Health & Safety Review for the Year 2021/22

The following is a review of the main Health & Safety areas impacting the School during the 2021-22 academic year.

Covid-19

As we moved into the 'living with' phase of the virus, we have kept the key protocols regarding ventilation and cleaning in place to ensure we minimise risk to our community. It has been refreshing to see normalities of school life returning.

Building Works

Health and Safety risks resulting from defects of the building works have been rapidly escalated by the site team. As at August 2022 the majority of defects have been suitably rectified, however risk assessments were required throughout the year for all new emerging situations.

Some issues emerged over the Summer roofing works regarding youths entering the roofing compound and gaining access to roofs. This appears to have been a 'trend' locally as other schools without ongoing works experienced trespassing on roofs also. The site team worked with the contractor to ensure that compounds are as secure as possible and any ladders, etc. stored away.

Perimeter Security

In addition to the trespassing of youths, it has come to our attention that our perimeter security is not as robust as we would like it to be. We have had minor incidents of trespassing previously, particularly during lockdown when people wanted access to playing fields, however this appears to be an increasing issue and we also had one incident with an individual evading arrest by escaping through our property, which we assisted the police with. We have quotes to address the immediate problem however feel a CIF bid for the whole site may be a more strategic way forward.

Minor Incidents

A total of 130 minor incidents were recorded for 2021/22 – see attached graph for a breakdown by category. Each item is reviewed/followed up as applicable. The number reported is significantly higher than last year (18) largely due to more robust reporting – all incidents requiring any first aid have been logged.

No items were RIDDOR reportable. Of the 5 items noted as potential break / fractures, 3 did require treatment following medical assessment but was dealt with appropriately at the time and the extent of the injury did not manifest until later. The other 2 items related to staff injuries – one relating to a slip on ice. The area had been appropriately treated but it still too cold for the gritting to have taken much effect. The other fracture is in an uneven area of paving which is scheduled to be remediated in October.

Work of H&S advisory service (Essex County Council)

For 21/22 we moved back to ECC in order to ensure we had cover for our CLEAPSS subscription. We have not used any other of their services during the academic year, however will address this for 22/23.

Zurich Insurance Engineering Inspections

In line with the terms of the School's insurance policy, Zurich Insurance completes 12-14 Monthly insurance inspections on various items of plant and machinery. These include Fume cabinets, all local exhaust ventilation systems (LEV's), boilers and associated plant and lifts – including the schools mobile elevated work platform or Genie lift.

Premises maintenance checks

An extensive range of periodic servicing and statutory testing was completed for Premises related items over the course of the year. The period of lockdown presented some logistical issues with engineers, but all H&S compliance checks and scheduled maintenance was completed prior to the school's partial reopening in June. Subcontracted servicing and testing work included PAT, Legionella, Swimming pool biological testing, boilers, air conditioning and ventilation systems (inc fire dampers), intruder alarm, fire detection/suppression equipment, fire curtains, emergency lighting, fire extinguisher, flood lights, moveable walls, kitchen roller shutters, kitchen gas appliances and interlocks, access control systems, CCTV, calorex, lifts, mansafe, lightning conductors, pest control, retractable seating, water cooler and flat roof maintenance. H&S risk assessments and/or action plans were completed for Asbestos management, caretaking, COSHH (Grounds, cleaning, swimming pool and CoVid), finger traps, fire risk assessment, Grounds H&S, ladders, legionella, lone working, manual handling (deliveries, staging, furniture moving), retractable seating, security, slips, trips & falls, snow/inclement weather, stress (site team only), swimming pool, vehicle/pedestrian and working at height.

There are no significant items of note to report.

Health & Safety Committee

The Health & Safety Committee reconvened in the Summer half term once Covid ceased to be the main ongoing H&S focus. It was noted that an additional defibrillator was installed in the Chapman Building and a mobility risk assessment implemented for September 2022. No material issues were raised.

Health & Safety training for staff

Updated lockdown and BCP procedures were approved and communicated to staff.
New procedures were devised relating to a high medical need Year 7 students starting in September. This includes a dedicated email distribution that teachers can use in class if they have any concerns and a dedicated phone number that will ring all first aiders. All staff briefed prior to the start of school in September.

Health & Safety training for students

A reminder of the school fire evacuation and lockdown procedures were included regularly through the year via form assemblies.