

Health & Safety Policy



ADVANTAGE
SCHOOLS

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1. Aims

Advantage Schools (AS) aims to:

- › Provide and maintain a safe and healthy environment
- › Establish and maintain safe working procedures amongst staff, pupils and all visitors to the school sites
- › Have robust procedures in place in case of emergencies
- › Ensure that the premises and equipment are maintained safely, and are regularly inspected

2. Legislation

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education on [health and safety in schools](#), guidance from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on [incident reporting in schools](#), and the following legislation:

- › [The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974](#), which sets out the general duties employers have towards employees and duties relating to lettings
- › [The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992](#), which require employers to make an assessment of the risks to the health and safety of their employees
- › [The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999](#), which require employers to carry out risk assessments, make arrangements to implement necessary measures, and arrange for appropriate information and training
- › [The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002](#), which require employers to control substances that are hazardous to health
- › [The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations \(RIDDOR\) 2013](#), which state that some accidents must be reported to the Health and Safety Executive and set out the timeframe for this and how long records of such accidents must be kept
- › [The Health and Safety \(Display Screen Equipment\) Regulations 1992](#), which require employers to carry out digital screen equipment assessments and states users' entitlement to an eyesight test
- › [The Gas Safety \(Installation and Use\) Regulations 1998](#), which require work on gas fittings to be carried out by someone on the Gas Safe Register
- › [The Regulatory Reform \(Fire Safety\) Order 2005](#), which requires employers to take general fire precautions to ensure the safety of their staff
- › [The Work at Height Regulations 2005](#), which requires employers to protect their staff from falls from height

The school follows [national guidance published by UK Health Security Agency \(formerly Public Health England\)](#) and government guidance on [living with COVID-19](#) when responding to infection control issues.

Sections of this policy are also based on the [statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage](#).

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 The Trust Board

The Trust Board has ultimate responsibility for health and safety matters in the school but will delegate day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

The Trust Board has a duty to take reasonable steps to ensure that staff and pupils are not exposed to risks to their health and safety. This applies to activities on or off the school premises.

The Trust Board as the employer, also has a duty to:

- › Assess the risks to staff and others affected by school activities in order to identify and introduce the health and safety measures necessary to manage those risks
- › Inform employees about risks and the measures in place to manage them

- › Ensure that adequate health and safety training is provided

3.2 Principals/Headteachers

The Principals/Headteachers of the schools are responsible for health and safety day-to-day and are supported by the Chief People & Estates Officer (CPEO) and Facilities Manager (FM). This involves:

- › Implementing the health and safety policy
- › Ensuring there is enough staff to safely supervise pupils
- › Ensuring that the school building and premises are safe and regularly inspected
- › Providing adequate training for school staff
- › Reporting to the governing board on health and safety matters
- › Ensuring appropriate evacuation procedures are in place and regular fire drills are held
- › Ensuring that in their absence, health and safety responsibilities are delegated to another member of staff
- › Ensuring all risk assessments are completed and reviewed
- › Monitoring cleaning contracts, and ensuring cleaners are appropriately trained and have access to personal protective equipment, where necessary

In the Principal's/Headteacher's absence the Deputy Principals/Headteachers with support from the CPEO/FM assume the above day-to-day health and safety responsibilities.

3.3 Health and safety lead

The nominated health and safety lead is the CPEO or their designate.

3.4 Staff

AS staff have a duty to take care of pupils in the same way that a prudent parent/carer would do so.

Staff will:

- › Take reasonable care of their own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by what they do at work
- › Co-operate with the school on health and safety matters
- › Work in accordance with training and instructions
- › Inform the appropriate person of any work situation representing a serious and immediate danger so that remedial action can be taken
- › Model safe and hygienic practice for pupils
- › Understand emergency evacuation procedures and feel confident in implementing them

3.5 Pupils and parents/carers

Pupils and parents/carers are responsible for following the school's health and safety advice, on-site and off-site, and for reporting any health and safety incidents to a member of staff.

3.6 Contractors

Contractors will agree health and safety practices with the relevant Principal/Headteachers, their designates, FM or CPEO before starting work. Before work begins the contractor will provide evidence that they have completed an adequate risk assessment of all their planned work.

4. Site security

The CPEO/FM or their designates are responsible for the security of the school sites in and out of school hours. They are responsible for visual inspections of the site, and for the intruder and fire alarm systems.

CPEO/FM/Facilities Leads/Facilities Assistants and where appropriate external security companies are key holders and will respond to an emergency.

5. Fire

It is the AS policy to:

- Ensure that all staff, students, contractors, visitors and members of the public are protected from the risk of fire
- Ensure that all buildings comply with all statutory requirements
- Undertake suitable and sufficient fire risk assessments and to identify and implement reasonably practicable control measures to control risks from fire
- Provide staff, students, contractors and visitors with sufficient and appropriate fire awareness, instruction and training
- Complete regular fire evacuation drills and testing of emergency equipment
- Ensure effective liaison with the local emergency services as appropriate

The school will have special arrangements in place for the evacuation of people with mobility needs and fire risk assessments will also pay particular attention to those with disabilities.

For further information see the Fire Safety Management Policy & Procedures.

6. COSHH

Schools are required to control hazardous substances, which can take many forms, including:

- › Chemicals
- › Products containing chemicals
- › Fumes
- › Dusts
- › Vapours
- › Mists
- › Gases and asphyxiating gases
- › Germs that cause diseases, such as leptospirosis or legionnaires disease

Control of substances hazardous to health (COSHH) risk assessments are completed by the FM, Facilities Leads, Facilities Assistants or designated staff in departments and circulated to all employees who work with hazardous substances. Staff will also be provided with protective equipment, where necessary.

All staff use and store hazardous products in accordance with instructions on the product label. All hazardous products are kept in their original containers, with clear labelling and product information.

All hazardous products are kept out of reach of pupils save when being used under direct supervision of an appropriate individual.

Any hazardous products are disposed of in accordance with specific disposal procedures.

Emergency procedures, including procedures for dealing with spillages, are displayed near where hazardous products are stored and in areas where they are routinely used.

6.1 Gas safety

- › Installation, maintenance and repair of gas appliances and fittings will be carried out by a competent Gas Safe registered engineer
- › Gas pipework, appliances and flues are regularly maintained
- › All rooms with gas appliances are checked to ensure they have adequate ventilation

6.2 Legionella

- A water risk assessment is completed for each school site. The FM or their designate is responsible for ensuring that the identified operational controls are conducted and recorded in an appropriate location at each school.
- This risk assessment will be reviewed every two years and when significant changes have occurred to the water system and/or building footprint
- The risks from legionella are mitigated for example by the frequent flushing of taps, toilets and little used water outlets, monitoring of water temperature and descaling.

6.3 Asbestos

- Staff are briefed on the hazards of asbestos, where present, the location of any asbestos in a school and the action to take if they suspect they have disturbed it
- Arrangements are in place to ensure that contractors are made aware of any asbestos on the premises and that it is not disturbed by their work
- Contractors will be advised that if they discover material that they suspect could be asbestos, they will stop work immediately until the area is declared safe
- A record is kept of the location of asbestos that has been found on the school site

7. Premises Management

The CPEO/FM have a responsibility to ensure the school environment is maintained in a safe condition and to exercise care and attention regarding their own safety and personnel under their control.

In the discharge of this responsibility the CPEO/FM or their designate will:

- Regularly inspect the buildings, grounds and plant machinery/equipment and report any defects or hazards to the Principal/Headteacher.
- Do everything reasonable to ensure that staff under his/her control (e.g. cleaners) employ safe working practices.
- Instruct new employees in appropriate safety measures and procedures as required.
- Ensure that all defects in equipment or protective clothing are corrected and reported as appropriate.
- Report all accidents involving themselves or staff under his/her control to the Principal/Headteacher.
- Furnish information as required in the investigation of injuries and accidents.
- Ensure all checks, installation, maintenance and repairs are carried out by competent and reliable people with regard to:
 - Gas safety
 - Legionella
 - Asbestos
 - PAT testing

8. Equipment

- All equipment and machinery is maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. In addition, maintenance schedules outline when extra checks should take place
- When new equipment is purchased, it is checked to ensure that it meets appropriate educational standards
- All equipment is stored in the appropriate storage containers and areas. All containers are labelled with the correct hazard sign and contents
- All staff are responsible for ensuring that they use and handle electrical equipment sensibly and safely and any pupil or volunteer who handles electrical appliances does so under the supervision of the member of staff who so directs them
- Any potential hazards will be reported to the CPEO/FM or their designate immediately

- Permanently installed electrical equipment is connected through a dedicated isolator switch and adequately earthed
- Only trained staff members are to conduct maintenance of plugs
- Where necessary portable appliance tests (PAT) will be carried out by a competent person
- All isolator switches are clearly marked to identify their machine
- Electrical apparatus and connections will not be touched by wet hands and will only be used in dry conditions
- Maintenance, repair, installation and disconnection work associated with permanently installed or portable electrical equipment is only carried out by a competent person
- Where appropriate pupils are taught how to carry out and set up PE equipment safely and efficiently. Staff check that equipment is set up safely
- Any concerns about the condition of the gym floor or other apparatus will be reported to the CPEO/FM or their designate immediately.
- All staff who use computers daily as a significant part of their normal work have a display screen equipment (DSE) assessment carried out. 'Significant' is taken to be continuous/near continuous spells of an hour or more at a time.
- AS staff who regularly use a computer at work are now entitled to access eye care vouchers once every 24 months. The voucher entitles staff to an eye test at a SEE affiliated Optician, and if required also provides the appropriate corrective spectacles for computer use.
- Parents/carers are responsible for the maintenance and safety of their children's wheelchairs. In school, staff promote the responsible use of wheelchairs.
- Oxygen cylinders are stored in a designated space, and staff are trained in the removal, storage and replacement of oxygen cylinders.

9. Lone working

Lone working may include:

- Late working
- Home or site visits
- Weekend working
- Site manager duties
- Site cleaning duties
- Working in a single occupancy office
- Remote working, self-isolation and/or remote learning

Potentially dangerous activities, such as those where there is a risk of falling from height, will not be undertaken when working alone. If there are any doubts about the task to be performed then the task will be postponed until other staff members are available.

If lone working is to be undertaken, a colleague, friend or family member will be informed about where the member of staff is and when they are likely to return.

The lone worker will ensure that they are medically fit to work alone.

10. Working at height

We will ensure that work is properly planned, supervised and carried out by competent people with the skills, knowledge and experience to do the work.

In addition:

- The Facilities Teams retain ladders for working at height

- › Pupils are prohibited from using ladders
- › Staff will wear appropriate footwear and clothing when using ladders
- › Contractors are expected to provide their own ladders for working at height
- › Before using a ladder, staff are expected to conduct a visual inspection to ensure its safety
- › Access to high levels, such as roofs, is only permitted by trained persons

11. Manual handling

It is up to individuals to determine whether they are fit to lift or move equipment and furniture. If an individual feels that to lift an item could result in injury or exacerbate an existing condition, they will ask for assistance.

AS will ensure that proper mechanical aids and lifting equipment are available in school, and that staff are trained in how to use them safely.

Staff and pupils are expected to use the following basic manual handling procedure:

- › Plan the lift and assess the load. If it is awkward or heavy, use a mechanical aid, such as a trolley, or ask another person to help
- › Take the more direct route that is clear from obstruction and is as flat as possible
- › Ensure the area where you plan to offload the load is clear
- › When lifting, bend your knees and keep your back straight, feet apart and angled out. Ensure the load is held close to the body and firmly. Lift smoothly and slowly and avoid twisting, stretching and reaching where practicable

12. Off-site visits

When taking pupils off the school premises, we will ensure that:

- › Risk assessments will be completed where off-site visits and activities require them
- › All off-site visits are appropriately staffed
- › Staff will take a school mobile phone, a portable first aid kit, information about the specific medical needs of pupils along with the parents/carers' contact details
- › For trips and visits with pupils in the Early Years Foundation Stage, there will always be at least one first aider with a current paediatric first aid certificate
- › For other trips, there will always be at least one first aider on schools trips and visits

13. Lettings

This policy applies to lettings. Those who hire any aspect of the school site or any facilities will be made aware of the content of the school's health and safety policy and will have responsibility for complying with it.

14. Violence at work

We believe that staff should not be in any danger at work and will not tolerate violent or threatening behaviour towards our staff.

All staff will report any incidents of aggression or violence (or near misses) directed to themselves to their line manager/Principal/Headteacher immediately. This applies to violence from pupils, visitors or other staff.

15. Smoking

Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the school premises.

16. Infection prevention and control

We follow national guidance published by the UK Health Security Agency when responding to infection control issues. We will encourage staff and pupils to follow this good hygiene practice, outlined below, where applicable.

16.1 Handwashing

- › Wash hands with liquid soap and warm water, and dry with paper towels or hand driers as appropriate at the time
- › Always wash hands after using the toilet, before eating or handling food, and after handling animals
- › Cover all cuts and abrasions with waterproof dressings

16.2 Coughing and sneezing

- › Cover mouth and nose with a tissue
- › Wash hands after using or disposing of tissues
- › Spitting is discouraged

16.3 Personal protective equipment

- › Wear disposable non-powdered vinyl or latex-free CE-marked gloves and disposable plastic aprons where there is a risk of splashing or contamination with blood/body fluids (for example, nappy or pad changing)
- › Wear goggles if there is a risk of splashing to the face
- › Use the correct personal protective equipment when handling cleaning chemicals
- › Use personal protective equipment (PPE) to control the spread of infectious diseases where required or recommended by government guidance and/or a risk assessment

16.4 Cleaning of the environment

- › Clean the environment and relevant equipment and teaching aids frequently and thoroughly

16.5 Cleaning of blood and body fluid spillages

- › Clean up all spillages of blood, faeces, saliva, vomit, nasal and eye discharges immediately and wear personal protective equipment
- › When spillages occur, clean using a product that combines both a detergent and a disinfectant and use as per manufacturer's instructions. Ensure it is effective against bacteria and viruses and suitable for use on the affected surface
- › Never use mops for cleaning up blood and body fluid spillages – use disposable paper towels and discard clinical waste as described below
- › Make spillage kits available for blood spills

16.6 Laundry

- › Wash laundry in a separate dedicated facility
- › Wash soiled linen separately and at the hottest wash the fabric will tolerate
- › Wear personal protective clothing when handling soiled linen
- › Bag children's soiled clothing to be sent home, never rinse by hand

16.7 Clinical waste

- › Always segregate domestic and clinical waste, in accordance with local policy

- › Used nappies/pads, gloves, aprons and soiled dressings are stored in correct clinical waste bags in foot-operated bins
- › Where required remove clinical waste with a registered waste contractor
- › Where required remove all clinical waste bags when they are two-thirds full and store in a dedicated, secure area while awaiting collection

16.8 Animals

- › Wash hands before and after handling any animals
- › Keep animals' living quarters clean and away from food areas
- › Dispose of animal waste regularly, and keep litter boxes away from pupils
- › Supervise pupils when playing with animals
- › Seek veterinary advice on animal welfare and animal health issues, and the suitability of the animal as a pet

16.9 Infectious disease management

We will ensure adequate risk reduction measures are in place to manage the spread of acute respiratory diseases, including COVID-19, and carry out appropriate risk assessments, reviewing them regularly and monitoring whether any measures in place are working effectively.

We will follow local and national guidance on the use of control measures including:

Following good hygiene practices

- › We will encourage all staff and pupils to regularly wash their hands with soap and water or hand sanitiser and follow recommended practices for respiratory hygiene. Where required, we will provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

Implementing an appropriate cleaning regime

- › We will regularly clean equipment and rooms.

Keeping rooms well ventilated

- › We will use risk assessments to identify rooms or areas with poor ventilation and put measures in place to improve airflow, including opening external windows, opening internal doors and mechanical ventilation

16.10 Pupils vulnerable to infection

Some medical conditions make pupils vulnerable to infections that would rarely be serious in most children. The school will normally have been made aware of such vulnerable children. These children are particularly vulnerable to chickenpox, measles or slapped cheek disease (parvovirus B19) and, if exposed to any of these, the parent/carer will be informed promptly and further medical advice sought. We will advise these children to have additional immunisations, for example for pneumococcal and influenza.

16.11 Exclusion periods for infectious diseases

The school will follow recommended exclusion periods outlined by the UK Health Security Agency and other government guidance, summarised in appendix 1.

In the event of an epidemic/pandemic, we will follow advice from the UK Health Security Agency about the appropriate course of action.

17. New and expectant mothers

Risk assessments will be carried out whenever any employee or pupil notifies the school that they are pregnant.

Appropriate measures will be put in place to control risks identified. Some specific risks are summarised below:

- › Chickenpox can affect the pregnancy if a woman has not already had the infection. Expectant mothers should report exposure to antenatal carer and GP at any stage of exposure. Shingles is caused by the same virus as chickenpox, so anyone who has not had chickenpox is potentially vulnerable to the infection if they have close contact with a case of shingles
- › If a pregnant woman comes into contact with measles or German measles (rubella), she should inform her antenatal carer and GP immediately to ensure investigation
- › Slapped cheek disease (parvovirus B19) can occasionally affect an unborn child. If exposed early in pregnancy (before 20 weeks), the pregnant woman should inform her antenatal care and GP as this must be investigated promptly
- › Some pregnant women will be at greater risk of severe illness from COVID-19

18. Occupational stress

We are committed to promoting high levels of health and wellbeing and recognise the importance of identifying and reducing workplace stressors through risk assessment.

Systems are in place within the school for responding to individual concerns and monitoring staff workloads. Referrals will be made to Occupational Health and other support services such as counselling as required.

19. First Aid and accident reporting

For information in respect of this please see appendix 2 below.

20. Training

Our staff are provided with health and safety training as part of their induction process.

Staff who work in high risk environments, such as in science labs or with woodwork equipment, or work with pupils with special educational needs (SEN), are given additional health and safety training.

21. Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed by the COO at least every 3 years.

At every review, the policy will be approved by the Trust Board.

22. Links with other policies

This health and safety policy links to the following policies:

- › First aid
- › Fire Safety Management Policy & Procedures
- › Risk assessment
- › Supporting pupils with medical conditions

Appendix 1. Recommended absence period for preventing the spread of infection

This list of recommended absence periods for preventing the spread of infection is taken from non-statutory guidance for schools and other childcare settings from the UK Health Security Agency. For each of these infections or complaints, there [is further information in the guidance on the symptoms, how it spreads and some 'dos and don'ts' to follow that you can check.](#)

In confirmed cases of infectious disease, including COVID-19, we will follow the recommended self-isolation period based on government guidance.

Infection or complaint	Recommended period to be kept away from school or nursery
Athlete's foot	None.
Campylobacter	Until 48 hours after symptoms have stopped.
Chicken pox (shingles)	Cases of chickenpox are generally infectious from 2 days before the rash appears to 5 days after the onset of rash. Although the usual exclusion period is 5 days, all lesions should be crusted over before children return to nursery or school. A person with shingles is infectious to those who have not had chickenpox and should be excluded from school if the rash is weeping and cannot be covered or until the rash is dry and crusted over.
Cold sores	None.
Respiratory infections including coronavirus (COVID-19)	Children and young people should not attend if they have a high temperature and are unwell. Anyone with a positive test result for COVID-19 should not attend the setting for 3 days after the day of the test.
Rubella (German measles)	5 days from appearance of the rash.
Hand, foot and mouth	Children are safe to return to school or nursery as soon as they are feeling better, there is no need to stay off until the blisters have all healed.
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment.
Measles	Cases are infectious from 4 days before onset of rash to 4 days after so it is important to ensure cases are excluded from school during this period.
Ringworm	Exclusion not needed once treatment has started.
Scabies	The infected child or staff member should be excluded until after the first treatment has been carried out.
Scarlet fever	Children can return to school 24 hours after commencing appropriate antibiotic treatment. If no antibiotics have been administered the person will be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. If there is an outbreak of scarlet fever at the school or nursery, the health protection team will assist with letters and factsheet to send to parents or carers and staff.

Slapped cheek syndrome, Parvovirus B19, Fifth's disease	None (not infectious by the time the rash has developed).
Bacillary Dysentery (Shigella)	Microbiological clearance is required for some types of shigella species prior to the child or food handler returning to school.
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting (Gastroenteritis)	Children and adults with diarrhoea or vomiting should be excluded until 48 hours after symptoms have stopped and they are well enough to return. If medication is prescribed, ensure that the full course is completed and there is no further diarrhoea or vomiting for 48 hours after the course is completed. For some gastrointestinal infections, longer periods of exclusion from school are required and there may be a need to obtain microbiological clearance. For these groups, your local health protection team, school health advisor or environmental health officer will advise. If a child has been diagnosed with cryptosporidium, they should NOT go swimming for 2 weeks following the last episode of diarrhoea.
Cryptosporidiosis	Until 48 hours after symptoms have stopped.
E. coli (verocytotoxigenic or VTEC)	The standard exclusion period is until 48 hours after symptoms have resolved. However, some people pose a greater risk to others and may be excluded until they have a negative stool sample (for example, pre-school infants, food handlers, and care staff working with vulnerable people). The health protection team will advise in these instances.
Food poisoning	Until 48 hours from the last episode of vomiting and diarrhoea and they are well enough to return. Some infections may require longer periods (local health protection team will advise).
Salmonella	Until 48 hours after symptoms have stopped.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fever	Seek advice from environmental health officers or the local health protection team.
Flu (influenza)	Until recovered.
Tuberculosis (TB)	Pupils and staff with infectious TB can return to school after 2 weeks of treatment if well enough to do so and as long as they have responded to anti-TB therapy. Pupils and staff with non-pulmonary TB do not require exclusion and can return to school as soon as they are well enough.
Whooping cough (pertussis)	A child or staff member should not return to school until they have had 48 hours of appropriate treatment with antibiotics and they feel well enough to do so or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment.
Conjunctivitis	None.

Giardia	Until 48 hours after symptoms have stopped.
Glandular fever	None (can return once they feel well).
Head lice	None.
Hepatitis A	Exclude cases from school while unwell or until 7 days after the onset of jaundice (or onset of symptoms if no jaundice, or if under 5, or where hygiene is poor. There is no need to exclude well, older children with good hygiene who will have been much more infectious prior to diagnosis.
Hepatitis B	Acute cases of hepatitis B will be too ill to attend school and their doctors will advise when they can return. Do not exclude chronic cases of hepatitis B or restrict their activities. Similarly, do not exclude staff with chronic hepatitis B infection. Contact your local health protection team for more advice if required.
Hepatitis C	None.
Meningococcal meningitis/ septicaemia	If the child has been treated and has recovered, they can return to school.
Meningitis	Once the child has been treated (if necessary) and has recovered, they can return to school. No exclusion is needed.
Meningitis viral	None.
MRSA (meticillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus)	None.
Mumps	5 days after onset of swelling (if well).
Threadworm	None.
Rotavirus	Until 48 hours after symptoms have subsided.

Appendix 2. First Aid Policy

1. Aims

The aims of our first aid policy are to:

- Ensure the health and safety of all staff, pupils and visitors
- Ensure that staff and Trustees are aware of their responsibilities with regards to health and safety
- Provide a framework for responding to an incident and recording and reporting the outcomes

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the [Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage](#), advice from the Department for Education on [first aid in schools](#) and [health and safety in schools](#), and the following legislation:

- [The Health and Safety \(First Aid\) Regulations 1981](#), which state that employers must provide adequate and appropriate equipment and facilities to enable first aid to be administered to employees, and qualified first aid personnel
- [The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992](#), which require employers to make an assessment of the risks to the health and safety of their employees
- [The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999](#), which require employers to carry out risk assessments, make arrangements to implement necessary measures, and arrange for appropriate information and training
- [The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations \(RIDDOR\) 2013](#), which state that some accidents must be reported to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), and set out the timeframe for this and how long records of such accidents must be kept
- [Social Security \(Claims and Payments\) Regulations 1979](#), which sets out rules on the retention of accident records
- [The Education \(Independent School Standards\) Regulations 2014](#), which require that suitable space is provided to cater for the medical and therapy needs of pupils

This policy complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

3. Roles and responsibilities

3.1 First aiders

Advantage Schools first aiders are trained and qualified to carry out the role and are responsible for:

- Taking charge when someone is injured or becomes ill
- Acting as first responders to any incidents; they will assess the situation where there is an injured or ill person, and provide immediate and appropriate treatment
- Sending staff and pupils home to recover, where necessary
- Ensuring that an ambulance or other professional medical help is summoned when appropriate
- Filling in an accident report on the same day, or as soon as is reasonably practicable, after an incident
- Keeping their contact details up to date

Advantage Schools list of first aiders can be accessed by contacting the Chief People & Estates Officer or Facilities Manager. Their names will also be displayed prominently around the schools.

3.2 Other identified staff with first Aid responsibilities

Identified staff in each school/location are responsible for ensuring there is an adequate supply of medical materials in first aid kits and replenishing the contents of these kits.

3.3 The Trust Board

The Trust Board has ultimate responsibility for health and safety matters in the Trust, but delegates operational matters and day-to-day tasks to the Principals/Headteachers and staff members.

3.4 The Principal/Headteacher at each school

The Principal/Headteacher at each school is responsible for the implementation of this policy, including:

- Ensuring that an appropriate number of trained first aid personnel are present in the school at all times
- Ensuring that first aiders have an appropriate qualification, keep training up to date and remain competent to perform their role
- Ensuring all staff are aware of first aid procedures
- Ensuring appropriate risk assessments are completed and appropriate measures are put in place
- Undertaking, or ensuring that managers undertake, risk assessments, as appropriate, and that appropriate measures are put in place
- Ensuring that adequate space is available for catering to the medical needs of pupils
- Reporting specified incidents to the HSE when necessary (see section 6)

3.5 Staff

School staff are responsible for:

- Ensuring that they follow first aid procedures
- Ensuring that they know who the first aiders in school are
- Completing accident reports for all incidents they attend to where a first aider is not called
- Informing the Principal/Headteacher or their manager of any specific health conditions or first aid needs

4. First Aid Procedures

4.1 In-school procedures

In the event of an accident resulting in injury:

- The closest member of staff present will assess the seriousness of the injury and seek the assistance of a qualified first aider, if appropriate, who will provide the required first aid treatment
- The first aider, if called, will assess the injury and decide if further assistance is needed from a colleague or the emergency services. They will remain on the scene until help arrives
- The first aider will also decide whether the injured person should be moved or placed in a recovery position
- If the first aider judges that a pupil is too unwell to remain in school, parents/carers will be contacted and asked to collect their child. Upon their arrival, the first aider will recommend next steps to the parents/carers
- If emergency services are called, the relevant identified support staff member will contact parents/carers immediately
- The first aider or relevant member of staff will complete an accident report form on the same day or as soon as is reasonably practical after an incident resulting in an injury

In schools with Early Years Foundation Stage provision there will be at least 1 person who has a current paediatric first aid (PFA) certificate on the premises at all times.

4.2 Off-site procedures

When taking pupils off the school premises, staff will ensure they always have the following:

- An appropriate mobile phone
- A portable first aid kit including, at minimum:
 - A leaflet giving general advice on first aid
 - 6 individually wrapped sterile adhesive dressings
 - 1 large sterile unmedicated dressing
 - 2 triangular bandages – individually wrapped and preferably sterile
 - 2 safety pins
 - Individually wrapped moist cleansing wipes
 - 2 pairs of disposable gloves
- Information about the specific medical needs of pupils
- Parents/carers' contact details

When transporting pupils using a minibus or other large vehicle, the school will make sure the vehicle is equipped with a clearly marked first aid box containing, at minimum:

- 10 antiseptic wipes, foil packed
- 1 conforming disposable bandage (not less than 7.5cm wide)
- 2 triangular bandages
- 1 packet of 24 assorted adhesive dressings
- 3 large sterile unmedicated ambulance dressings (not less than 15cm x 20 cm)
- 2 sterile eye pads, with attachments
- 12 assorted safety pins
- 1 pair of rustproof blunt-ended scissors

Risk assessments will be completed by the trip organiser prior to any educational visit that necessitates taking pupils off school premises.

There will always be at least one first aider on school trips and visits and where applicable there will be at least one first aider with a current paediatric first aid certificate on school trips and visits, as required by the statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

5. First Aid Equipment

A typical full first aid kit in our school will include the following:

- A leaflet giving general advice on first aid
- 20 individually wrapped sterile adhesive dressings (assorted sizes)
- 2 sterile eye pads
- 2 individually wrapped triangular bandages (preferably sterile)
- 6 safety pins
- 6 medium-sized individually wrapped sterile unmedicated wound dressings
- 2 large sterile individually wrapped unmedicated wound dressings
- 3 pairs of disposable gloves

No medication is kept in first aid kits.

Small kits are also located around the Primary Schools which have a lower specification to deal with immediate minor issues.

First aid kits are stored in appropriate locations at each school.

6. Record-keeping and reporting

6.1 First aid and accident records

- An accident form will be completed by the first aider or relevant member of staff on the same day or as soon as possible after an incident resulting in an injury with as much detail as possible supplied
- Significant information about injuries will also be kept in the pupil's educational record by an identified member of staff
- Records held in the first aid and accident book will be retained by the school for a minimum of 3 years, in accordance with regulation 25 of the Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1979, and then securely disposed of

6.2 Reporting to the HSE

The Chief People & Estates Officer/Facilities Manager will keep a record of any accident which results in a reportable injury, disease, or dangerous occurrence as defined in the RIDDOR 2013 legislation (regulations 4, 5, 6 and 7).

The Principal/Headteacher or a nominated and trained deputy will report these to the Health and Safety Executive as soon as is reasonably practicable and in any event within 10 days of the incident.

School staff: reportable injuries, diseases or dangerous occurrences

These include:

- Death
- Specified injuries, which are:
 - Fractures, other than to fingers, thumbs and toes
 - Amputations
 - Any injury likely to lead to permanent loss of sight or reduction in sight
 - Any crush injury to the head or torso causing damage to the brain or internal organs
 - Serious burns (including scalding) which:
 - Covers more than 10% of the whole body's total surface area; or
 - Causes significant damage to the eyes, respiratory system or other vital organs
 - Any scalping requiring hospital treatment
 - Any loss of consciousness caused by head injury or asphyxia
 - Any other injury arising from working in an enclosed space which leads to hypothermia or heat-induced illness, or requires resuscitation or admittance to hospital for more than 24 hours
- Work-related injuries that lead to an employee being away from work or unable to perform their normal work duties for more than 7 consecutive days (not including the day of the incident). In this case, the FM or their designate will report these to the HSE as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event within 15 days of the accident
- Occupational diseases where a doctor has made a written diagnosis that the disease is linked to occupational exposure. These include:
 - Carpal tunnel syndrome
 - Severe cramp of the hand or forearm

- Occupational dermatitis, e.g. from exposure to strong acids or alkalis, including domestic bleach
- Hand-arm vibration syndrome
- Occupational asthma, e.g. from wood dust
- Tendonitis or tenosynovitis of the hand or forearm
- Any occupational cancer
- Any disease attributed to an occupational exposure to a biological agent

➤ Near-miss events that do not result in an injury, but could have done. Examples of near-miss events relevant to schools include, but are not limited to:

- The collapse or failure of load-bearing parts of lifts and lifting equipment
- The accidental release of a biological agent likely to cause severe human illness
- The accidental release or escape of any substance that may cause a serious injury or damage to health
- An electrical short circuit or overload causing a fire or explosion

Pupils and other people who are not at work (e.g. visitors): reportable injuries, diseases or dangerous occurrences

These include:

- Death of a person that arose from, or was in connection with, a work activity*
- An injury that arose from, or was in connection with, a work activity* and where the person is taken directly from the scene of the accident to hospital for treatment

*An accident “arises out of” or is “connected with a work activity” if it was caused by:

- A failure in the way a work activity was organised (e.g. inadequate supervision of a field trip)
- The way equipment or substances were used (e.g. lifts, machinery, experiments etc); and/or
- The condition of the premises (e.g. poorly maintained or slippery floors)

Information on how to make a RIDDOR report is available here:

How to make a RIDDOR report, HSE

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/riddor/report.htm>

6.3 Notifying parents/carers

The Principal/Headteacher or a nominated deputy will inform parents/carers of any accident or injury sustained by a pupil in the Early Years Foundation Stage and any first aid treatment given, on the same day, or as soon as reasonably practicable when the pupil is in while in the school's care.

6.4 Reporting to Ofsted and child protection agencies

The Principal/Headteacher or a nominated deputy will notify Ofsted of any serious accident, illness or injury to, or death of, a pupil in the Early Years Foundation Stage while in the school's care. This will happen as soon as is reasonably practicable, and no later than 14 days after the incident.

The Principal/Headteacher or a nominated deputy will also notify any other relevant agencies such as the local authority or police of any serious accident or injury to, or the death of, a pupil in the Early Years Foundation Stage and while in the school's care.

7. Training

All first aiders must have completed a recognized and appropriate training course and must hold a valid certificate of competence to show this. The schools will keep a register of all trained first aiders, what training they have received and when this is valid until.

Staff are encouraged to renew their first aid training when it is no longer valid.

In relevant locations, at all times, at least 1 staff member will have a current paediatric first aid (PFA) certificate which meets the requirements set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage statutory framework and is updated at least every 3 years.

8. Links with other policies & procedures

This first aid policy is linked to the

- Health and safety policy
- Risk assessment policy
- Policy on supporting pupils with medical conditions
- Each school's own managing medicine and first aid procedures