

Bridge School Malvern



Document Owner	Sue Hornby	Governor ratification	Yes
Review period	Annually	Last amended	July 2026

Health and Safety Policy

Introduction

Bridge School Malvern (BSM) aims to manage health and safety effectively and to minimise risk to our pupils, employees, volunteers and visitors.

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act, section 2(3), we need to demonstrate that we are committed to proactive safety management. We aim to maintain a safe working environment by constant monitoring of health and safety procedures and practices. It is our aim to identify and control safety issues through risk assessments; providing Health and Safety training to all staff & pupils engaged in practical activities on site; reviewing and monitoring H&S at staff meetings; and reviews led by Governors annually.

Pupils, staff and volunteers who breach the Health and Safety Policy will be subject to disciplinary action. This action will be carried out when pupils, staff or volunteers place themselves or others in unnecessary danger through negligence, horseplay, stupidity or deliberate acts.

The Health and Safety Officer (HSO) is Sue Hornby and the Deputy Health and Safety Officer (DHSO) is Neil Hornby. Their contact details are:

Neil Hornby: 07791509728 neilhornby@bridgeschoolmalvern.org

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The school has a schedule of internal audits.

The school may be subject to planned and unplanned external inspections.

The HSE poster 'What you need to know' and our [Health and Safety Policy Statement](#) which sets out everyone's responsibilities is displayed on the Health

and Safety notice board in reception and reviewed annually. This will be shown to you at your induction.

Essential practice

Staff must maintain a safe and tidy work area to prevent accidents, reduce work space hazards, and model organisational skills for pupils. A clean and tidy environment lowers stress, limits distractions, protects school property, and ensures compliance with safety regulations.

Every pupil should come to a learning area that is clean, tidy and ready to use. This means that they must engage in the process of cleaning and tidying their learning space before leaving it, ensuring it is ready for the next pupils to use.

The best way to avoid accidents is for Coaches to keep their work areas clean and tidy and always risk assess. Pupils will follow the example of their Coaches if they are firm and consistent in applying the rules.

Risk Assessments

Copies of all risk assessments are kept electronically on the main drive, as well as paper copies in vocational areas and relevant copies are kept in the main offices. These will be shown to all new staff and volunteers at induction who may print them for their own reference as required. They are working documents and amendments or updates should be commented on the electronic copies as necessary.

Staff and volunteers must inform the HSO or DHSO of any such changes. The HSO or DHSO will inform the rest of the team. Identification of hazards is crucial to ensure the safety of all on site, so that risks can be minimised. Staff and volunteers undertaking a task for which there is no risk assessment, must write one and inform the HSO or DHSO. Training will be given for all staff requiring it.

It is essential that pupils have an understanding of the health and safety aspects of their work and working environment, and the precautions that are required to work safely. It is a legal requirement of the Health and Safety at Work Act to provide training, information and instruction. All Coaches are expected to refer to health and safety/risk management at the start of their training sessions and to monitor the session for risks throughout.

No one should use machinery or powered equipment that they are not trained to use. Staff and volunteers should speak to the HSO or DHSO if training is required.

We will undertake specific Risk Assessments to ensure especially vulnerable people are appropriately protected, as we recognise that they potentially face increased risks in the workplace. Especially expectant mothers, and those with underlying health conditions or restricted mobility.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

PPE will be supplied free of charge. It is the responsibility of pupils, volunteers and staff to ensure such equipment is used and stored properly so it remains in good condition. Examples of PPE include the following:

- Safety boots – to be worn during all practical activities such as maintenance, construction, woodwork and animal care.
- Gardening Gloves – must be worn for all horticultural tasks and lifting where the hands are at risk.
- Gloves must be worn on the holding hand when sawing.
- Safety goggles must be worn when working with metal against metal, eg hammering, filing etc.
- Overalls must be worn when working with animals, painting, wood preserving etc.
- Helmet, visor, high visibility vest, ear protectors and harness– must be worn when strimming. Other similar equipment must be worn when litter blowing, maintaining tools etc.
- Hair ties and/or hats, and aprons or chef whites; professional standard oven cloths when handling hot items in catering.
- Face masks where Covid rules require this.

Hygiene

Personal hygiene is very important in many activities. Hand washing prior to serving food is mandated.

Hand washing after being outdoors or touching animals is mandated.

Use disposable blue paper towels to dry hands (not washable cotton towels) in the kitchen.

Smallholding boots and overalls must be removed in the boot room and not worn inside the building.

Overalls worn for inside animals must be stored in the animal care room.

Hand washing facilities are available and hands should be washed after contact with the animals, going to the toilet, removing overalls and boots and before eating. Staff are responsible for giving effective hand washing advice to all pupils and should supervise hand washing.

Food and drink should not be consumed around the site. Eating and drinking is restricted to designated areas only during break times and should always be supervised by staff. Water bottles are allowed on site in hot weather, but advice must be given not to touch the lid area with hands particularly if working in the animal or growing areas. Sources of clean drinking water are accessible and clearly labelled.

All staff preparing and delivering food must complete the Food Hygiene certificate via National College [Food Hygiene Training Course & Certificate for School](#).

Infection awareness

BSM is a smallholding site with a range of pets, poultry, farm animals and an organic growing area. Consequently, there will be risks to health. Staff are to read information on E. coli, Weil's Disease (leptospirosis), snake bites and heat stroke:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/leptospirosis/>

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/escherichia-coli-e-coli-o157>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/heat-exhaustion-heatstroke/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/snake-bites/>

It is staff and volunteers responsibility to read these documents carefully so that they are aware of prevention and symptoms.

Heat stroke is a medical emergency and will be dealt with by a First Aider but information is included in the staff and volunteer induction so that they can recognise the symptoms, take necessary measures to reduce risk for themselves and others, and react appropriately.

Tetanus is a serious but rare condition that can be fatal if untreated. The bacteria that causes tetanus can often be found in soil and manure. Go to minor injuries immediately if you sustain a deep wound, especially if it contains dirt or a foreign object, or if you do not know if you have been fully vaccinated against tetanus.

All staff and volunteers must check with their doctor that their tetanus vaccination is up to date.

In the event of an epidemic or pandemic alert, we will organise our business and operations and provide advice on steps to be taken by Staff, to reduce the risk of infection at work as far as possible. This may include hygiene, social distancing and ventilation measures. We will work in accordance with official guidance. Any questions should be referred to the Health and Safety Officer. It is important for the health and safety of all our Staff that you comply with instructions issued by us in these circumstances, even outside of the workplace. Failure to do so may be dealt with under our Disciplinary Procedure.

It is also important for employees to continue to follow any government regulation or official guidance when outside the workplace, in order to reduce risk to other Staff. Failure to do so may be dealt with under our Disciplinary Procedure. An outbreak of an infectious disease will be reviewed by the Infection Control Committee and governors will be informed.

Accidents

All accidents must be reported to a First Aider for treatment immediately. All accidents, however minor, must be recorded. If staff or volunteers witness a near miss or potential accident, they must inform the HSO or DHSO as soon as possible. Incidents and near misses should also be recorded.

Certain accidents must be reported to the Health and Safety Executive under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR). These include:

- a) Death of any person if it arises from a work-related accident,
- b) Seven day injuries – which is when a work-related accident results in someone having more than seven days off work in a row, and
- c) Specified injuries – these include broken bones, amputations, injury that may lead to sight loss, crush injuries, burns or scalding, loss of consciousness caused by head injury and injuries in confined space. (Full details are available on the HSE website.)

Should an injury be RIDDOR* reportable, it will be reported to RIDDOR for an investigation to be carried out and the Governors will be informed. The Charity Commission will also be informed of any serious accidents that require professional medical attention and a significant contributory factor was our failure to implement a relevant policy.

There is a list of current qualified First Aiders on the health and safety notice board. Details of first aid facilities and where first-aid boxes are stored are displayed on the notice board.

*The Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013

Medication

Under no circumstances must any medication (pills, mixtures, creams, sprays etc) be contained within the first aid boxes or kits.

Medication can be dispensed by a First Aider with parental permission. See [Administration of Medicines Policy](#)

The sharing of personal medication such as Paracetamol, Aspirin or creams with pupils is not allowed under any circumstances.

For new pupils, parents/carers are required to complete the Medical Information Form as part of the admission process.

Further updates/consent is provided via the Teachers2Parents platform.

Medication is typically administered at Hanley by Sally Helder, and by Emma Thomas at the Sixth Form.

Machinery

No one should use or operate any machinery before they have received the required training relating to that equipment. This also applies when pupils are on a placement or visit. No one should use, or supervise the use of, equipment they feel unsafe using.

Staff or Volunteers who use equipment that they feel is unsafe or faulty in any way, you must alert all users to it, remove it from use, and inform the HSO or DHSO immediately.

Correct PPE must be worn at all times when operating machinery. Protective guards and shields must be in place and in good order. If not, put out of use and report to maintenance immediately.

All portable powered equipment will be PAT tested annually. Personal portable electrical equipment must not be used on site. All equipment is serviced regularly. Refer to PUWER* folder in the office for details of specific equipment (Hanley) and drive (business centre).

*Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations, 1998.

Allowing pupils/students to work with machinery requires extra vigilance and caution. Reference should be made to pupil/student risk assessments and any medication that they may or may not be taking that may impact on their concentration or coordination. Pupils/students must be supported to carry out pre-checks on the machinery they are going to use, to review and assess risks, as well as how to use the equipment. The Coach must be confident that the young person has understood and can follow the instructions and must supervise closely at all times.

All new equipment purchased must be PUWER compliant. Checklists are available in the PUWER folder.

Hazardous Substances

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulation (COSHH) requires us to take steps to ensure that substances do not harm pupils or staff. This includes all kinds of substances such as kitchen cleaners, paint, fertilisers, disinfectants etc. PPE must be worn appropriately for each activity, eg gloves and goggles. For advice on necessary PPE and hazards relating to particular substances, refer to the Data Sheet in the COSHH folder or speak to the HSO. Some people may be susceptible to allergies when handling chemicals. Pupils should be told to notify a member of staff if they notice any changes in their general well being after contact with chemical substances. It is imperative that when purchasing any substance for which there is not already a Data Sheet, that one is acquired and filed in the COSHH folder. Substances with unusual or particular risks must be reported to the HSO.

Fire Safety

Fire results in many deaths nationally every year and can put companies out of business. Steps have been taken to minimise the risk of fire. The buildings are equipped with fire extinguishers and fire alarms that are checked and tested on a regular basis.

Smoking and vaping is strictly prohibited.

You will be informed of the nearest fire exits and instructions to follow in the event of a fire during your induction. Regular fire drills will be held to ensure our fire procedures are effective. These drills are important and must be taken seriously. For further information see the Fire Policy. Staff and volunteers will be given a copy of the Fire Policy and Procedures at their induction.

Currently, Sally Helder is the Fire Officer for Hanley Site and John Roe for the Sixth Form

Manual Handling

Instruction must be given in safe handling techniques when it is necessary to move or lift an object. All pupils, staff and volunteers must not attempt to lift an object if they are unaware of how to lift or move it safely.

HSE advice on manual handling is available in the Health and Safety folder in the main office. All staff and volunteers must refer to this and the manual handling risk assessment. The manual handling risk assessment will be given to staff and volunteers at their induction. [Manual Handling RA](#)

Alcohol and Drugs

Alcohol or drugs must not be consumed whilst at BSM or on Hanley Workshops or Sixways Industrial Estate premises. Nor should anyone be under the influence of alcohol or drugs as a result of consumption prior to arriving at BSM.

BSM reserves the right to take disciplinary action in relation to drugs or alcohol consumption, which affects the work of pupils, staff and volunteers. BSM will also attempt to help any pupil, employee or volunteer with alcohol or drug related problems and such matters will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Mobile devices

Staff and volunteers will be required to keep their mobiles on and charged at all times to aid communication between the unit and field areas but personal calls or messages should not be attended to in the presence of pupils.

At the Hanley site, pupils must hand all mobile devices into reception at the start of the day. Use of mobile phones or other mobile devices, without permission, will be treated as gross misconduct.

At the Sixth Form, students are required to hand their mobile phones in at the start of the day, unless a discretionary agreement has been made with a student in respect of individual need and appropriate use.

Computers and Display Screen Equipment

If you habitually use a computer screen or other Display Screen Equipment (DSE) as a significant part of your work:

- a) you should try and organise your activity so that you take frequent short breaks from looking at the screen,

b) you are entitled to a workstation assessment, speak to your line manager, and you can undertake a self-assessment using the Safe HR

 DSE workstation Set-Up Checklist

c) you are entitled to have an eye test carried out by an optician. Eye tests should be repeated at regular intervals as advised by the optician, usually every two years. However, if you experience visual difficulties that may reasonably be caused by DSE work (such as headaches, eyestrain or difficulty in focusing) you can request a further eye test at any time.

General points

All contractors must be booked in during the holidays or after children have left the site. On rare occasions where this is not possible a contractor must show ID before starting work and their DBS details will be requested if they have one and recorded on the Single Central Register (Any DBS must be to an Enhanced level). This information will be included on the Approved Visitors list displayed in the office. If contractors do not have a DBS they are to be supervised at all times on site.

All other units on the Hanley and Sixways industrial estates are out of bounds to pupils at all times. Pupils must always inform their Coach/Tutor if they intend to leave the group or the site for any reason.

All rooms are out of bounds to pupils unless supervised by a member of staff, and must be locked when not in use.

BSM is not responsible or liable for the loss of, or damage to, personal possessions.

Any concerns, observations or questions should be discussed with the HSO or DHSO immediately.

Additional Information for Coaches - Training young people in safe working practices

Health and safety should be the first unit taught in all vocational areas. Health and Safety awareness is a priority at all times. Most accidents in the workplace occur with employees under 25 years old. This is generally because they do not have the experience or knowledge, or because they are not confident to report their concerns or observations or do not know how to do so.

All vocational Coaches and support staff/volunteers must:

1. Demonstrate safe working practice at all times in line with their H&S induction and training.
2. Always take health and safety concerns seriously.
3. Make sure pupils know who to speak to if they feel unsafe or have concerns about the safety of equipment etc. This will be their Coach in the first instance and then the HSO if they are not confident that their concerns have been listened to. If any action is required for general safety i.e unsafe furniture or equipment, remove from use and report to the HSO immediately.

4. Make sure they know who the HSO and DHSO are and how to contact them (contact details are on the H&S notice boards in the entrance at Hanley and BSF sites).

General BSM safe working practice rules:

- Refer to 'Essential practice' on page two.
- Refer to relevant risk assessments.
- **Always** wear appropriate PPE.
- Hanley site: When sawing wood, **always** wear a suitable protective glove on the holding hand and use the sawing horse when the piece is not clamped.
When sawing wood, **always** wear a suitable protective glove on the holding hand when the piece is not clamped.
- Where necessary, ensure material is held securely in a vice or other clamp.
- When working with metal against metal, eg hammering a nail, filing metal, **always** wear safety specs.
- When working with potentially hazardous dry substances, **always** wear a dust mask **and** refer to the COSHH Data Sheet.
- When working with liquids that give off fumes, eg paints or preservatives, **always** work in a well ventilated area **and** check the COSHH Data Sheet for other safety measures such as PPE, length of exposure and flammability etc.
- Long hair must **always** be tied back during field work and in the kitchen to avoid the necessity of touching the face whilst working with foodstuffs, composts and animals.
- Hanley site: **Always** return sharp knives and scissors to the main office when they have been cleaned, dried and finished with. **Never** ask a pupil to collect or return sharps on your behalf (or keys).
BSF site: **Always** return sharp knives and scissors to staff member who issued them, when they have been cleaned, dried and finished with. **Never** ask a pupil to collect or return sharps on your behalf (or keys).
- **Always** be aware of safe working distances and remind pupils to be aware of what and who is around them. Remember, not being aware of one's own body position and a lack of spatial awareness are symptoms of dyspraxia, which the young person may not be aware of themselves.
- **Never** assume a young person has read and understood instructions, even if they say they have. Seek verbal confirmation of understanding.
- Remind pupils that they are responsible for their own safety and the safety of those around them. It is BSM's responsibility to provide safe equipment and PPE, it is their (and your) responsibility to use it safely.
- Under no circumstances should pupils leave classroom, unit, poly tunnel, grounds or Hanley or BSF sites without telling a member of staff where they are going.
- Pupils are not to use the tractor.

The two most common workplace accidents relate to poor manual handling skills and slips, trips and falls. Consequently:

- Read the HSE guidelines on safe manual handling and read the risk assessment. Speak to the HSO or DHSO if you have any queries.
- Tools must **always** be carried with sharp and heavy ends towards the ground and **never** over the shoulder.
- Wheelbarrows must **always** be well balanced and **never** overloaded
- Tools must **always** be put away and never left on the ground. They should be upright when not in use and not on the floor.
- Pupils must **always** walk sensibly around the site and **never** run.

For further information see other health and safety related policies

 One to One Working Policy

 Working Alone on Site Policy

 Intruder and Unwanted Visitor Policy

 Educational Visits Policy

 Fire Policy (BBC)

 Fire Policy (Hanley)

 Food safety policy

 Risk Assessment Policy

 Sharps Policy

 Offensive Weapons Policy

 Pupil Search Policy

 Missing Pupil Policy

 Cleaning Policy

 First Aid Policy

 Dogs at Work Policy

 School Visitors Policy

[Menopause in the Workplace Policy](#)