



## Exeter Steiner School *Health and safety policy*

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### **1 Statement of intent**

1.1 Exeter Steiner School recognises and affirms its responsibilities for providing a safe and healthy place of work for all its staff and a safe and healthy educational environment for all its pupils.

1.2 The School will exercise its responsibilities with due regard for its educational aims and methods, in particular experiential education, support of extra-curricular activities, social events, the rhythms of the year, festivals, off-site trips, sport and theatre performances; these being integral to developing students' faculties and encouraging a positive attitude to learning and health & safety throughout life.

1.3 The School will achieve this by:

- Maintaining a safe and healthy environment within the school premises;
- Encouraging a positive approach to health and safety;
- Providing appropriate information and training to staff on matters affecting their health and safety and that of others who may be affected by their actions;
- Teaching in a way that recognises that children learn in different ways as they develop into adulthood.
- Guiding pupils to develop and widen their abilities.
- Recognising that many areas of knowledge are best gained in an experiential way.
- Helping the child develop into a responsible adult by giving them increasing experience of risk assessment and self-management as they proceed through the school.
- Reviewing and revising this policy at regular intervals and making any changes known to all relevant people.

1.4 The School also recognises its duty to protect the health & safety of other persons who may be affected by its activities, in particular parents, volunteers and contractors, both on and off site and its other duties as stated in the Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999.

### **2 General Policy**

It is the School's policy to:

- ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and other relevant legislation;
- clearly define the health and safety responsibilities of management and staff to enable the procedures to be implemented – this is found in the separate *Health and Safety – Areas of responsibility* document;

- make health & safety considerations an essential part in the planning, design and implementation phases of all work and activities;
- educate all staff responsible for pupils in the management of risk so as to match it to each pupil's capabilities;
- raise the consciousness of all staff and pupils about the value of experiential learning and the management of the consequent risks;
- encourage each individual to take responsibility for assessing their own limits and manage those risks safely;
- promote a positive attitude from staff, pupils and parents towards all matters relating to health and safety;
- consult with employees, both within the School's Health and Safety Group and outside it;
- provide information, instruction and training to all staff and induction training to new staff, so that they understand their duties and responsibilities and are competent to carry them out;
- assist those staff with management responsibilities in ensuring health and safety procedures are carried out;
- inform all contractors working on the premises, of the School's health and safety requirements;
- maintain safe and healthy working conditions;
- provide and maintain safe plant and equipment;
- ensure the safe use and handling of substances;
- strive to prevent accidents and work-related ill health;
- provide information, instruction and supervision for pupils;
- review the effectiveness of this policy annually.

**Cross reference to other school policies**

Exeter Steiner School recognises that a number of other policies and procedures developed and operated by the school form part of the wider agenda of health and safety and promoting the welfare of all members of the school community and this policy should be read in conjunction with the policies listed below:

- policy for safeguarding children;
- procedures for assessing risk;
- induction and code of conduct for staff;
- policies that recognise specific vulnerable groups;
- Visitors' policy;
- Security policy;
- Accessibility plan.

**Policy reviewed (date)**\_\_\_25<sup>th</sup> February 2011

**Signature of Chair of Trustees**\_\_\_\_\_Iain M. Jamieson

**Date of next review** **March 2012**