

# Health and Safety for School Governors

Presented by Karen Stark

# Objectives & Governor Role

Understand key statutory health and safety requirements that schools should be complying with and how you as Governor have a pivotal role to play.

The main role of the School Governors is to have a strategic overview of how a school is managed and is judged by Ofsted to be part of the leadership and management function.

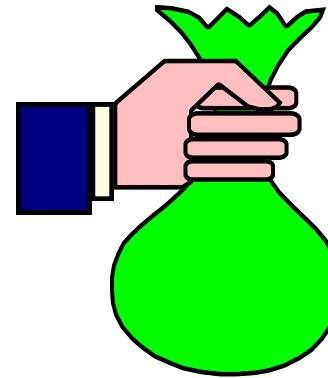
This includes all aspects of governance and includes the monitoring and effectiveness of health and safety issues alongside curriculum issues both of which should form part of the everyday management processes.

# Why Manage Health & Safety

● M<sub>oral</sub>



● E<sub>conomic</sub>



● L<sub>egal</sub>



# Some relevant Legislation

**Management  
of Health &  
Safety at Work  
Regs 1999**

**Health &  
Safety at Work  
Act 1974**

**The Workplace  
(Health, Safety  
& Welfare)  
Regs 1992**

**Reporting of  
Injuries,  
Diseases &  
Dangerous  
Occurrences  
(RIDDOR) Regs  
2013**

**Control of  
Substances  
Hazardous to  
Health Regs  
2005**

**Control of  
Asbestos Regs  
2012**

**Work at Height  
Regulations 2005**

# Sensible Risk Management

- ✓ **Ensuring that workers and the public are properly protected**
- ✓ **Providing overall benefit to society by balancing benefits and risks, with a focus on reducing real risks – both those which arise more often and those with serious consequences**
- ✓ **Enabling innovation and learning not stifling them**
- ✓ **Ensuring that those who create risks manage them responsibly and understand that failure to manage real risks responsibly is likely to lead to robust action**
- ✓ **Enabling individuals to understand that as well as the right to protection, they also have to exercise responsibility**

# Sensible Risk Management

- x** **Creating a totally risk free society**
- x** **Generating useless paperwork mountains**
- x** **Scaring people by exaggerating or publicising trivial risks**
- x** **Stopping important recreational and learning activities for individuals where the risks are managed**
- x** **Reducing protection of people from risks that cause real harm and suffering**

# Key Responsibilities for Schools

- **Ensuring the school complies with statutory legislative requirements and with local authority policies. (Headteacher)**
- **Agreeing the school health and safety policy and monitoring compliance. (Headteacher and Governors)**
- **Taking reasonable steps to ensure that buildings, equipment and materials are safe. (Headteacher and Governors)**

# Key Monitoring Responsibilities

- **Asbestos** - (docubox, survey, remedial works, works log, monitoring, training)
- **Legionella** - (Risk Assessment, testing, managerial responsibility, training)
- **Fire** - (Risk Assessment, assessor competence, remedial works, review, training)
- **5 Year Electrical Testing** - (Report, remedial works, works logged, fire link)
- **COSHH** - (Risk assessment, storage, correct use, training)
- **Display Screen Equipment** - (Assessments, ill health, remedial measures, training)
- **Working at Height** - (Risk assessment, equipment, planning, training)
- **Accident Reporting** – (HS157, HS160, RIDDOR, training)
- **First Aid** - (Risk assessment, on/off site, training)
- **Inspections** – (3 per year)



# Case Studies

**Work at Height incident** – fall from height when caretaker fell from a ladder whilst cleaning the guttering. No formal training, no clear planning, no risk assessment. HSE investigation now closed. Fee for Intervention (FFI) applied. **£496 (Police and Criminal Evidence Act) PACE interview under caution.**

**PE incident** – serious head injury to pupil hit by a shot put in a multi sports PE activity. Association for Physical Education (AfPE) guidance not followed, insufficient planning, training concerns, no review of risk assessments. HSE investigation resulting in prosecution and a **£10,000** fine.

**Chemical incident** – nursery aged children received skin rashes after coming into contact with a cleaning agent that had been used in its neat format. No COSHH risk assessments in place, HSE investigation, FFI fine incurred. **£482**

## Questions that Governors should be asking their school leaders?

- Does the school health and safety policy cover all arrangements and clearly outline responsibilities to ensure a positive health and safety culture?
- Are you assessing all significant risks for any high risk activities which are undertaken in your school? (P.E. Science, Cookery, Design and Technology)
- Do you risk assess your off site activities?
- Are your staff suitably trained to undertake health and safety tasks, e.g. COSSH, Fire, Working at Height, Asbestos, Legionella, Manual Handling, First Aid?
- If appointing contractors who are not on the KCC Contractor Database, are you undertaking appropriate vetting to ensure health and safety competence when carrying out your planned works. e.g. Asbestos, Legionella, Fire, Working at Height?
- Are you monitoring the condition of the asbestos on your site?
- Are you implementing the remedial actions identified within your fire risk assessment?

# Contacts & Information

KCC Health and Safety Team

Advice line number 03000 418 456

Email [healthandsafety@kent.gov.uk](mailto:healthandsafety@kent.gov.uk)

Health and Safety Information

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

EduKent Services

[http://www.edukent.co.uk/our\\_services/service/health\\_and\\_safety/](http://www.edukent.co.uk/our_services/service/health_and_safety/)

Training

Access through CPD Online or SPS website

Alternatively contact KCC Learning and Development

03000 416 128