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Purpose

RBET-Aylesbury will take all practicable and reasonable steps to ensure that there is a high standard of health and safety at work, however, should you have any suggestions for improving health and safety, please submit these to your line manager.

Scope

This policy applies to all statutory staff members of Red Balloon, contractors and volunteers.

Policy statement

RBET-Aylesbury has a commitment to protect its staff members and others.

All staff have a duty to ensure that they do not compromise the health and safety of others and themselves in the workplace.

Every individual has a legal responsibility to:

- take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and of the other people who may be affected by acts or omissions at work;
- to cooperate with any legal steps RBET-Aylesbury may take to fulfil its obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act (HASAW).

Responsibilities

The Chair of Governors and Head of Centre are jointly responsible for implementing this policy within the Centre. In particular, they will:

- identify a member of staff who has direct responsibility for the management of health and safety at the Centre, to be called the H&S Lead;
- monitor the effectiveness of the safety policy and the safe working practices described within it and revise and amend it, as necessary, on an annual basis (in practice the RBET Policy Team amends the policy annually, based upon feedback from each of the Centres);
- prepare an emergency evacuation procedure and arrange for periodic practice evacuation drills to take place and for the results of these to be recorded;
- ensure that all staff, volunteers and other adults who use the Centre are aware of health and safety practices including evacuation procedures;
- make arrangements for the implementation of the accident reporting procedure approved by Ofsted and ensure all staff and volunteers are familiar with and implement the requirements;
- ensure that safety inspections are undertaken at least twice per year either by a governor or by a representative of RBET;
- arrange for the withdrawal, repair or replacement of any item of furniture, fitting or equipment identified as being unsafe by the designated person;
- deal with all aspects of maintenance of the premises and identify and remedy any situation which is unsafe or hazardous.

The H&S Lead at RBET-Aylesbury is SARAH JAMES

Responsibilities of staff towards students and others in their care

All staff are responsible for the health and safety arrangements in relation to staff, volunteers and students. In particular, they must monitor their own work activities and take all reasonable steps to:

- exercise effective supervision over all those for whom they are responsible;
- be aware of, and implement, safe working practices and set a good example;
- identify actual and potential hazards and introduce procedures to minimise the possibility of mishap;
- ensure that all equipment and tools used are appropriate for use and meet accepted safety standards;
- ensure written instructions, warning notices and signs are provided as appropriate;
- evaluate promptly and where appropriate, take action on, any criticism of health and safety arrangements;
- provide the opportunity for discussion of health and safety arrangements;
- investigate any accident (or incident where personal injury could have arisen) and take appropriate corrective action if deemed to be required;
- provide for adequate instruction, information and training in safe working methods within any learning area for which they are responsible;
- ensure, when transporting students, that all legal requirements are followed including the wearing of seat belts;
- ensure that any perceived issue or problem is discussed promptly with the H&S Lead.

Responsibilities of employees

All employees have a responsibility to:

- take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and of any person who might be affected by their actions at work;
- make themselves aware of all safety rules, procedures and safe working practices applicable to their posts. When in doubt, they must seek immediate clarification from the Head of Centre;
- ensure that all tools and equipment are in good condition and report any defects to the Head of Centre;
- use protective clothing and safety equipment as required and ensure that these are kept in good condition;
- ensure that offices and general accommodation are kept tidy;
- ensure that any accidents, whether or not an injury occurs, and any potential hazards, are reported to the Head of Centre;
- draw the attention of the H&S Lead to any perceived potential hazards or failings in health and safety arrangements;
- ensure that effective risk assessments are carried out for all necessary activities.

Responsibilities of students

All students are expected, within their expertise and ability, to:

- exercise personal responsibility for their own safety and that of their fellow students;
- observe standards of dress consistent with safety and hygiene;
- observe all the safety rules of the Centre and the instructions of teaching staff in particular in the event of an emergency;
- use items provided for safety purposes.

Fire procedure

In the unlikely event of fire, it is important to minimise the risk to yourself and others. As staff, you are required to read, understand and agree to comply with the contents of the Fire Policy.

You should ensure that you are familiar with the location of the fire exits, fire extinguishers and assembly points. Please familiarise yourself with the evacuation plans posted at each exit.

Should a fire break out, ensure you observe the signs indicating the location of the fire exits.

If your work requires you to visit other sites, you should observe the fire precautions for that site and familiarise yourself with the Fire Exits and Assembly Points in existence at the site that you are visiting.

RBET- Aylesbury has staff who are trained Fire Marshals. It is their responsibility, with support from the SLT, to carry out a full fire evacuation drill at least once a term.

What to do if you have an accident at work

If you have an accident at work, you should report this to the Head of Centre, however trivial you may think it is.

Should you be absent from work as a direct result of an accident at work, you must inform your line manager as soon as possible.

Whilst at work, in the event of an accident, the First Aider should be called to assess and deal with the situation. The law requires RBET-Aylesbury to record all accidents. Once the Accident Book kept in the reception area is filled in, the page should be removed from the book and given to the H&S Lead who will take any appropriate action and then store it in line with GDPR legal requirements.

RBET-Aylesbury may from time to time call upon staff to be trained as First Aiders.

Please refer to the First Aid Policy for specific details of general first aid practice.

Health and safety management

RBET-Aylesbury will ensure that there is one or more competent person to assist in undertaking the measures needed to comply with the requirements and prohibitions imposed by or under the relevant statutory provisions.

The responsibilities of such a person or persons are:

- to provide of health and safety advice and explain the implications of the law;
- to maintain this policy and associated health and safety procedures, protocols and guidance;
- to assist in the identification and implementation of health and safety training needs;
- to provide recommendations and reports as and when required.

Loss or damage to personal items at work

Red Balloon's insurance policies do not cover the loss of personal possessions while at work. RBET-Aylesbury therefore asks you to take care of your personal possessions during

office hours, making suitable use of lockable cupboards etc. However, if you do suffer loss or damage to your personal possessions, please notify the Head of Centre immediately.

Eye tests

RBET-Aylesbury will reimburse the cost of eye tests, up to a maximum of £25.00, annually or more regularly if required by your optician if you use Display Screen Equipment (DSE) regularly as part of your job. You should make an appointment with your local optician and pay them any fees yourself. You can then reclaim the cost of the eye test afterwards via the expenses procedure.

Risk Assessment

The Head of Centre will ensure that appropriate and effective risk assessments are carried out for:

- RBET-Aylesbury property;
- control and maintenance of entry and exit points to and from the Centre;
- all activities in the Centre;
- any work that takes place outside the Centre;
- each student who is referred to the Centre.

In ensuring appropriate and effective risk management practice is pursued, the Centre will take heed of the following advice in the DfE's 2013 guidance:

“Sensible management of risk does not mean that a separate written risk assessment is required for every activity (session).”

RBET-Aylesbury should always take a common sense and proportionate approach, remembering that risk assessment and risk management are tools to enable children to undertake activities safely, not to prevent activities from taking place.

Sensible risk management cannot remove risk altogether. Good risk management should avoid needless or unhelpful paperwork. Some activities, especially those happening away from the Centre, can involve higher levels of risk. If these are annual or infrequent activities, a review of an existing assessment may be all that is needed. If it is a new activity, a specific assessment of significant risks must be carried out. The Head of Centre must ensure that the person assigned with the assessment task understands the risks and is familiar with the activity that is planned.

Where a risk assessment is carried out, the significant findings of the assessment must be recorded. However, we do not need to carry out a risk assessment every time we undertake an activity that usually forms part of the school day, such as taking students to a frequently used local venue. Any risks of these routine activities should already have been considered when agreeing the Centre's general health and safety policies and procedures. A regular check to make sure the precautions remain appropriate is all that is required.

Risk assessments will:

- be completed for each student during their admission and induction period, and updated as required;

- have been completed for all rooms, teaching areas and 'trips', but will be reviewed annually - should any new accommodation become available, a risk assessment will be completed before it is made available for use;
- be dated and carry clear indication as to who completed the assessment.

The person with ultimate responsibility for ensuring all elements of this policy regarding risk are obeyed is the Head of Centre. However, the person actually completing the assessment will vary: for room usage, for example, it will be the most frequent user of that room, for a student it will be that student's Learning Mentor, and for trips it will be the lead person for the activity.

Specific areas of concern

School security

RBET-Aylesbury has a limited point of access. Measures are taken by staff to ensure that entry through the front door is always monitored by staff and that no unauthorised persons are allowed access to the building.

Violence to staff

Violence to staff will not be tolerated. RBET has an Exclusions Policy that details what action will be taken when the rights of any member of the community are transgressed and a Use of Reasonable Force Policy to describe how staff should respond should action be required.

Manual handling

Staff are not expected to lift or handle heavy or bulky items. If it becomes apparent that such action will be required within a person's required activities, then appropriate training will be sought and provided.

Slips and trips

The H&S Lead will ensure that the risk of tripping is kept to an absolute minimum. Risk assessments are carried out for every room and part of the building. Such assessments should identify any such risks that exist, assess the likelihood of them occurring and describe action to ameliorate the risk if required.

Management of asbestos

Red Balloon's buildings have undergone building safety inspections prior to use by Red Balloon. This has determined that there is no evidence of asbestos risk present in the building.

Drinking water

Regular checks are made of the quality of drinking water available in the Centre. The H&S Lead is responsible for ensuring that taps providing water suitable for drinking are clearly marked, that such 'outlets' are sufficient in number and that they are kept clean.

Hot water

Any taps that are outlets for hot water will be appropriately marked and water will be periodically tested to ensure that there is no risk of scalding (maximum temperature will be 43 degrees centigrade).

Areas for play

RBET-Aylesbury has a rear garden for leisure use. Staff will seek to provide supervised indoor areas that can be used during lunch and other breaks and will also supervise students who want to use nearby parks or other suitable areas. In such cases appropriate risk assessments will be carried out and supervision undertaken.

Management of threat of Legionella disease

RBET-Aylesbury pursues strict hygiene arrangements in its kitchens, eating areas and sanitary facilities (any toilets not used regularly will be checked and flushed; water temperature will be checked frequently).

RBET-Aylesbury contracts an external agency to carry out a risk assessment every year or after any extended period of inactivity.

RBET-Aylesbury maintains a water hygiene log detailing all checks made and actions taken.

RBET-Aylesbury kitchens are used by staff trained in Food Safety and hygienic use.

Students are taught the importance of good hygiene in terms of handwashing and staff are asked to uphold high standards in that area.

Whilst it is never possible to guarantee that there will be no occurrence of infection, daily practice is strong and reduces the risk to the lowest possible level. Should there be any indication of infection, the following immediate action will be taken:

- students and staff sent home until the building is deemed (by medical staff) to be free from infection,
- parents/carers and all involved agencies notified immediately,
- health authority notified,
- appropriate de-infection actions pursued as directed by health authority personnel.

Regular testing of equipment

RBET-Aylesbury houses little in the way of large equipment, however, the H&S Lead will ensure that any equipment requiring regular testing will be subject to whatever testing is required to meet guidance or statute. Most obviously, all electrical equipment will be tested on an appropriate periodic basis (PAT testing) and will be marked to indicate that such testing has been carried out.

As indicated elsewhere in the policy, checks on water supply equipment and any equipment used in the kitchen will be pursued and recorded. Checks on fire safety equipment will be carried out as described in the 'Fire Policy'.

Any boilers or gas appliances will be serviced by the landlord on an annual basis to ensure safe and efficient service.

Emergencies

The Centre holds and annually updates a business continuity plan (available on request). This provides a risk assessment 'level' for identified emergencies, appropriate action to minimise the risk and action to take should the emergency occur.

The display screen regulations

The Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations 1992 require RBET-Aylesbury to minimise any risks associated with DSE use by ensuring that workplaces and jobs are well designed. If you regularly use a DSE/Laptop for a significant part of the working day, you may be asked to complete a risk assessment to help RBET-Aylesbury identify potential problems. You can also help yourself by adjusting the equipment you have been provided with for example by:

- adjusting your chair and DSE to find the most comfortable position - as a guide your forearms should be horizontal and your eyes the same height as the top of the screen;
- making sure you have enough space - a document holder may help;
- avoiding glare on your screen by not placing your screen directly facing windows or bright lights - adjusting curtains or blinds to block out unwanted light;
- making sure there is enough space under your desk for your legs to move freely;
- trying to avoid pressure on the back of your legs and knees from your chair - obtaining a footrest if necessary;
- trying to keep your wrists straight when keying;
- positioning the mouse within easy reach to keep the wrist straight when using, sitting upright and close to the desk so as not to overstretch;
- supporting your forearm on the desk, resting your fingers lightly on the buttons and not pressing hard;
- adjusting the brightness and controls on your screen and making sure the screen is clean;
- adjusting the focus on the screen so it does not flicker or move;
- taking regular breaks and adjusting your posture regularly.

Stress

Stress is the adverse reaction people have to excessive pressure. It is not a disease but if the stress goes on for some time it can lead to mental and physical health deterioration. Common symptoms of stress include headaches, mood swings, poor sleeping habits, irritability, indecisiveness, absenteeism, or reduced performance. If you feel that you are experiencing stress at work, please contact the Head of Centre, wellbeing lead or the staff wellbeing group for further advice and support.

Electricity

Electricity can kill – you cannot see it, hear it or smell it, so treat it with respect. Always observe the following:

- No person should work on electrical systems unless appointed or appropriately skilled.
- Check for defective cables, plugs or sockets before using equipment. Defective equipment must be taken out of service – do not carry out temporary repairs.
- Do not overload electrical equipment.
- Switch off or disconnect any equipment that sparks or stalls.
- Wherever possible, avoid letting cables trail across floors. Cables can become damaged or create a trip hazard. Keep use of cables to a minimum and use cable mats or tape them to the floor with hazard tape (black/yellow stripe).

- Disconnect equipment when not in use but do not pull the cable to disconnect - pull at the plug.
- Avoid kinking, twisting, binding or crushing cables.
- Keep all electrical equipment clean and dry.
- Never touch plugs or sockets with wet hands.

Secure storage of materials and equipment

Kitchen knives and sharp kitchen instruments must be stored safely in a locked storage/space unit when not in use. Knives must not be accessible to students unless under supervision from a staff member.

Science materials must be stored safely in a fit for purpose COSHH storage unit. Any chemicals must be stored alongside the relevant COSHH sheet. Access to the cupboard is to be regulated by the science teacher and an inventory of all materials must be kept.

Medical exams

RBET-Aylesbury reserves the right to request you to attend a medical assessment (sometimes called an Occupational Health referral), at Red Balloon's expense in the event of long-term ill health or injury or where issues arise which are considered to be affecting aspects of your work. You may request a copy of the report. Your express authorisation is required before any information may be released about you to Red Balloon. Only information relevant to your ongoing absence/issue will be requested. The report will be kept confidential with restricted access.

Manual handling and lifting

Incorrect handling of objects is a major cause of injury and can result in muscle strain, muscular-skeletal injuries, and broken or fractured bones. You can prevent pain and injury by following a few simple steps.

- Plan the job. Make sure that your route is clear and that you can rest and unload safely.
- Check the object you are carrying for sharp/uneven edges. Decide how best to hold the object.
- Get a good grip and wear suitable gloves with grip to protect your hands from sharp edges if necessary.
- Wear safety shoes where appropriate.
- Get help if the load is too heavy or awkward for you to lift easily.
- Always lift with your legs, NOT your back. Assume a comfortable stance with your feet shoulder width apart and lift smoothly keeping the object close to the body.
- Minimise lifts above the shoulder and below the knee.
- Ensure you have good vision and can see where you are going.
- Don't twist your body. Move your feet to change direction.
- When unloading, bend your knees and keep your back straight.
- Keep fingers and feet clear to avoid crushing incidents when putting objects down.

Safe working practices

Always adopt a safe system of work.

- Only use equipment for the purpose for which it was designed or intended.
- Don't use equipment or chemicals unless you have been trained or instructed in how to use them.
- Only use ladders with more than three steps if you have been trained to do so and only with the support of another colleague if your feet are going over one metre from the floor.
- Always follow the manufacturers or supplier's guidelines.
- Never tamper with equipment, especially if it is not working. Refer or report the defect to the appropriate person.
- Do not rough handle equipment.
- Never block fire exits or stairs.
- Do not use fire extinguishers to prop open doors. Ensure that fire doors are closed.
- Keep your workspace tidy and clear and pick up litter

Records management

The Head of Centre is responsible for the safekeeping of this policy.

Related legislation and documents

External Documents

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974

Internal Documents

- RBET Health and Safety Handbook
- RBET Staff Handbook and Code of Conduct