



Dubai English Speaking School

**Health & Safety
Policy**

Written by:		Reviewed:	
Approved by:		Next Review:	

INTRODUCTION

All associated with Dubai English Speaking School (DESS), attach great importance to the provision of a safe and healthy working environment for the teaching staff, the non-teaching staff, the children and all those who visit the School from time to time. It is essential that all members of staff display a positive attitude towards the provision of Health and Safety.

AIMS

The general aims of this policy are designed, so far as is reasonably practical, to enable DESS to:

- 1) establish and maintain a safe and healthy environment throughout the school;
- 2) establish and maintain safe working procedures among staff and children;
- 3) make arrangements for ensuring safety and absence of risks to health in connection with the use, handling, storage and transport of articles and substances;
- 4) ensure the provision of sufficient information, instruction and supervision to enable all employees and children to avoid hazards and contribute positively to their own health and safety and to ensure that they have access to health and safety training as appropriate or as and when provided;
- 5) maintain all areas in the School in a condition that is safe and without risk to health and to provide and maintain means of access to and egress from that place of work that are safe and without risk;
- 6) formulate effective procedures for use in case of fire and for evacuating the school premises;
- 7) lay down procedures to be followed in case of accident;
- 8) teach safety as part of children's' duties where appropriate.
- 9) ensure that Health & Safety is regularly reviewed and discussed.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibility of the Head Teacher

The Head Teacher (who may delegate to the Facilities Manager/ Member of SLT), is overall responsible for implementing this policy within the school. In particular she will:

- 1) monitor the effectiveness of the safety policy and the safe working practices described within it and shall revise and amend it, as necessary, on a regular basis;
- 2) prepare an emergency evacuation procedure and arrange for periodic evacuation drills (at least once per term) to take place and for the results of these to be recorded;
- 3) make arrangements for informing staff and children of relevant safety procedures. Other users of the School should be appropriately informed;
- 4) ensure that regular safety inspections are undertaken. (A Health and Safety team will inspect all School premises and property once a term);
- 5) to develop and regularly review an emergency lock down procedure and to arrange periodic drills

Responsibility of the Head Teacher / Facilities Manager

- 1) The Facilities Manager will assist the Head Teacher in the implementation, monitoring and development of the safety policy within the School;
- 2) The Facilities Manager will arrange for the withdrawal, repair or replacement of any item of furniture, fitting or equipment identified as being unsafe by the Health and Safety inspection team;
- 3) The Facilities Manager will report any defect in the state of repair of the buildings or their surrounds which is identified as being unsafe and make such interim arrangements as are reasonable to limit the risk entailed.
- 4) The Facilities Manager / Head Teacher will coordinate arrangements for the dissemination of information and for the instruction of employees, children and visitors on safety matters and to make recommendations on the extent to which staff are trained.
- 5) The Facilities Manager will monitor the activities of contractors, hirers and other organisations present on site, as far as is reasonably practicable;
- 6) The Facilities Manager will arrange for the withdrawal, repair or replacement of any item of furniture, fitting or equipment identified as being unsafe by staff / Bursar;
- 7) The Facilities Manager will monitor general advice on safety matters from relevant bodies and advise on its application to the School;
- 8) The Facilities Manager will coordinate arrangements for the design and implementation of safe working practices within the School;
- 9) The Facilities Manager will investigate any specific health and safety problems identified within the School and take or recommend (as appropriate) remedial action;
- 10) The Facilities Manager will recommend that a method of working ceases on health and safety grounds on a temporary basis subject to further consideration by the Head Teacher;
- 11) The Facilities Manager will assist in, as far as expertise allows, the carrying out regular safety inspections of the School and its activities and make recommendations on methods of resolving any problems identified;

Responsibilities of Staff Towards Children and Others in their Care

All staff are responsible for the health and safety arrangements in relation to staff, children and volunteers under their supervision. In particular they will monitor their own work activities and take all reasonable steps to:

- 1) exercise effective supervision over all those for whom they are responsible;
- 2) be aware of and implement safe working practices and set a good example personally, identify actual and potential hazards and introduce procedures to minimise the possibility of mishap;
- 3) ensure that any equipment or tools used are appropriate to that use and meet accepted safety standards;
- 4) Ensure that appropriate clothing and safety equipment is available as necessary and ensure that these are used as required;
- 5) minimise the occasions when an individual is required to work in isolation, particularly in a hazardous situation or on a hazardous process;
- 6) evaluate promptly and, where appropriate, take action on criticism of health and safety arrangements;
- 7) provide the opportunity for discussion of health and safety arrangements;
- 8) investigate any accident (or incident where personal injury could have arisen) and take appropriate corrective action (particularly on supervision duties at break and lunch times);
- 9) Undertake adequate instruction, information and training in safe working methods as required.

When any member of staff considers that corrective action is necessary but that action lies outside the scope of their authority, they should refer the problem to the Head Teacher/ designated SLT member/ Facilities Manager.

Responsibilities of all Employees STAFF –

All employees of DESS have a responsibility to:

- 1) take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and of any other person who might be affected by their acts or omissions at work;
- 2) cooperate with the Head Teacher /Facilities Manager/ SLT designated member in meeting statutory requirements, not interfere with or misuse anything provided in the interests of health, safety and welfare;
- 3) make themselves aware of all safety rules, procedures and safe working practices applicable to their posts; where in doubt they must seek immediate clarification from the Head Teacher/ designated SLT member / Facilities Manager;
- 4) ensure that tools and equipment are in good condition and report any defects to the Head Teacher/ SLT designated member/ Facilities Manager;
- 5) use protective clothing and safety equipment provided and ensure that these are kept in good condition;
- 6) ensure that offices, classrooms and general rooms are kept tidy;

- 7) ensure that any accidents, whether or not an injury occurs, and potential hazards are reported and documented to the Nurse / Head Teacher/ SLT Member/ Facilities Manager.
- 8) All Staff/ employees of the School are to wear their DESS Badges to identify them easily to the whole School community

Whenever an employee is aware of any possible deficiencies in health and safety arrangements she/he must draw these to the attention of the Head Teacher / SLT designated member.

Deliberately breaking Health and Safety rules or any non-cooperation or conformity will be regarded as a disciplinary offence.

Please note the following:

- 1) It must be realised that newly appointed employees could be particularly vulnerable to any risk and it must be ensured that all relevant health and safety matters are drawn to their attention during their induction;
- 2) Whilst it is a management responsibility to instruct all employees in safe working procedures in relation to their posts and work places, employees may from time to time find themselves in unfamiliar environments. In such cases, the employee concerned should be particularly alert for hazards, and whenever possible, ensure they are accompanied by a person familiar with the environment or that they are advised of specific hazards;
- 3) All volunteer helpers will be expected, as far as reasonably possible, to meet the same standards required of employees.

Responsibilities of Children

All children are expected, within their ability, to;

- 1) exercise personal responsibility for the safety of themselves and their fellow pupils;
- 2) observe standards of dress consistent with safety and/or hygiene;
- 3) observe all the safety rules of the School and in particular the instructions of the teaching staff in the event of an emergency;
- 4) use and not wilfully misuse, neglect or interfere with things provided for safety purposes.
- 5) to follow the Buses Code of Conduct if they use the School buses

The Head Teacher and teaching staff will make children (and where appropriate the parents) aware of these responsibilities through direct instruction and notices.

VISITORS

Regular visitors and other users of the premises (e.g. contractors and delivery men) are expected, as far as reasonably practicable, to observe the safety rules of the School. All Visitors must sign into reception and wear badges supplied by Reception.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES

- 1) The Schools procedures for fire and emergency are detailed in the Staff handbook. Maps showing location and route to evacuation point are posted on each floor, in each classroom and in the reception areas.
- 2) These procedures will be updated as appropriate.
- 3) There is a log book for the recording and evaluation of practice and evacuation drills with the Facilities Manager. The designated member of the SLT is to inform the Facilities Manger of all events needed for the log book.

FIRE PREVENTION EQUIPMENT

Arrangements are made to regularly monitor the condition of all fire prevention equipment. This includes the regular visual inspection of fire extinguishers and the fire alarm system by specialist personnel.

LOCK DOWN PROCEDURES

DESS takes the security and safety of the students and staff very seriously. In the event of a potentially dangerous situation the following procedure will be followed.

Stage 1

- The Fire alarm system will be activated by sounding – 5 short bursts

Stage 2

- Children should go to the nearest class room if they are outside of a classroom
- Once in a class room they should do the following
- Get out of sight

- Close and secure classroom access – bolt the doors and if possible place a large desk in front of the door
- Close classroom window blinds
- Ensure all phones switched to silent
- Turn off lights and computer monitors
- Have children sit or lie below the window or in a part of the classroom where they can't be seen OR under desks
- Make sure that everybody remains absolutely silent.

Stage 3

- SLT to inform the relevant authorities e.g. the police

Stage 4

- SLT to give permission to announce the all clear. This is to consist of 5 short bursts on the fire alarm system
- Children and staff to assemble on the evacuation area. Teachers to account for all children, admin to account for all support staff/ visitors. Use the registers / signing in/out books
- Guidance should be sought from SLT before being re-united with parents.

ASSEMBLY AREA = SAME AS THE FIRE DRILL – see staff handbook.

THE PROCESS FOR CARRYING OUT AND MONITORING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Those members of the Staff who sit on the Health and Safety Committee have a particular responsibility for ensuring that the Schools safety policy is implemented and that they are at all-time aware of their duties in this respect. Members of Staff who are not designated members of the committee also have a responsibility to be ever conscious of the need to ensure that all activities with which they are involved are conducted safely.

Members of staff who consider an activity, piece of equipment or building to be hazardous should report the matter immediately to the Head Teacher / SLT designated member/ Facilities Manager. Staff are to be aware of the necessity to remind children constantly of the need to be safety conscious.

The Facilities Manager is responsible for ensuring that fire exits and means of escape are inspected at frequent intervals to ensure that they are correctly marked and that they provide free access at all times. Fire drills should take place at least once per term and in particular when there are a number of children new to the School. Records of fire drills are to be maintained by the Facilities Manager. The Facilities Manager will ensure that regular checks of all School buildings and alarm systems are undertaken. He is to maintain a record of these inspections.

Key personnel are to ensure that all machinery, plant and electrical equipment is inspected before being brought into use and inspected regularly thereafter to ensure that there are no obvious defects. Dangerous equipment is to be inspected regularly to ensure that all guards are in positions and that they are working effectively. Alarms and emergency cut-out mechanisms are also to be tested.

The Head of Science with the Facilities Manager ensures that a visual check of all fume cupboards is made before use to ensure that there are no obvious faults.

All departments will ensure that children wear eye protection/goggles as necessitated by the specific activity. The Science Department should assess all experiments for risk as part of their planning.

Caretakers and Cleaning Supervisors are to ensure that they and all their staff have been instructed in the correct way to store and handle hazardous substances.

All members of staff responsible for organising expeditions, field trips and residential trips are to ensure that the health and safety aspects are examined before setting out and that the procedures to be followed in case of any mishap are thoroughly understood by all those taking part. Staff responsible should complete all relevant forms and these must be approved by the Headteacher / designated SLT member for trips (see School Trips Policy). They should also remind children constantly of the need to be safety conscious.

Whilst there will be many matters on which to brief children before field trips or expeditions the following must invariably be covered.

- The correct clothing and footwear to be taken.
- The equipment to be taken and the need to ensure that there is sufficient competence within the group trained in the use of the equipment.
- First aid cover.

- Procedures for dealing with emergencies.
- All out of School trips are to be supported by a Risk Assessment which is to be signed by the Headteacher / SLT designated member for trips.
- All out of School activities are to be supported by a Risk Assessment which is to be signed by the Headteacher / SLT designated member for ECAs.

The School reserves the right to send home any children who, despite warnings, deliberately disobeys a safety instruction and jeopardizes their own safety or that of others. This will be at parents' expense and no refunds will be given. The party leader will write a written report on the incident.

The Facilities Manager is responsible for ensuring that safe systems and methods of work are adopted for all maintenance work connected with the Schools fabric and the services. The Facilities Manager is to ensure that all equipment used by the maintenance staff is cleaned, inspected and serviced regularly. He is to ensure that the relevant protective clothing is provided and worn when necessary by staff. He is also to ensure that all equipment is secured at the end of the working day to prevent unauthorised access or use.

During pre-contract meetings the Facilities Manager is to ensure that all contractors who are engaged to carry out work in the School are aware of the Schools safety policy. In addition, they are to ensure that contractors are made aware of the need to ensure that their site is fenced off. It is particularly important that contractors are briefed carefully and their activities monitored closely by the Facilities Manager when the site is in an area in which children and staff are present. The Facilities Manager is to ensure that contractors use their own tools and equipment and that these are locked away securely at the end of the working day and at all other times when the site is vacated. The Facilities Manager is to pay particular attention to the electrical supply used by contractors to ensure that it is not overloaded.

The caretakers are to ensure that they are aware of the correct methods of using all grounds equipment. They are to ensure that protective clothing is provided and worn on all occasions when hazardous work is being done. They are to ensure that all grounds equipment is secured at the end of each working day to prevent unauthorised access or use.

All key personnel are to ensure that first aid facilities are readily available to their Departments and that these are checked and re-stocked when necessary. Advice in first aid equipment to be kept for areas where there is a risk peculiar to that area should be sought from the School Nurse, who will seek further advice if necessary.

All fatal and major accidents are to be reported in the Nurses reports. [See Crisis management Policy.](#)

The Head Teacher and the Nurse will ensure that information on health & safety matters and any new requirements is disseminated as necessary.

The Health and Safety Committee will meet termly. A record of the meetings will be maintained with notes of action required and remedial measures to be taken. Copies of the record of meetings will be circulated to the Headteacher and all key personnel. The Committee will review all health and safety requirements and the need for the staff training and will ensure that these are disseminated to the appropriate areas.

Visits by specialist officials (e.g. Fire Department) will take place periodically. All visitors of this nature will report in the first instance to Reception before starting their tour of inspection and will be accompanied by a member of the Administration staff. All staff are to co-operate fully with specialist consultants who may visit their area of responsibility. These arrangements for carrying out and monitoring the Schools safety policy will be reviewed periodically.

This policy is reviewed annually by the School Health and Safety Committee (see below) and any recommendations to be submitted to the Facilities Subcommittee of the Board of Governors.

Annex A

School Health and Safety Committee

Key Personnel

Chairman of Committee	-	
SLT Health & Safety Officer	-	
Facilities Manager	-	Mr A.Maher
* Laboratories	-	
* PE, Sports Hall, Gym & Pitches	-	
* Kitchens		