



Home of Irresistible Learning

Dubai English Speaking School

# Health and Safety Policy



Written by:	Tony Clarkson	Reviewed:	September 2023
Approved by:	SLT / Muhammad Umer	Next Review:	September 2024

## Introduction

DESS takes the safety and security of our children and staff very seriously. 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:

- Establish and maintain a safe and healthy environment throughout the school
- Establish and maintain safe working procedures among staff and children
- Make arrangements for ensuring safety and absence of risks to health in connection with the use, handling, storage and transport of articles and substances
- 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
- 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
- Formulate effective procedures for use in case of fire and for evacuating the school premises
- Lay down procedures to be followed in case of accident
- Teach safety as part of children's' duties where appropriate
- Ensure that Health & Safety is regularly reviewed and discussed

## Roles and Responsibilities

### 1. Responsibility of the Head Teacher and Senior Deputy Head Teacher

The QHSE, HT and SDHT (who may delegate to the Facilities Manager/ Members of SLT), are overall responsible for implementing this policy within the school.

In particular, they will:

- i. 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
- ii. 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;
- iii. Make arrangements for informing staff and children of relevant safety procedures. Other users of the School should be appropriately informed;
- iv. Ensure that regular safety inspections are undertaken
- v. To develop and regularly review an emergency lock down procedure and to arrange periodic drills.

### 2. Responsibility of the HT / SDHT / QHSE / Facilities Manager

- i. The Facilities Manager will assist the QHSE, HT and SDHT in the implementation, monitoring and development of the safety policy within the School
- ii. 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
- iii. 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

- iv. The Facilities Manager / HT / SDHT 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
- v. The Facilities Manager will monitor the activities of contractors, hirers and other organisations present on site, as far as is reasonably practicable
- vi. 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
- vii. The Facilities Manager will monitor general advice on safety matters from relevant bodies and advise on its application to the School
- viii. The Facilities Manager will coordinate arrangements for the design and implementation of safe working practices within the School
- ix. The Facilities Manager will investigate any specific health and safety problems identified within the School and take or recommend (as appropriate) remedial action
- x. 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 HT / SDHT
- xi. 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

### **3. 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:

- i. Exercise effective supervision over all those for whom they are responsible
- ii. 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
- iii. Ensure that any equipment or tools used are appropriate to that use and meet accepted safety standards
- iv. Ensure that appropriate clothing and safety equipment is available as necessary and ensure that these are used as required
- v. Minimise the occasions when an individual is required to work in isolation, particularly in a hazardous situation or on a hazardous process
- vi. Evaluate promptly and, where appropriate, take action on criticism of health and safety arrangements
- vii. Provide the opportunity for discussion of health and safety arrangements
- viii. 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)
- ix. 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 HT/ SDHT / designated SLT member/ Facilities Manager.

### **4. Responsibilities of all Employees - Staff**

All employees of DESS have a responsibility to:

- i. 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
- ii. Cooperate with the HT / SDHT /Facilities Manager/ SLT designated member in meeting statutory requirements, not interfere with or misuse anything provided in the interests of health, safety and welfare
- iii. 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/ SDHT / Facilities Manager

- iv. Ensure that tools and equipment are in good condition and report any defects to the Head Teacher/ SDHT / SLT designated member/ Facilities Manager
- v. Use protective clothing and safety equipment provided and ensure that these are kept in good condition
- vi. Ensure that offices, classrooms and general rooms are kept tidy
- vii. Ensure that any accidents, whether or not an injury occurs, and potential hazards are reported and documented to the Nurse / Head Teacher/SDHT / SLT Member/ Facilities Manager
- viii. 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 HT or SDHT.

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

**Please note the following:**

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.

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.

All volunteer helpers will be expected, as far as reasonably possible, to meet the same standards required of employees.

## **5. Responsibilities of Children**

All children are expected, within their ability, to;

- i. Exercise personal responsibility for the safety of themselves and their fellow pupils
- ii. Observe standards of dress consistent with safety and/or hygiene
- iii. Observe all the safety rules, including Online Safety rules, of the School and in particular the instructions of the teaching staff in the event of an emergency
- iv. Use and not willfully misuse, neglect or interfere with things provided for safety purposes
- v. To follow the Buses Code of Conduct if they use the School buses

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

### **Training**

It is the responsibility of the SDHT and Facilities manager to ensure that all site, admin and teaching staff receive regular and up to date training on areas which help ensure this policy is implemented effectively. These include:

- First Aid
- Lifesaving
- Fire Training
- Child Protection / Safeguarding
- Cleaning and waste management
- Online Safety
- Security
- Conducting Risk Assessment

## **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. The Security staff check visitors sign in/out and issue visitors with a lanyard where necessary. Parent helpers/supply staff sign in/out book at the front Reception desk.

## **Fire and Emergency Evacuation Procedures**

The Schools procedures for fire and emergency are detailed in the Crisis Management Policy, Fire Drill Policy and the Staff Handbook. Maps showing location and route to evacuation point are posted in each area, in each classroom and in the front Reception area. These procedures will be updated as appropriate.

There is a log book for the recording and evaluation of practice and evacuation drills with the Facilities Manager. The SDHT is to inform the Facilities Manager of all events needed for the log book.

There is a whole school WhatsApp group and PA system within the school to allow for effective communication during any emergency evacuation procedures.

## **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.

## **The Process for carrying out and monitoring the Health and Safety Policy**

Those members of the Staff who sit on the DESSC Health and Safety and Maintenance and Facilities 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.

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.

## **School Trips**

All members of staff responsible for organising day 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 / SDHT 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 day trips or residential trips, 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 and DHT
- All out of School activities are to be supported by a Risk Assessment which is to be signed by the Headteacher and DHT

The School reserves the right to send home any children who, despite warnings, deliberately disobeys a safety instruction and jeopardises 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 school also reserve the right to exclude a child from a trip if they feel the Health and Safety of themselves and the other children may be compromised in any way.

## **School Transport - Buses**

The School operates a fleet of buses that are run by an outside agency and regularly inspected by the RTA (Road and Transport Authority). The outside agency must complete entire child protection safety checks before they can start employment. All buses must have a driver and an attendant / carer on board. The purpose of these procedures is to ensure the School's minibuses are operated at all times with maximum regard to health and safety and that all legal aspects relating to minibus operation are complied with. The responsibility of the day-to-day management of this lies with the Bus Coordinator, line-managed by the SDHT. Student behaviour is paramount and students must adhere to the Buses Code of Conduct. In the event of an emergency, the bus attendants and drivers must follow the Bus Emergency Procedure Plan within the Bus Policy.

## **Safety with technology**

The health and safety is an integral part of the teaching for technology. There are essential elements which must be considered.

## **Tools**

Children in early years classrooms should not use craft knives, and sharp items should not be left out where they can be accessible to pupils.

During the school day pupils will use knives in the following ways:

- School lunches (Cutlery)
- Food Technology (Kitchen knives)
- Art and Design (Craft knives)

ALL knives are to be counted out and in to ensure safe return. All knives are to be kept in a locked room and/or locked cupboard/draw. All pupils must be supervised when using knives.

As far as is possible, reasonably and appropriately sized tools should be used. In early years classrooms it is almost impossible to acquire a wide range of tools which are appropriate in size, and a high level of supervision is therefore required for most technology work that involves making things from raw materials. Good practice in the use of tools is essential. Tools are introduced to pupils progressively, taking into account the strength, dexterity, complexity, danger, and supervision factors involved. The size of groups is also a factor that needs to be considered when tools are being used.

### **Safety Cut-outs**

If electrical equipment is used a safety cut out should be in operation.

### **Glue and Paste**

Solvent glues are not used in classrooms. Super or 'supa' glues should not be used in school, even by staff. Wallpaper pastes such as Solvite and Polycell should not be used for the making of Papier Maché as they contain fungicides which can be absorbed through the skin. The only glue of this sort that should be used is fungicide-free.

### **Glue Guns**

Both hot and cold glue guns are to be used under close adult supervision.

### **Other Materials**

We avoid using scrap wood, the origin of which is uncertain.

Re-cycled bottles and canisters should always be washed out so that left over substances are removed.

Kitchen roll tubes are of a higher quality and durability than toilet rolls, and do not pose the same health risk.

Items containing lead or mercury are not normally be used in schools.

Great care should be taken when using aerosols of paint or spray mount, as the propellants involved may be inflammable, and the materials sprayed are often toxic or contain solvents. Any spraying which is undertaken should take place in a well-ventilated area, away from others.

Mouth infections, asthma and epilepsy can be promoted by inflating and blowing. Balloons should be inflated with appropriate balloon pumps.

### **Ovens**

Oven gloves should be individual to each hand, and not linked by a strip of material. Oven gloves should be of a suitable quality and in a good state of repair. Pupils will always have adult supervision when using an oven and they should not handle hot liquids coming from an oven or cooker.

### **Maintenance work and Contractors**

The Facilities Manager is responsible for ensuring that safe systems and methods of work are adopted for all maintenance work connected with the School's fabric and 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 School's 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 site staff 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.

### **Medical Emergencies and First Aid**

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 accidents must be reported to the Nurse and entered as an Incident Report, a copy kept with Admin. All accidents will be reviewed to establish trends or patterns.

Any 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 and safety matters and any new requirements is disseminated as necessary.

### **Slips and Trips**

Slips and trips are a significant cause of accidents in school. These incidents can be controlled, provided sufficient attention is given to the environment of the school and to the behaviour of persons on site. Any significant slip and trip incidents should be investigated. All departments should consider such hazards as part of their risk assessment process.

In order to effectively control slip and trip risks, the school must:

- Identify the hazards
- Staff should regularly monitor their areas and report needs to the facilities manager / member of SLT
- Decide who might be harmed and how
- Consider the risks and decide if precautions already in place are sufficient or if more are required
- Review the assessment periodically and revise if necessary

The risk factors to consider include:

- Environmental (floor, steps, slopes, etc)
- Contamination (water, food, litter)
- Organisational (task, safety culture, etc)
- Footwear
- Individual factors (e.g. information and training, supervision, pedestrian behaviour, etc).

Where changes or modifications to premises are to be made, consideration must be given to eliminating slip and trip risks during the design stage, e.g. installation of slip-resistant floor. Many slip incidents occur in kitchens and food serving areas. Kitchen equipment and work surfaces should be suitable and adequately maintained to avoid contamination of the floor surface. The floor surface should be appropriate for use in kitchens.

### **Swimming Pool**

The school has Pool Safety Operating Procedures, detailing Normal Operating Procedures (NOP) and Emergency Operating procedures (EOP). These procedures are reviewed periodically or when required by the Head of Swimming / Head of PE.



## Security

All visitors to the site must identify themselves at the front gate and either display a DESS lanyard or sign in and leave formal identification to receive a visitor's lanyard. Parents are given lanyards when their child starts at the School. During the normal school working day the gates are closed and visitors are directed from the front Reception desk - there are locked key-coded security doors before they can access the site. CCTV is in operation at various places around the school including at the front, back and bus gates. The gates are monitored by the Facilities Manager and the security guards throughout the day.

## No Smoking

DESS is a non-smoking site and therefore smoking is not permitted anywhere on the School's site. Smoking is also prohibited in any vehicle which is owned by the school or used for its business (privately owned vehicles are exempt). Buildings will display no-smoking signs at their entrances. This policy applies to all staff and pupils, visitors, temporary staff, contractors and clients.

## The DESSC Health and Safety Maintenance and Facilities Committee meetings

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.

## Extreme weather

The school has a severe weather policy which is implemented, in the main, by the school nurses. But decisions regarding school closure or changes to normal operating procedures lie with the DHT in conjunction with the Principal and HT. There is a 'DESS Weather Team' who meet to ensure the appropriate decisions are made taking into account all aspects of school and to ensure communications with parents and other members of staff are consistent. The team is led by the DHT and includes the HT, Facilities manager, Bus coordinator, Reception staff, Parent Liaison officer, Director of Sport and Head of PE.

This policy is reviewed annually by the DESSC Health and Safety Committee and any recommendations to be submitted to the Facilities Subcommittee of the Board of Governors.

## Annexe A

### *School Health and Safety Team - Key Personnel*

Principal	Mr A Gibbs
Headteacher	Mrs C Dando
SLT Health & Safety Officer	Mr T Clarkson (SDHT)
QHSE	Mr M Umer
Facilities Manager	Mr S Rycroft
PE, Sports Hall, Gym & Pitches	Mr M Lohe & Mr M Webster
Kitchens	Mr J Riding