Author	Health & Safety Manager
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Last Approval	Foundation Health & Safety Committee 15th Feb 2022 Resources & Estates Committee 17th March 2022
Next Review	Spring 2023

# FIRE SAFETY & PREVENTION POLICY

# 1.0 Introduction & Scope

- 1.1 The Governors of Warwick Independent Schools Foundation ("WISF", "Governors") recognise their responsibilities under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.
- 1.2 This Policy applies to all staff working for WISF on the Myton Road Campus and visitors/contractors/agency workers/volunteers and informs them of the provision for and their responsibilities toward fire safety and fire prevention.
- 1.3 The Governors have employed a Health & Safety Manager (HSM) and a Facilities Manager (FM) to assist them in meeting the requirements of the legislation. The Head for each School is deemed to be the "responsible person", assisted by the HSM, Deputy Heads, and Heads of Department (HoDs) where applicable.
- 1.4 The primary emphasis is always on ensuring the safety of staff, pupils, contractors and visitors rather than prevention of damage to property.
- 1.5 This Policy will be reviewed annually by the HSM or more frequently if required.

## 2.0 The Basics

What's included in this Policy	<ul> <li>General information applicable across WISF</li> <li>Fire Safety &amp; Prevention Generic Risk Assessment (Appendix 1)</li> </ul>
Other Policies you might	Contractors
need to refer to (Portal)	Permit to Work
	School-specific fire procedures

# 3.0 Who this Policy applies to

Person(s) Responsible:	Responsible for:
Governors / School Heads	Overall responsibility for fire safety and fire prevention compliance within the schools and to provide necessary resources.
Health & Safety Manager	Updating the policy annually. Organising Fire Risk Assessments across WISF. Liaising with enforcement authorities.

Person(s) Responsible:	Responsible for:
Facilities Manager	Organising testing and maintenance of systems and equipment for fire detection/ fighting/ safety and maintaining appropriate records.
Deputy Heads/ Schools' Responsible Person	Ensuring that school-specific fire procedures are updated annually (or more often if required), and as a result of Fire Risk Assessments.  Arrange termly fire drills.
Heads of Department (HoDs)/ Line Managers	Ensuring staff are familiar with the policy and its contents including school-specific procedures.
Staff	Ensuring that they follow fire safety and prevention measures at all times. Report any concerns to HoD.

## 4.0 Policy

- 4.1 Adequate and appropriate resources must be provided so that the requirements of this Policy and its associated legislation are met.
- WISF has a Foundation Health & Safety (H&S) Committee and each School has a H&S Committee that meets termly, of which the HSM is a member.

## 5.0 Fire Risk Assessments

- 5.1 The HSM will ensure that formal Fire Risk Assessments (FRAs) are carried out for all buildings on the School sites. These assessments must consider:
  - The safety in case of fire of all staff, pupils and visitors on site, paying particular attention to young persons and those with mobility issues (temporary or permanent) or other disabilities, and taking into account any dangerous substances liable to be on the premises.
  - The fire hazards in terms of sources of ignition, fuel and oxygen and identify those people at risk in every location.
- 5.2 The HSM will maintain the FRAs, and the FM will arrange for remedial works to be carried out as recommended by the FRAs. The FRAs are reviewed regularly as required and if major structural alterations or significant changes in usage are made to the building.
- 5.3 Prioritised action plans are in place to help implement and monitor improvements.
- The HSM will ensure that the generic Fire Safety & Prevention Risk Assessment (see Appendix 1), which is applicable across all WISF buildings, is regularly updated and reviewed.

## 6.0 Fire Protection Equipment

- Adequate fire protection equipment is provided in all buildings and this is regularly checked and serviced as organised by the FMFM.
- Appropriate staff will be trained in the safe use of fire extinguishers, protective equipment (e.g. fire blankets) and evacuation equipment in order to ensure all may be used without injury. Training is arranged by the HSM when requested, details of

those who have been trained are kept by the HSM and circulated to the Schools. Basic information is included during new starter induction.

# 7.0 Fire Alarm and Detection System

- 7.1 The FM will ensure that an effective fire alarm system is installed in each School premises to enable evacuation of staff, pupils and visitors in the event of a fire. This system incorporates smoke and heat detection devices where necessary to provide early warning and, where required, automatic fire door closure devices to restrict the spread of smoke and door security lock release switches to facilitate evacuation.
- 7.2 The fire alarm systems will be checked weekly by WISF Estates & Operations (E&O) to ensure that they are in full working order, and records of the checks are kept.
- 7.3 The FM will arrange for the fire alarm and fire detection system, including emergency lighting, to be inspected and maintained by qualified engineers on a scheduled basis and records kept. This includes smoke detectors, fire alarm panels and any other associated equipment.
- Any staff aware of faults with the fire alarm system must report these immediately to E&O for remedial action to be taken as a priority.

## 8.0 Enforcement Visits

- The HSM will be the contact person between Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) and WISF.
- The HSM/FM will organise inspections at the request of WFRS, informing the Deputy Head, and relevant HoD's of when visits are due to take place.
- Information regarding any requirements as a result of these visits will be fed back to those responsible by the HSM and a report included to the termly relevant H&S Committees and Governor Meetings.

## 9.0 Emergency Evacuation Procedures / Fire Drills

- 9.1 Suitable escape routes, including alternatives where appropriate, are identified for all buildings.
- 9.2 The HSM and FM will ensure that notices and signs are displayed to identify escape routes in an emergency.
- 9.3 The School's Responsible Person will ensure that an Evacuation Plan/Fire Procedures document detailing the escape routes, each building's Assembly Point and individual responsibilities in the event of a fire alarm activation is available and updated annually or more often if necessary.
- 9.4 Evacuation Procedures will be communicated to all staff and pupils by the School Heads/Deputies, with practice fire drills taking place at least once per term.

9.5 The Deputy Head within each school is responsible for ensuring the drills take place and completing any actions that are required as a result. At Warwick School, individual drills for each building are carried out on a rotating basis, due to the nature of the fire alarm installation and separation of buildings. In addition, Warwick School Boarding Houses carry out half-termly drills at various times of day/night.

## 10.0 Records and Review

- 10.1 Records of all fire drills are maintained within the school by the Deputy Head. The HSM will maintain records for all fire safety training undertaken. Checks and inspections carried out on the fire detection/alarm system and fire protection equipment will be kept by FM, which enables the effectiveness of the fire safety system to be monitored and reviewed.
- 10.2 Individual School's Fire Procedures are available on the WISF SharePoint Portal or school shared drive(s), these are reviewed and updated annually.

# 11.0 Safety of Staff and Others on School Premises

- Health & Safety information for visitors and contractors is available at each School's main reception and is brought to the attention of all visitors when signing in by the School Office.
- 11.2 Contractors are required to adhere to the WISF Contractors' & Permit to Work Policies and to undergo an induction process. They must produce suitable and sufficient Risk Assessments and Method Statements (RAMS) for the work they are undertaking. Hot Works Permits are used when required.
- 11.3 Safety building checks take place each half term across the Schools and include a system for the maintenance of fire routes, exit signs and notices etc. Records of these checks are kept by the FM and made available.

## 12.0 Smoking

- 12.1 All WISF School sites are No Smoking for staff, pupils, visitors and contractors. Smoking, including e-cigarettes, vape pens and other vaping devices, is not permitted anywhere in the grounds or buildings. Appropriate signage is in place.
- Outside normal school hours, exceptions can be made to the above for events only if agreed in advance with the Head/Deputy Head/Foundation Bursar. This must be strictly controlled with appropriate signage and an external designated smoking/E-cigarette area provided. The person responsible for the event is responsible for ensuring the area is suitably sited so that it does not cause a fire risk or discomfort to others and is left in a clean and tidy state. The area and safeguards should be included as part of the event risk assessment. This agreement can be reviewed and permissions withdrawn at any time. Events held on site during school hours must be strictly No Smoking.

# 13.0 Elimination and Reduction of Dangerous Substances

- Where dangerous substances are present, the HoD, upon advice from the HSM, will take reasonable steps to eliminate or reduce the risk.
- The HoD will ensure a less hazardous substance is sourced if practicable. Use of the substance will be limited and controlled, appropriate storage will be sourced and

- labelled. High standards of housekeeping will be maintained. There will be a separation of combustible materials and sources of ignition.
- 13.3 The following departments/areas are specifically noted as using potentially dangerous substances:
  - Estates & Operations maintenance, grounds, caretaking, cleaning
  - Science
  - Art
  - Design & Technology (DT)
  - Bridge House Theatre technical department
  - Warwick Hall drama and technical departments
  - Sports Centre swimming pool chemicals
  - Catering
  - Food Technology
  - Boarding House / Laundry
  - Boiler Rooms
  - LEV Equipment
  - Combined Cadet Force (CCF)
- Where Propane Gas bottles are used and stored on site, a suitable external gas storage cage is available and in use by Catering/WSEL Events departments. Where a WSEL client is using Propane Gas, quantities must be minimised and advice on storage should be sought from the WISF Event Supervisor. Where gas canisters are used in productions, a storage cage is available in the secure area behind the Bridge House Theatre. Use of gas cannisters will be documented within the relevant Risk Assessment and all staff involved sign to confirm they have read and understood.

# 14.0 Fire Prevention in Specific Areas

# **Estates & Operations**

- 14.1 Appropriate Risk Assessments (RAs) should be in place for any activity that may pose a fire risk including the use of machinery; these should be regularly reviewed and all staff involved will have read and understood the RAs and signed to confirm.
- All equipment is checked prior to use by the user/s and the FM is responsible for ensuring all appropriate annual testing and inspection of machinery and equipment takes place by qualified and competent engineer/s, and records are kept.
- 14.3 The FM is responsible for ensuring the testing and inspection of fixed gas installations and pipework. HoD's for specialist areas such as Catering, Art/DT, Food Tech, Science are responsible for the equipment/appliance servicing and maintenance in accordance with current regulations and guidance.
- 14.4 Flammable substances are stored appropriately in a lockable, flammables cupboard which is clearly labelled. COSHH information is available.

### Science

14.5 All hazardous substances are stored in original packaging and in appropriate storage such as flammables cupboards. Science staff follow the guidance as

- issued by CLEAPSS, and appropriate risk assessments are in place. COSHH information, including fire fighting and storage details, is available and followed.
- 14.6 Radioactive substances are stored appropriately in lockable cupboards and signed in and out when used. Warwick School and King's High School each have a designated Radiation Protection Supervisor (RPS) and use the service of an external Radiation Protection Adviser (RPA). Regular testing and inspection of radiation equipment at both schools is carried out by the RPA, and records kept. Details of the location of these substances are indicated on the plans available for the fire service in the event of an emergency.

### Art

- 14.7 The Art Departments may use a number of potentially flammable substances which are kept in a locked flammables cupboard which is clearly marked. Appropriate risk and COSHH assessments are in place.
- High attention to housekeeping, particularly regarding sources of ignition, is maintained with minimum levels of combustible materials kept.
- 14.9 The kilns are operated by trained operatives and a record of training is kept by the HoD / FM. An independent company is employed to inspect and service the kilns on an annual basis. No combustible items should be kept in the kiln rooms or areas where the kilns are located.

## Design & Technology (DT)

- 14.10 The DT Departments may store some flammable substances (in suitable storage) and utilise equipment which may pose a fire risk.
- 14.11 The HoDs within each School are responsible for ensuring that the appropriate risk assessments are in place for such equipment and that any annual checking and maintenance of equipment is carried out and recorded.
- 14.12 Oxyacetylene gas cylinders must be secured to the wall by way of a chain and a gas isolation switch should be clearly marked for easy identification. Procedures for what to do in case of fire in the proximity of the cylinder should be incorporated into the school-specific fire procedures document as required. Where a fire occurs, or is suspected, in a building where cylinders are not removed as part of the evacuation procedure, WFRS may impose a 500m exclusion zone.

## Bridge House Theatre & Warwick Hall technical departments

- 14.13 The Performing Arts Manager manages the technical departments with the support of the Performing Arts Technical Manager and Front of House staff. They ensure that all equipment is serviced and maintained and that only competent staff are allowed to use any hazardous substances and/or equipment.
- 14.14 All flammables are stored in an appropriate flammables cupboard which is clearly labelled.
- 14.15 Any hot works carried out in the design of a set must have a Risk Assessment and Hot Works Permit issued.

14.16 When these venues are hired out for external bookings, the lead hirer will be fully briefed on school fire procedures before the event by the WISF Event Supervisor, as part of the event contract. The client is responsible for maintaining accurate delegate attendance lists and should advise the WISF Event Supervisor and/or WFRS of any persons unaccounted for in the event of a fire alarm evacuation.

## Sports Centre – swimming pool

- 14.17 All Sports Centre staff undergo the Pool Plant Operators course, renewable every five years, which is organised by the Sports Centre Manager.
- 14.18 All chemicals are appropriately stored as per the manufacturer's guidance and chemicals which may react are stored separately.
- 14.19 The Sports Centre Manager ensures that high levels of housekeeping are maintained.
- 14.20 All Sports Centre staff must adhere to the Pools Emergency Operating Plan.

## Catering

- 14.21 The WISF Head of Food Operations (HFO) is responsible for the equipment/appliance servicing and maintenance in accordance with current regulations and guidance, and for keeping records of these checks.
- 14.22 The HFO is also responsible for ensuring all catering staff have received relevant training in use of hotholding equipment, use of barbecues, kitchen/washing-up equipment and use/storage of cleaning products and have read, understood and signed all Risk Assessments relevant to the equipment they are using.

## **Boarding House / Laundry**

- 14.23 Warwick School has two Boarding Houses (School House and Way House) as well as a Laundry within the main school building.
- 14.24 The Head of Boarding (HoB) is responsible for arranging half-termly fire drills in both Boarding Houses, both during the day and at night, and for keeping records of these drills. The HoB is also responsible for ensuring that all staff who work in the Boarding House are familiar with the fire evacuation procedures and assembly point.
- 14.25 The HoB will ensure that all Laundry staff have received relevant training on the use of Laundry products and equipment, and have read, understood and signed all Risk Assessments relevant to the area in which they work.

#### **Boiler Rooms**

- 14.26 The FM is responsible for ensuring the testing and inspection of equipment in the boiler rooms by competent staff, record keeping and the provision of appropriate safety devices.
- 14.27 No combustible items are stored in the boiler room and appropriate fire extinguishers are in place.

# 15.0 Combined Cadet Force (CCF)

15.1 CCF is based at Warwick School and has its own Risk Assessments, policies and procedures in place which are regularly reviewed and updated. All staff working in this area will have read, understood and signed the RAs.

# 16.0 Local Exhaust Ventilation Equipment

16.1 Local Extract Ventilation (LEV) Equipment is found in DT, Art, Science, Catering and Maintenance Departments. Each HoD is responsible for arranging suitable and sufficient cleaning of the equipment, as well as annual servicing and maintenance by a qualified and competent engineer. Records of this must kept within their department.

# 17.0 School-Specific Fire Procedures

17.1 Please refer to the individual School's Fire Procedures document for specific arrangements pertaining to each School and a list of emergency assembly points for each school building including shared buildings.

# Legislation and Definitions that apply to this Policy

Legislation/guidance applying to this policy	<ul> <li>The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005</li> <li>Current Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014 (EISSR) applicable to Fire Safety</li> </ul>
Definitions	<ul> <li>Fire – process in which substances combine chemically with oxygen from the air and typically gives out bright light, heat and smoke. Requires heat/ignition source, fuel and oxygen to start and sustain a fire.</li> <li>Flammable – easily set on fire.</li> <li>RIDDOR reportable – any unintentional explosion or fire in any plant or premises which results in the stoppage of that plant, or the suspension of normal work in those premises for more than 24 hours.</li> </ul>

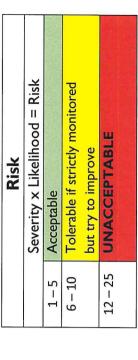
WARWICK INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

# **Risk Assessment**

Name of Person completing Risk Assessment	HEALTH & SAFETY MANAGER	Dept / Position	WISF Health & Safety
School / Building	WISF SCHOOLS	Date of Assessment	Feb 2022
Location / Area	ALL BUILDINGS	Date For Review (Annual)	Feb 2023
Activity / Details of Assessment	FIRE SAFETY & PREV	FIRE SAFETY & PREVENTION – GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT	RISK ASSESSMENT

I	
	Severity
	Severity = Level of potential injury
_	No action, delay only
7	First Aid only, minor damage
3	Minor Injury, illness, time off work, damage
4	Major injury, disabling illness, major damage
2	Fatality





PART A:- All staff who work in the area being assessed should complete the box below to confirm they have read and understood the contents of this Risk Assessment. The HoD should ensure that every member of the department has done this.

Name of HoD Dept

NOTES/COMMENTS			
SIGNATURE			
DATE			
ЗСНООГ			
DEPT			
NAME (please print)			

Signed Off		N/A
ion	Due Date	oo geoing
Action	By Whom	Staff
Further controls proposed		If reachers to ensure fire exit is accessible prior to each lesson.  Staff to ensure fire exits kept clear exits kept clear to be reported to H&S Department.  Warwick Prep - younger children closely supervised during evacuation.
Risk	Risk	S
Residual Risk Score		н
Re	Severity	in .
Existing Control Measures		<ul> <li>Fire Action notices displayed by exit of each classroom / building advising of site evacuation point.</li> <li>Fire doors not to be held open if rooms are unoccupied.</li> <li>Some automatic closers in place, appropriately signed, and all fire doors in excellent condition.</li> <li>Separate Fire Risk Assessment for all WISF buildings, carried out by external assessor.</li> <li>Fire drill each term – pupils, visitors and staff evacuated calmly to evacuation assembly point (relevant signage in place).</li> <li>Fire Drill Evacuation and Unplanned Fire Alarm Activation records kept.</li> <li>Boarding Houses – specific fire drills carried out at various times of day/night.</li> <li>Fire alarm system tested weekly, records kept.</li> <li>Personal Emergency Evac Plans (PEEP) for those with short term or long term mobility issues / disability.</li> <li>Duty Caretaker/ Designated Staff to act as Fire Warden.</li> <li>Specific Fire Warden / Small Fires training available.</li> <li>Fire Extinguishers tested annually by competent contractor; E&amp;O team check each half term. Records kept.</li> <li>Good housekeeping, and appropriate measures for the safe storage and disposal of waste.</li> <li>Classroom equipment &amp; furniture laid out so as not to hinder access to fire</li> </ul>
Potential Injury		Crushing, sprains, bruising, cuts, fractures Burns, smoke inhalation, fatality
Who Is At Risk?	How many people affected (estimate)	ALL occupiers of building
Hazard		Fire Evacuation – blocked exits, panic. Fire extinguishing equipment not correctly used.

FIRE SAFETY & PREVENTION – GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT

PART B:- To be completed by the person carrying out the Risk Assessment -

	caretakers and all staff to regularly check protected routes, and unblock / report any issues immediately.			if there are insufficient power outlet sockets, then a double insulated extension lead will be used until such funds become available to install extra power socket outlets.  Users or Caretakers to report issues to Estates Dept.  Defective electrical IT equipment is reported without delay via IT
	Caret staff: staff. check route / reporting imme			If there are insufficient outlet sock then a doul insulated elead will be until such for become averone average avera
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exit, call points and extinguishers. Any displays of pupil work planned to ensure safe access/egress.  Items in escape corridor routes strictly controlled.  Each school has specific documented fire evacuation procedures and staff are trained.	<ul> <li>Fire Evac Routes to be clear of combustibles including furniture, storage units etc.</li> <li>Fire Exit doors to be kept closed</li> <li>Door wedges not to be used to prop open Fire Exit doors when room is unoccupied.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Smoke Alarms / Fire / Heat Detectors to be regularly checked and serviced (Estates Department to arrange on rolling programme].</li> <li>Yearly testing by competent company</li> <li>Fire Panels show any faults.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Weekly in-house testing carried out by E&amp;O department, results recorded.</li> <li>Annual inspection carried out by competent contractor. Records kept.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Mains-wired equipment tested every 5 years (or every 3 years for Theatre / Performance Areas eg Warwick Hall, Bridge House Theatre and annually for WS Swimming Pool/Halse Pavilion).</li> <li>Only one plug is used per mains power socket outlet.</li> <li>Electrical equipment to meet relevant British / European standard.</li> <li>Laptops/Devices DSE plugged directly into a power socket outlet and block type adaptors are not used.</li> <li>Extension leads are only used as a temporary measure, fully unwound when in use. Removed when a permanent solution is in place.</li> <li>The user carries out visual inspections before each use of the power outlet socket and plug for portable</li> </ul>
	Injuries ranging from electrocution and burns, smoke inhalation through to death caused by fire/smoke.	Injuries ranging from electrocution and burns, smoke inhalation, through to death caused by fire	Bruises, broken bones caused by overcrowding in emergency, through to death caused by fire/smoke.	Injuries ranging from electrocution and burns, smoke inhalation, through to death caused by fire/smoke.
	All staff, pupils, visitors	All staff, pupils, visitors	All staff, pupils, visitors	All staff, pupils, visitors
	Fire Evacuation Routes blocked, not protected at all times	Fire / Heat Detection systems not working correctly.	Emergency Lighting not working	Overloaded electrical sockets, over-use of extension leads, inappropriate use of electrical equipment or faulty electrical equipment, use of laptops and workstations

Appendix 1 – Fire Safety & Prevention Generic Risk Assessment

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All staff, students and B visitors d  Teaching staff, pupils, Si visitors.	Burns, breathing difficulties; Fatalities due to fire/explosions. Skin/ Eye irritations, Burns, breathing difficulties;	Good housekeeping.     All equipment unplugged after use.     Staff to ensure all materials are fire retardant to British Standards when purchasing new furniture, blinds, curtains etc. A record of this to be kept.      Manufacturer's Safety Data Sheets (SDS) kept with COSHH substances.     COSHH products stored in a marked,	ro ro	7 7	• St.	Staff to raise any concerns.  COSHH risk	
<u>п</u> = п д <u>п</u> =	Fatalities due to fire/explosions.  Burns, breathing difficulties; Fatalities due to fire/explosions.	locked fireproof cupboard.  Cleaning/Caretaking/Catering staff receive COSHH training, records kept.  WISF Contracting Manager to ensure RAMS are checked before works commence.  Staff training regime in place.  Permit to Work system in place and used.	r <sub>2</sub>	— — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —	- R S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S	assessments must be completed & reviewed. Holding a SDS alone is not sufficient.	
B B 12,1 €	Burns, breathing difficulties; Fatalities due to fire/explosions.	<ul> <li>Fire Department aware of products with high risk.</li> <li>Only small quantities kept.</li> <li>Risk Assessments in place, regularly reviewed.</li> <li>All above fire safety procedures in</li> </ul>	ъ п		ις 1.		
	raint, burns, preatining difficulties; Fatalities due to fire/explosions.	<ul> <li>All above life safety procedures in place</li> <li>Security provision out of school hours</li> </ul>	٠		2		
ĕ .⊑	Panic, crush injuries, injuries from intruder	<ul> <li>6 bells procedure in place, all staff and students aware.</li> <li>Serious Untoward Incident policy in place, staff aware.</li> </ul>	N	Н	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	6 bells lockdown practice regularly undertaken, so pupils and staff aware of procedures. Where possible, fire alarm system to sound with wording "Stay in your room; we are in a lockdown situation" (or	
			1	1	-		

Further information	See WISF Fire Safety & Prevention Policy and also School Specific Fire Procedures	re Procedures	
Additional notes / risks	Where further information needs to be added to this generic list, please attach a separate sheet to this Risk Assessment noting i) the room assessed ii) the assessor's name and iii) the HoD's name	ase attach a separat D's name	e sheet to this Risk Assessment
Assessor's Signature	Health & Safety Manager	Date	Feb 2022

\* This is not an exhaustive list, and staff should identify any other hazards associated with their areas. Where new activities lead to additional hazards, a separate RA should be completed. Any issues, comments or additions to this assessment, please advise the Assessor. NOTES:

 \* Guidance can be obtained from Head of Department, or Health & Safety Department
 \* Please report any issues, accidents, near-misses (incident not causing injury at the time but has the potential to do so) to the Head of Dept, Deputy Head and H&S Office.