

Schools Forum

Tuesday 19th September 2017

Other School Health and Safety

1. Summary

There are a number of ways to tackle some of the safety issues in schools currently. Training of staff and pupils will help with longer-term H and S. Short-term, there needs to be more audits carried out to identify any major issues as early as possible.

Below is a list of some of the key issues identified over the last few weeks. Audit and assessment should focus initially on schools / nurseries where change has happened recently either to the building, the school procedures or the number of accidents and incidents.

2. Detail

Movement of children between settings (breakfast club and after school club)
School safety zones (e.g. Shepton)
Highways safety legislation associated with school expansions etc.
Asbestos and Legionella
Safety near canals, rivers, lakes, quarries etc.
Flammable Cladding found inside a school
Use of alcohol by children (e.g. on school trips – hidden in drinks containers)

3. What have we done so far (phase 1)?

- Discussed solutions at various safety meetings and identified issues / risks.
- Added additional agenda item to the Schools Capital and Asset Meetings and
- Discussed Health and Safety issues relating to school buildings.
- Identified some solutions (e.g. training and also audits) to reduce the risks identified
- Reviewed schools for Grenfell Fire issues and fire safety

4. What are our next steps?

- The Council is offering safety audits on a trade basis (contact Peter McCarthy on 01922-658455 for details).
- Safety audits of schools - needs regular safety audit of all schools plus audit follow-up and close-out of any actions
- School condition checks – council does this for maintained schools
- Safety audits of all school sites that are being expanded to ensure the safety of children, school staff, the public and contractors working on the expansions
- CDM compliance review (during expansions, refurbishment, new builds and closures / demolitions).

Other health and safety issues identified at meetings:

- In a few cases, schools have carried out work **without informing the Council, building control or planning**. It is essential that schools inform the council of any changes so we can ensure work is carried out safely and to school regulations.

- **First-aid** in schools (e.g. are first-aid boxes in date? etc.)

- **Fire evacuation** (exits found that were not accessible and which were locked etc.)

5. Citizen Impact

Activities will reassure parents and children that school health and safety audits / checks have been increased to identify risks before they become issues.

6. Equality Implications

.All schools will be treated equally but schools may be prioritised if it is felt there is a high risk Health and Safety issue.

7. Further Reading – associated health and safety reports from 19th Sept meeting

RNLI safety training plans and other safety training to be used in schools.

8. Recommendations

To note

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