

Security Policy

Northgate Primary School



Approved by:	Northgate Governing Body	Date: 15 th September 2024
Last reviewed on:	15 th September 2024	
Next review due by:	14 th September 2025	

Statement of Intent

The Governing Body recognises the need to ensure the safety of every pupil, members of staff and visitors to our establishment. We also recognise the importance of protecting the buildings and contents.

The Governing Body recognises that it has certain legal duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and subsequent relevant legislation and will endeavour to fulfil this obligation.

This policy will not only apply to those working on the premises but to those engaged in off site activities, sporting events and home visits.

The Governing Body wish to make it clear that, whatever form and for whatever reasons - violence is unacceptable. We are committed, so far as is reasonably practicable, to reducing the risk of violence and improving security by the implementation of this policy.

Risk assessments will be undertaken to identify areas of concern and the appropriate control and preventative measures to be taken. These controls will include training, guidance and advice, codes of practice, physical measures and legal guidance.

Violence is defined as any incident in which a person or a member of their family is subjected to verbal abuse, threatening behaviour; harassment or actual physical assault in circumstances relating to their work. The Governing Body will be fully supportive to any members of staff or pupils who have been subject to violence at work.

The effectiveness of this policy will depend on people to implement it and make it work successfully. This will involve every member of staff working together in a positive security and safety culture as part of a team. Any member of staff, pupil or parent who has any suggestion for the improvement of policy or security arrangements will be welcome and encouraged to pass on that information to the Headteacher.

A copy of this policy will be permanently held in the policy file on the intranet. This document is supported by the WSCC document entitled 'Managing Security to Protect Users of Establishments'.

This policy will be reviewed at least once a year and upon significant change of circumstances.

Signed..... Head of Governors

Date.....

Signed..... Head Teacher

Date.....

To be reviewed on: Date.....

Organisation and Responsibilities

The Governing Body

The Governing Body will be responsible for ensuring the overall effectiveness of this policy by working closely with the Headteacher and other members of staff whose role it is to implement the requirements of this policy.

This will involve considering and acting upon the recommendations of the Headteacher and Premises Manager, prioritising actions where resources are required, taking account of security when considering the school plan and monitoring the effectiveness of security arrangements.

The Governing Body will also will review this policy once a year or upon significant change of circumstances.

The Headteacher

The Headteacher will be responsible for the overall implementation of this policy and for the day to day management and implementation of security within the establishment.

The Headteacher will ensure that a suitable member of staff is nominated to act as Security Co-ordinator (The Premises Manager) and ensure that suitable resources are allocated to enable this function to be undertaken.

The Head of Establishment will inform the Governors of any significant event with respect to security. In addition, the Head of Establishment will periodically monitor the policy to ensure it is being complied with.

The Premises Manager

The Premises Manager will be responsible for assisting the Head of Establishment with the day to day management and implementation of the security policy and will work in close liaison and co-operation with others on site staff to ensure security remains high profile within the establishment.

The Premises Manager will review the security guidance annually (or following a significant incident) to ensure compliance and shall ensure the security risk assessments have been undertaken, their findings implemented and the assessments reviewed as required.

The Premises Manager in conjunction with the Headteacher will also ensure that all staff receives induction training with respect to the school's security and emergency arrangements.

The Caretaker

The Caretaker (with support from the Premises Manager) will be responsible for ensuring that the following practical security arrangements are carried out.

- Shutting and securing all doors and windows at the end of the working day.
- Setting the buildings intruder alarm system at the end of the working day.
- Opening main access points at 15:10pm and shutting and locking at 15:45 pm.
- Ensuring that no items of equipment are left outside overnight, particularly equipment enabling access to buildings, e.g. ladders.
- Ensuring that wheely bins are secured away from the buildings and ensuring that external waste bins are emptied weekly.
- Reporting defects in external lighting to the Premises Manager and taking appropriate remedial action.

Employee Responsibilities

Staff are required to comply with the security arrangements that have been put into place and the security policy at all times.

Staff should report incidents/concerns to the Premises Manager/ Headteacher and to ensure that the incidents are reported and recorded as necessary.

Staff shall ensure that the external classroom and windows are secured when the classroom is not in use.

Arrangements

Visitor/Access Control

Access to the building via the main access points will be controlled and supervised by the Admin staff. The School shall ensure that a record of all visitors to the establishment is maintained. All visitors shall wear an official visitors identification badge.

Interview Procedures

Consideration must be given to the risk posed during the interviews with parents /next of kin. Any interviews where there is a significant potential for conflict (physical or verbal) must be carried out in a public location, with two members of staff and be made by appointment only.

When interviewing parents/guardians of pupils alone staff must position themselves between the parent and the door and ensure a colleague is aware of the meeting.

Lone Working

Staff must adhere to the lone working policy.

Incident reporting / recording

To gauge the effectiveness of security arrangements and to assist the monitoring and review processes, all incidents relating to security of premises and violence to persons shall be reported to the Security Officer and where necessary recorded in a security incident log. In addition, incidents of violent nature (physical and verbal) to staff members shall be reported to the Health and Safety Group.

Any significant security breaches/violent incidents must be reported to the Headteacher who should along with the Premises Manager investigate the incident as soon as practicable. Consideration should be given to notifying the Police authorities. The findings of the investigation and the action to be taken to prevent a reoccurrence should be discussed with the staff group.

Signage

Sufficient clear and unambiguous signs will be placed at appropriate locations to indicating the fact that it is WSCC property and the direction to main reception.

Risk Assessment

The Premises Manager shall ensure that risk assessments are undertaken to identify any hazards and to ensure that the appropriate control measures are implemented. These risk assessments shall be reviewed annually.

Staff Induction

All members of staff whether permanent or temporary will be briefed on the school's security arrangements and any significant hazards present as part of their induction and thereafter on a regular basis. The contents of this security policy will be brought to their attention.

Information for Pupils / Parents

Good security will involve the co-operation of all persons who use the school site. Pupils and parents should feel part of this process. Pupils should be briefed regularly on the arrangements as they effect them in assembly or by their class teacher but in a manner relevant to the level security implications.

Cash Handling

No money will be looked after by teachers it should be sent straight to the school office.

All cash should be locked in the school safe until banking – within safe's insurance limits. Large amounts of cash should not be allowed to accumulate in the safe or remain on the premises

during holiday periods. When banking cash the guidance given in the 'Managing School Security in Practice' document should be adhered to.

Training

The Headteacher will be responsible for identifying and arranging any training required as identified by risk assessment. All staff (teaching and non-teaching) will receive training in 'recognition and defusion of aggression techniques' and the correct procedures for challenging unknown / unauthorised visitors on site.

Emergency Procedures

Pupils are not to confront/challenge strangers on site at any time, but to report the situation to a member of staff immediately. The level of staff response to an incident will depend upon the seriousness of the situation and risks involved.

Staff should never challenge any person unless it is safe to do so.

Staff who have serious doubts concerning a visitor/intruder or believe a violent act/damage may be committed should not challenge the person but inform the Headteacher, Premises Manager or Admin Staff immediately. They should observe from a safe distance/concealed position noting details of the intruder. If approached by a person about to offer violence staff should move away and retreat to a safe distance. Staff should not attempt to detain or remove an intruder from the premises using force.

If it is considered an intruder is about to enter the premises and commit a violent act access points should be secured to prevent unauthorised entry. (Fire escape routes must be maintained). The police should be called immediately. To contain the incident consideration for closing blinds or curtains should be considered necessary. The Admin Office will contact the emergency services on 999 if assistance is required and follow the Authorities and School's Emergency Plan if appropriate.

Four rings on the bell means Lock Down (refer to Emergency procedures)

The school will develop and maintain good links with the local police and seek advice as considered necessary.

Security Contacts

An up to date list of contacts will be maintained and held by main office staff. This list will be distributed to:

- a) Headteacher / Assistant Headteachers
- b) Premises Manager / Caretaker
- c) Other members of staff as considered necessary

Monitoring and Review of Policy

The Governing Body will review this policy at least once a year or whenever significant changes occur.

The review will take account of the local accident/incident book and reports to the Health and Safety Group made on the on line reporting form and insurance claim forms.

SECURITY ORGANISATION

A chart showing the organisation for security within the school is shown below:

