head teacher is responsible for liaising with KCC property and infrastructure support, and/or the building consultants and/or with contractors from KCC preferred contractors list, to resolve property maintenance issues.

A8 – Safety Representatives

Safety representatives of a Trade Union have the following functions:

- Represent employees generally and when you consult them about specific matters that will affect the health, safety and welfare of the employees.
- Represent employees when Health and Safety Inspectors from HSE or Local Authorities consult them
- Investigate accidents, near misses, and other potential hazards and dangerous occurrences in the workplace
- Investigate complaints made by an employee they represent about their health, safety or welfare in the workplace
- Present the findings of investigations to you.
- Inspect the workplace;
- With at least one other appointed representative, request in writing that you set up a health and safety committee and attend Health and Safety Committee and meetings as a representative of our employees.

Alternative Consultation Arrangements:

Name of Employee Representative: Mr K Renihan

Contact Details: keiran.renihan@portal-house.kent.sch.uk

A9 - Consultation with Employees

It is a legal requirement to consult with employees on health and safety issues. A Safety Committee is where formal consultation with employees takes place, but individual and group staff meetings are also appropriate forums for communication on health and safety matters and concerns.

Health and Safety is a standing item on all staff meeting agendas and of the full Governing Body Agenda.

A10 – Information, Instruction and Supervision

Under health and safety law it is a legal requirement to display or provide a leaflet version of the Health and Safety Law poster.

- A copy of the Health and Safety Law Poster can be found:

Location of Poster: Staffroom.

- Supervision of young workers/trainees will be arranged/undertaken/monitored by the head teacher or other delegated key members of staff.
- The head teacher will supply adequate information, instruction and supervision for all staff, pupils and visitors to ensure their health and safety.

A11 – Competency for Health and Safety Tasks and Training

- Induction training will be ensured for all members of staff by the head teacher.
- Training will be identified, arranged and monitored by the head teacher and the governing body.
- Staff are also responsible for drawing to the attention of the head teacher their own personal training needs.
- Training records will be easily accessible for audit purposes and will be kept up to date.

The person responsible for holding the records is:

Mrs Maddy Diamond (CPD Co-ordinator)

A12: Monitoring

- The head teacher will check working conditions and ensure that safe working practices are being followed. Regular inspections will be undertaken of the school building and grounds three times a year.
- Terry Miller, Health & Safety Governor is responsible for investigating accidents although the accountability lies with the head teacher.
- Terry Miller, Health & Safety Governor is responsible for investigating work-related causes of sickness and absences, although the accountability lies with the head teacher.
- The head teacher is responsible and accountable for acting on investigation findings in order to prevent a reoccurrence.

Section B – ARRANGEMENTS

B1: School Activities

- The head teacher will ensure that risk assessments are undertaken. See annex 10
- The significant findings of all risk assessments will be reported to the governing body and to all relevant staff, contractors and visitors who may be affected.
- Any actions that are required to remove or control risks will be approved by the head teacher or their delegated responsible person.

- The head teacher or delegated responsible person will check that the implemented actions have removed/reduced the risks, and
- All risk assessments will be reviewed on an annual basis or when the work activity changes, whichever is the soonest.

Curriculum Safety Risk Assessments:

A file containing current Risk Assessments for all curriculum activities are kept by Mr D. Hill (Educational Visits and Risk Assessment Coordinator).

B2: Visitors

- All visitors shall be directed by clear signage to the reception and must report to the school office, where appropriate arrangements for the signing in and out and identity badges will be provided, noting registration numbers as appropriate.
- All visitors shall be made aware of the school's fire arrangements in the event of a fire.
- All visitors shall be made aware of the school's emergency procedures.
- **Disabled Visitors**
Due to parts of the site not being DDA compliant, disabled visitors will be accompanied around the site at all time. There is disabled parking and a lift to all floors.

There is easy access to the fire assembly point on the playground via exiting out of the main front door of the school and down the school drive.

B3: Fire and Emergency Procedures

- The head teacher is responsible for ensuring the fire risk assessment is undertaken, controls are implemented and that it is reviewed annually. See annex 7
- Emergency exits, assembly points and assembly point instructions are clearly identified by safety signs and notices.

Names of fire wardens:

R. Bradley

D. Hill

K. Lydon

S. Donnelly

M. Diamond

P. Bulteel

C. Lavers

H. Rowarth

K. Warriner

J. Doble

- Instructions to employees are posted at:

Specify sites: (i.e. secretary's office, reception desk, etc.)

Every exit and fire call point.

- Emergency evacuation will be practiced three times a year and a record will be kept:

A record will be kept by: J. Doble in the Fire Log Book.

This is kept in Reception.

- Kent Fire and Rescue will be contacted by:

Specify whose role it is to make the call:

Headteacher/S.L.T./Site Manager or any member of staff who has been given delegated responsibility.

- Regular testing of fire alarms will occur on:

Indicate when tests are to be carried out: Monday Mornings

Name of tester: J. Doble

- The fire log book will be kept:

Specify who will keep the log and where:

J. Doble, keep in Reception.

B4 Fire Fighting

Staff should only use fire extinguishers if trained in how to operate them safely. If trained, they should only use the extinguisher if confident to do so and not put themselves or others at undue risk. There should always be a clear escape available. Ensure the alarm is raised BEFORE attempting to tackle a fire.

All chemicals will be stored in accordance to the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) assessment. List of hazardous substances will be provided to fire officer in the event of a fire. See annex 9.

Name of Responsible Person for Fire Safety:

Headteacher

B5: Maintenance of Fire Precautions:

The head teacher will ensure regular maintenance of:

1. Fire extinguishers
2. Fire alarms
3. Fire doors
4. Fire safety signs and identification of escape routes
5. Emergency lighting and other emergency equipment

B6: Bomb Alerts

Bomb alerts will be dealt with in accordance with the school's emergency planning arrangements. See annex 1

- The head teacher is responsible for ensuring the bomb alert procedures are undertaken and implemented.
- Guidance on bombs/suspicious devices or packages will be circulated to staff annually.

B7: First Aid Arrangements

- The head teacher will ensure that there are an appropriate number of designated and trained first aiders in the school.

A list of first Aiders can be found in the Staffroom and Staff Handbook

- The head teacher will ensure that there are an appropriate number of first aid boxes, with instructions.

The first aid boxes are located in the Staffroom, School Office, Gym, Art room, Caretakers Room, School Vehicles, First Aid Room, Science Lab, Cookery Room and SLT Office.

- A first aid risk assessment will be carried out by the head teacher to determine the above factors. See annex 2
- The school will follow the procedure for completion of incident / accident records. HS157, HS160, F2508. See annex 3
- The school will follow the KCC procedures for reporting of injuries as stated in the KCC accident book.
- All reportable incidents under RIDDOR '95 will be reported to the HSE by school.

HSE Contact Details:

Incident Contact Centre

www.hse.gov.uk Telephone number: 03000 417255

- Parents will be invited to complete the consent form for medical treatment in accordance with school policy and DFE guidance.

B8: Information Technology

- The Headteacher will ensure that suitable arrangements are in place for the use of information Technology.
- Information Technology will be installed safely, with due consideration given to ventilation for server room and working at height.
- Where laptops are used, safe systems of work including charging will be devised.
- Assessments for users of Display Screen Equipment (DSE) will be carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety (DSE) Regulations 1992 (as amended in 2002).
- The KCC guidance on interactive whiteboards will be followed. See annex 4

B9: Legal Requirements for Premises

- The school will comply with the requirements of the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 with regard to facilities for staff such as lighting, heating, ventilation, space, condition of floors and general welfare facilities.
- The school will comply with the arrangements of the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 with regard to school facilities such as washrooms for pupils and staff, medical accommodation and indoor temperatures.

B10: Safe Handling and Use of Substances

- The head teacher is responsible for identifying all substances which need an assessment under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002.
- The head teacher or delegated responsible person will be responsible for undertaking COSHH assessments.
- The head teacher will be responsible for ensuring that all relevant employees are informed about the COSHH assessments. See annex 5
- The head teacher will be responsible for checking that all new substances can be used safely before they are purchased.
- COSHH assessments will be reviewed on an annual basis or when the work activity changes, whichever is the soonest.

B11: Inspection of Premises, Plant and Equipment

- The head teacher will arrange for formal inspections of the premises, plant and equipment to take place three times a year and draw up an effective maintenance programme. See annex 6
- All identified maintenance will be implemented.
- Routine checks may be undertaken by a combination of subject teachers, governors, caretaker and the head teacher/Assistant Heads using the checklists. See annex 6.
- Access to store rooms and plant rooms should also be checked, including checking for inappropriate storage of ladders and other equipment.

C12: Asbestos Management

The new and refurbished school building is asbestos free.

C13: Legionella Management

Property and Infrastructure Support will arrange for a water hygiene risk assessment to be carried out every year in line with statutory requirements. Assessments identify if there are areas where conditions are such that legionella bacteria could grow; list any required works; and include details of future monitoring requirements that the school is responsible for. Therefore all identified remedial works will be incorporated into the school's maintenance programme.

Monitoring of the water system is also a statutory requirement and the school will ensure this is undertaken. This will include taking temperature readings, recording these in the log book and de-scaling spray outlets.

Property and Infrastructure Statutory Service Manager: Steve Hamilton

Telephone Number: 07920 548911

B14: Radon Management

The head teacher has a duty to safeguard the health of themselves, staff and pupils so far as reasonably practicable. Monitoring of radon will be carried out in accordance with Kent County Council and Health Protection Agency guidance.

B15: List of Risk Assessments, Policies and Procedures to complement this Policy

- Asbestos management
- Bomb alerts
- Control of chemicals hazardous to health (COSHH)
- Display Screen Equipment (DSE)
- Drugs and alcohol
- Electricity at work including portable appliance testing
- Emergency planning
- Fire – including responsibilities of the fire wardens
- First aid requirements
- Infection control
- Legionella
- Lone working
- Managing contractors
- Manual handling
- Off-site visits
- Pedestrian and people movement
- Playground supervision
- School events
- Slips, trips and falls
- Stress management
- Violence and aggression
- Working at height

SECTION C – ON-LINE ANNEXES AND REFERENCES

Annex 1: Emergency Planning Guidelines for Kent Schools (Assistance with this document can be found on Kelsi)

<http://www.kelsi.org.uk/running-a-school/maintenance-and-operations/emergency-planning>

Annex 2: Guidance on First Aid for Schools – A Good Practice Guide Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings

<http://www.kelsi.org.uk/policies-and-guidance/health-and-safety-guidance/risk-assessment>

Annex 3: Incident/Accident Reporting

<http://www.kelsi.org.uk/policies-and-guidance/health-and-safety-guidance/accident-reporting>

Annex 4: COSHH Risk Assessments on Kelsi

<http://www.kelsi.org.uk/policies-and-guidance/health-and-safety-guidance/chemicals-coshh>

Annex 5: Inspection Proforma on Kelsi

<http://www.kelsi.org.uk/policies-and-guidance/health-and-safety-guidance/management-of-health-safety>

Annex 6: Fire Policy and other linked Documents

<http://www.kelsi.org.uk/policies-and-guidance/health-and-safety-guidance/fire>

Annex 7: Heating Oil Storage and Management Checklist

<http://www.kelsi.org.uk/policies-and-guidance/health-and-safety-guidance/risk-assessment>

Annex 8: Asbestos Policy and Docubox Contents

<http://www.kelsi.org.uk/policies-and-guidance/health-and-safety-guidance/premises-and-contractor-management>

Annex 9: List of Hazardous Substances on the Premises

<http://www.kelsi.org.uk/policies-and-guidance/health-and-safety-guidance/chemicals-coshh>

Annex 10: Health and Safety of Pupils on Educational Visits

<http://www.kelsi.org.uk/policies-and-guidance/health-and-safety-guidance/curriculum-topics>

E1: USEFUL CONTACTS

KCC Health and Safety Unit

Health and Safety Advice Line: **Tel:** 03000 418456 **Fax:** 03000 420330

Location: Room 3.32 Sessions House, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ

Outdoor Education Unit

Tel: 03000 413971 Email: outdoor.education@kent.gov.uk

Location: The Swattenden Outdoor Centre, Swattenden Lane, Cranbrook, TN17 3PS

Client Services – Caretaking, Cleaners and Waste Management

Janet Stein – Client Service Manager.

Tel: 03000 416050, Email: janet.stein@kent.gov.uk

Location: Room m2.33, Sessions House, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ

Insurance and Risk Management

Darryl Mattingly - Insurance and Risk Manager.

Tel: 03000 416440, Email: darryl.mattingly@kent.gov.uk

Location: Room 2.53 Sessions House. Maidstone. ME14 1XQ

Staff Care Services

Occupational Health, Mediation Services, and Support Line. **Tel:**

03000 411411 Email: occupational.health@kent.gov.uk **Location:**

Park House, 110-112 Mill Street, East Malling, ME19 6BU

Classcare

Email: classcare.enquiries@kent.gov.uk Website: www.kent.gov.uk/property

Location: Room 1.44, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ

Property and Infrastructure Support – *Delete if not applicable

Bill Ogden Operational Services Manager

Tel: 03000 416526

Lynn Keeley Maintenance / Statutory Team Manager

Tel: 07786 191664

*Mark Carnet Building Contracts Manager (East Kent)

Tel: 07920 538423

*Ian McGrath Building Contracts Manager (Mid Kent)

Tel: 07710 339764

*Steve Mercer Building Contracts Manager (West Kent)

Tel: 07827 970565

Steve Hamilton Statutory Services Manager (asbestos/legionella)

Tel: 07920 548911

Roger Aldridge Mechanical & Electrical Stat. Compliance Manager

Tel: 07825 506627

KCC Property Service Desk.

Tel: 24 hours, 7 days per week: 03000 417878

Location: Contact Centre, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

Health and Safety Executive

Enforcement of Health and Safety Legislation.

Tel: 0845 345 0055 online reporting <https://extranet.hse.gov.uk/lfserver/external/F2508IE>

Location: Local office: International House, Dover Place, Ashford, TN24 1HU

County Fire & Rescue Service

Barry Healey, Station Manager – School Premises.

Tel: 01622 692121 Ext.7621

Location: Tunbridge Wells Fire Station, Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells. TN1 1SD.

RIDDOR Incident Contact Centre

The reporting service for work-related health and safety, RIDDOR incidents to the HSE. Website: www.riddor.gov.uk. E-mail: riddor@connaught.plc.uk .

Employment Medical Advisory Service (EMAS)

The Executive's Employment Medical Advisory Service (EMAS).

Tel: 02089 958503

Location: PO Box 3087, London W4 4ZP

CLEARPSS (The Consortium of Local Authorities for the Provision of Science Services

Schools and colleges may obtain advice on science safety matters from the school science service as Kent is a member of this organisation until April 2012.

Safe Practice in Physical Education and School Sport

Association for Physical Education.

Tel: 0118 378 6240, email: enquiries@afpe.org.uk Website: www.afpa.org.uk

Location: Room 117, Bredon, University of Worcester, Henwick Grove, Worcester. WR2 6AJ

Sustainability & Climate Change Team

Deborah Kapaj – Sustainable Estates Programme Manager

Tel: 18002 03000 420019

Location: 2nd Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone. ME14 1XX

Trade Union Representatives

Mr K Renihan is the Trade Union Rep at Portal House (NEU) and will signpost staff to other Trade Union Representatives if necessary.

**Portal House School
Sea Street
St. Margaret's at Cliffe
Dover
Kent CT15 6SS**

Policy: Health & Safety Policy

This Policy has been approved by the Governing Body of Portal House School

Signed: (Chairman of Governors)

Date:

Signed: (Head Teacher)

Date:

Review Date: _____