



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Safety Management System
(HSG65)
Audit and Premises
Inspection Report
2025-26
Freshfield Nursery**



**HEALTH, SAFETY
& WELLBEING**

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
Health, Safety & Wellbeing Department
Stopford House
Piccadilly
Stockport
SK1 3XE

1. Document Control

Audit & Inspection of:	Freshfield Nursery 42 Mauldeth Road Stockport SK4 3NB
Audit & Inspection by:	Robyn Hague
Audit & Inspection date:	24.02.2026
Reference:	HSW/A&IR/RH

DOCUMENT DETAILS

Document Title:	Safety Management System Audit and Inspection Report
Document Owner(s):	Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team
Version Number:	Version 2.0
Document Status:	Issued
Document Date:	24.02.2026

REVISION HISTORY

Version	Status	Author	Date	Notes
2.0	Live			

SCHOOL SIGNATURES – To be signed off post audit

The OSHW arrangements are reviewed annually to ensure that policies and procedures documented remain up to date and relevant.

Head teacher signature:		Date:
Head of Governors signature:		Date:

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3. Disclaimer

Every effort has been made to ensure that all statements and information offered in this report are accurate and true and are related to or qualified by observations made during the audit and inspection, together with information supplied by the school.

In the time available, the audit did not confirm every activity affecting the school, although every effort has been made to identify a realistic picture.

This report only comments on the conditions observed, information supplied, and impressions gained at the time of the visit; it should not be taken as identifying all aspects of possible unsafe conditions and/or contravention of statutory requirements.

The accuracy of this audit report rests on the representations made by the school being honest and truthful. The organisation must therefore notify Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) of any factual inaccuracies or misinterpretations of information provided by the organisation as reflected in this report.

NB: Please note that this audit and inspection report represents a snapshot in time completed by an individual SMBC Audit Officer. Due to differences in knowledge, experience, and skills consequently officers will not always the same faults or issues.

4. Introduction

As part of Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council's Occupational Health, Safety, and Wellbeing (OHSW) monitoring process, your school has recently been through an OHSW audit and inspection.

The audit was conducted by reviewing the school's health and safety documentation and procedures. This was accompanied by an inspection or tour of the site and associated buildings.

The audit and inspection are tools used to determine the effective implementation of the school's OHSW standards. This report has been prepared to identify the strengths and weaknesses in your Occupational Health, Safety, and Welfare Management System (OHSWMS). It provides recommendations for consideration, giving a basis from which continuous improvements to the standards of health, safety, and welfare can be made.

The purpose of this report is to provide the school's leadership team and governing body with an assessment of the effectiveness of the school's health and safety management provisions. Although it would also be useful to share the report with staff and parents/carers as part of the school's ongoing engagement with health, safety, and welfare issues.

The report serves to highlight strengths and describe weaknesses in the school's management of occupational safety, health, and welfare and recommends solutions and timeframes for resolutions where deficiencies and issues are identified.

The report focuses on areas of significant quality management and highlights areas that require improvement. It is felt that this qualitative approach will help schools grow stronger in the four management categories of plan, do, check, and act, which form the basis of the SMBC OHSWMS.

5. Acknowledgements

The auditor would like to place on record a special thanks to all staff who gave their time and assisted with the audit process.

6. **Background**

According to both the school's and the authority's records, this is the 11th formal audit and inspection of the school's OHSWMS since these audits began in 2015.

7. **Aims and objectives**

The primary aim of this audit and inspection is to provide an external and independent assessment of the OHSWMS and arrangements developed by the school and the effectiveness of their implementation.

8. **Methodology**

The audit and inspection were carried out in two parts:

- 1) A desktop audit of the school's health and safety management system.
- 2) A physical inspection of the school's premises.

During both activities, the auditor gathered evidence of the school's approach to safety management by:

- a) Comprehensively reviewing safety management documents to check for: suitability and sufficiency and regular review and revision
- b) Asking questions of key staff to check for an awareness and understanding of workplace health, safety, and wellbeing provisions
- c) Touring the workplace to check for a clean, tidy, healthy, and safe work environment and to observe work processes and safe systems of work to see whether procedures are followed and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to control hazards and mitigate risk.
- d) The audit and inspection have five distinct components:
 - (i) Policies, procedures, risk assessments, safe systems of work and communication
 - (ii) Buildings, facilities, and grounds
 - (iii) High risk curriculum areas (e.g., PE and forest schools) and staff training
 - (iv) Performance monitoring and measurement
 - (v) Audit

The results from the above components combine to produce the inspection and audit action plan.

9. Findings of the audit

10.1 Policies, procedures, risk assessments, safe systems of work and communication

Occupational Health Safety and Welfare (OHSW) Policy	What we found during the audit
<p>To comply with the law, the school should have an OHSW (Occupational Health, Safety, and Wellbeing) plan that makes clear the organisational structure and arrangements for managing health, safety, and welfare.</p> <p>The OHSW policy should describe in detail the responsibilities and expectations of workers and managers, making it clear that performance will be monitored, and people held accountable.</p>	<p>The school uses the SMBC suggested template and has completed this to make it specific to their setting.</p> <p>The policy has been reviewed in Spring 2025 The policy was ratified by the Board of Governors on: Spring 2025.</p> <p>It is recommended that the policy can be viewed on the school's website. The H&S Audits are displayed on the website.</p> <p>A copy of the policy was displayed on the school's health and safety notice board.</p>
<p>BEST PRACTICE: The OHSW policy should inform staff, on a practical level, of how they are expected to fulfil specific duties in accordance with the "school procedures and rules". The OSHW policy should be amended, therefore, when a significant change occurs, for example changes in workplace practices and procedures</p>	
<p>WHAT THE LAW SAYS: The OHSW policy should be consulted on with staff and Union representatives where possible and once it has been signed off by governors, it must be effectively communicated to all staff. This could be done for example, by letting the staff know that it is available on the shared drive or staff health and safety notice board.</p>	
<p>LEGAL REFERENCE(S) The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, Section 2 (3) 'it shall be the duty of every employer to prepare and as often as may be appropriate revise a written statement of... general policy... and to bring the statement and any revision of it to the notice of all employees.' Furthermore, Section 2 (6) outlines "the duty of every employer to consult on any such arrangements with a view to the making and maintenance of arrangements..."</p>	
<p>FURTHER INFORMATION: It is recommended that the OSHW arrangements be reviewed annually to ensure that procedures documented remain up to date and relevant.</p> <p>Following this review the head teacher and chair of governors must sign the policy.</p>	

Risk assessments	What we found during the audit
<p>To comply with the law, all significant risks must be identified, and a well-developed system for identifying hazards and evaluating risks relating to worker safety and health should be in place.</p> <p>Preventative and protective measures must be in operation, and the hierarchy of controls must always be observed. Site-specific, generic, and risk assessments for trips must be in place, and there must be evidence that these are reviewed on a regular basis and that they give an accurate reflection of the risks and the control measures in place at the school.</p> <p>Examples of Risk assessments that should be completed are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractors. COSHH Assessments and Safety Data Sheets. Lifting and Handling. Litter bin emptying. Lone Working. Manual Handling. Opening and Closing Site. Snow clearance. Student food preparation area. Use of ladders and erection of children’s display work. Whole Site Risk Assessment that covers all areas that are noted within the School’s Health and Safety Policy <p>This list is not exhaustive</p>	<p>Additional examples: Infection Control Forest School activities Use of outside play equipment and areas Nappy changing Slips, trips and falls HSE Classroom risk assessments</p> <p>The schools risk assessments were last reviewed: December 2025.</p> <p>These are on a rolling annual process.</p>
<p>BEST PRACTICE: Examples of suitable and sufficient risk assessments are available from the Health, Safety and Wellbeing team on request. These are meant as guides only and provide a good indication of the hazards found in most schools. Any specific risk assessment MUST be modified to accurately reflect the hazards found in your own school and the control measures that you have in place.</p>	
<p>WHAT THE LAW SAYS: There is a legal obligation to record the control measures in place, and as such, care should be taken to ensure that risk assessments are relevant, in every detail, to the activity or area being assessed. Written risk assessments and the associated control measures must be reviewed regularly. SMBC recommends that this is done annually or if there has been a significant change to working operations or practices.</p> <p>It is a legal requirement for every employer to assess the health and safety risks arising out of their work under regulation 3 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.</p> <p>This means to assess the significant risks and to put into place suitable and sufficient control measures. In addition, there is a requirement to consult staff in this process and effectively communicate the findings of these assessments to them. Once in place, the risk assessments must be monitored and reviewed to ensure that they remain relevant. Risk assessments must be reviewed regularly, following an accident, and to reflect changes within the school, e.g. the introduction of new equipment, substance, change in policy/procedures, a change in legislation or advancement in technology, etc. Staff should be involved in this process.</p>	

Safe Systems of Work (SSoW)	What we found during the audit
<p>To fully comply, a well-documented array of information should be maintained in the form of safe work systems and school operating procedures (for example, working at heights and opening and closing the school or academy).</p> <p>Comprehensive and robust arrangements should exist for prevention, preparedness, and response to accidents and incidents, and these must be regularly maintained and tested. There should be good awareness of the arrangements amongst staff.</p> <p>Individual and specific events should be analysed, and where necessary Safe Systems of Work have been put in place.</p> <p>Please contact the Health, Safety, and Wellbeing Team if you need help developing your Safe System of Work.</p>	<p>The school needs to consider whether any of their processes require a documented safe system of work.</p> <p>These should be undertaken when a task is particularly high risk or requires a more complex procedure to be followed in order to ensure the control measures cited in the risk assessment are implemented.</p>

WHAT THE LAW SAYS:

The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, Regulation 3 (4)
 ‘Any assessment such as is referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) shall be reviewed by the employer or self-employed person who made it if a) there is reason to suspect that it is no longer valid; or b) there has been a significant change in the matters to which it relates; and whereas a result of any such review changes to an assessment are required, the employer or self-employed person concerned shall make them

The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, Section 2 (2) (a)
 An employer has the duty for ‘...the provision and maintenance of plant and systems of work that are, so far as is reasonably practicable, safe and without risks to health...

The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, Regulation 8 (1)
 ‘Every employer shall a) Establish and where necessary give effect to appropriate procedures to be followed in the event of serious and imminent danger to persons at work in his undertaking...”

Working at height	What we found during the audit
<p>To comply, a robust policy (using the hierarchy of control: avoid, prevent, and minimise) must exist for all workers working from heights. All ladder work lasting less than 30 minutes must be competency-based, and risk assessed.</p> <p>Any activity that lasts longer than 30 minutes must have a full and considered risk assessment. Caretaker's ladders should be subject to a six-monthly visual and recorded inspection by the caretaker.</p> <p>Duty holders (head teachers) must do all that is reasonably practical to prevent anyone falling from heights or from a level surface to a depth, which are liable to cause injury.</p> <p>The key responsibilities of the Duty Holder are to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All work at height is properly planned and organised. • The place where work at height is carried out is safe. • The equipment for work at height is appropriately inspected and maintained. • All work at height is carried out in a safe manner, using appropriate work equipment. • All persons involved in working at height are suitably trained, competent, and are supervised appropriately. • Supervision should be carried out by a competent person. • The risks arising from fragile surfaces are properly controlled. <p>The risks arising from falling objects are properly controlled.</p>	<p>The work at height undertaken in the school by staff is generally putting up of displays and retrieving items from shelving.</p> <p>All significant work at height is contracted out.</p> <p>Any specific tasks that are required to be undertaken at height by the Site Manager (such as one off maintenance, repair or decorating, cleaning of the bike shelter, changing of very high level light bulbs etc) should be risk assessed and a safe system of work undertaken. Use of ladders should be eliminated where possible, for example where long handled tools could be used.</p> <p>Ladder inspections were being undertaken and recorded: 02 02.20026.</p>
<p>FURTHER INFORMATION: A copy of the SMBC Guidance for Working at Height Policy is available from the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team. HRSafety&HealthTeam@stockport.gov.uk</p>	

Manual handling	What we found during the audit
<p>All significant examples of manual handling must be risk assessed and these risks assessments regularly reviewed. Staff who require training have been identified and receive training and instruction. SMBC adheres to the SMART approach to lifting:</p> <p>Size up that load.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the load (shape, size, and weight). • Determine where the load needs to be moved and placed. • Determine whether you can carry the load/whether a mechanical aid should be used. <p>Move the load as close to the body as possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry the load as close to the body as possible. • Secure your grip. <p>Always bend your knees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep feet apart in a comfortable position (usually in line with hips). • Minimise lower back bending. • Bend knees (squat or semi-squat position). <p>Raise the load with your legs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lift the load with your legs, not your back, in a smooth motion (avoid twisting or jerky movements) • Maintain normal curvature of the spine. <p>Turn your feet in the direction you want to move.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change direction by pointing your feet and not twisting your back. • To set the load down, squat down, keep your head up and allow your legs to carry the weight. 	<p>The school only undertakes low risk manual handling tasks.</p> <p>The school undertakes the following manual handling task which needs risk assessing:</p> <p>All Staff are trained in manual handling. This is done on a rolling process and this is reviewed termly to ensure that everyone is up to date.</p>

Please note that manual handling training is provided by the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team at SMBC and can be booked through SLA Online; <https://secure2.sla-online.co.uk/SelectPortal.aspx>

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)	What we found during the audit
<p>To fully comply product safety data sheets should be obtained from the manufacturer for every substance used at the school. COSHH risk assessments must be completed for all products used in the school and available for inspection in the Fire information file for the Fire and Rescue Service which is kept in the main office. A copy of COSHH risk assessment should also be kept in the caretakers/site manager's office with the associated product for ease of access especially during emergency situations.</p> <p>COSHH risk assessments should be completed for substances used in the following departments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site supervisor • Kitchen • Laboratory's • Technical workshops <p>This list is not exhaustive.</p> <p>Chemical Storage</p> <p>To fully comply hazardous substances must be stored correctly. Hazardous substances should be kept to a minimum and always replaced with less harmful products where possible.</p> <p>Flammable substances must be kept securely in a fire-retardant cupboard with suitable ventilation and away from ignition sources. Steps must be taken to ensure appropriate separation of hazardous substances to guard against accidental mixing. Pupils must not be granted unsupervised access to hazardous substances at any time.</p>	<p>The school has safety data sheets for most of the products in use.</p> <p>The school has COSHH risk assessments for all / most of the products in use.</p> <p>COSHH risk assessments and safety data sheets must be completed for all products in use on site that are hazardous.</p> <p>The COSHH information was last reviewed in December 2025.</p> <p>In order to aid COSHH compliance, it is recommended that the school only allows agreed products that have been COSHH assessed.</p>
<p>If a container shows a warning symbol (see examples below), you must assess the risks to users.</p> 	
<p>WHAT THE LAW SAYS:</p> <p>The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations stipulates that employers must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assess the risks to health from chemicals and decide what controls are needed. • use those controls and make sure workers use them. • make sure the controls are working properly. • inform workers about the risks to their health; provide training for employees. <p>Safety data sheets and/or COSHH risk assessments should be made available for users of hazardous substances.</p> <p>The Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations, 2002 require that flammable and highly flammable substances be controlled. These include petrol, LPG, solvent-based paints, varnishes, and some types of dust.</p>	

<p>BEST PRACTICE: Butane (blue cylinders) and propane (red cylinders) both of which, can be used for running domestic type BBQ's used, at school fairs/fates should not be stored on school premises. Any solvent-based products should be stored in lockable metal containers</p>
<p>FURTHER INFORMATION:</p> <p>Regarding the control of hazardous substances can be obtained from www.hse.gov.uk/COSHH/index.htm and a COSHH assessment tool is available from www.coshh-essentials.org.uk.</p> <p>Help and advice is also available from the Health, Safety and Wellbeing team at the Council: HRSafety&HealthTeam@stockport.gov.uk</p>

Dealing with accidents, incidents and ill-health and first aid	What we found during the audit
<p>ACCIDENT RECORDING: The school should be using the SMBC portal below to report accident injuries and dangerous occurrences https://forms.stockport.gov.uk/accidents-and-idents/what-are-you-reporting and use the portal to report and record the more serious incidents and especially where incidents involve a "workplace activity", school facilities or equipment. Cuts, grazes, and bumps should be managed appropriately via a locally held accident reporting system based at the school.</p>	<p>The school has procedures for the use of the SMBC portal to record incidents.</p>
<p>ACCIDENT REPORTING Staff should be aware of the procedures for reporting incidents as required under the 'Reporting of injuries, diseases, and dangerous occurrences regulations (RIDDOR) and should be able to properly identify accidents and incidents which must be highlighted to the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team at SMBC for reporting to the Health and Safety Executive.</p>	<p>The school has awareness of the need to highlight more serious incidents to the health and safety team and an awareness of RIDDOR requirements.</p>
<p>ACCIDENT/INCIDENT INVESTIGATION AND MONITORING The school should maintain a well-documented recording system to track and document accidents and incidents. The recording of information complies with the law and provides a basis for effective analysis. It is recommended that an overview of accidents/incidents be regularly provided to the Head Teacher and Governing body so that trends can be monitored.</p>	<p>Medical Tracker is in place for pupil accidents/ incidents and trends are reviewed and discussed at governor meetings.</p> <p>Parents are notified for all/ any accidents and incidents. SLT are also alerted of any accidents/ incidents on site.</p> <p>Serious head bumps are notified to parents straight away via phone call. Concussion information is issued to all parents whose child has had a head bump.</p> <p>There is also a staff and visitor accident book.</p>

<p>FIRST AID PROVISION (Including early years up to 5 years old where applicable) To comply the school must provide well-resourced first aid arrangements in terms of trained personnel and equipment. It is a requirement of the statutory framework that a paediatric first aider is always on school premises when children are present (and at least one person with paediatric first aid on outings)</p>	<p>In total there are 20 Paediatric First aiders on site. There are a further 2 memebtrs of staff to be booked on.</p> <p>There is a forest school first aider on site as well.</p> <p>Theres 10 member of staff who is emergency first aid training and it the designated first aider and is trained in medical needs. There is also going to be a further 2 members of staff in march.</p> <p>There is a schedule in pace which clearly displays which trained members of staff are and who is on site on set days.</p>
<p>FIRST AID RECORDS In addition to recording more serious incidents, minor injuries and any first aid treatment given is locally recorded. During the audit, evidence was produced to show that any first aid treatment given is properly recorded.</p>	<p>All first aid is imputed on medical tracker.</p>
<p>DEFIBRILLATOR RECORDS Defibrillators should form part of a monthly check with checks recorded. Adult and Children’s pads should be checked along with the equipment inside the defibrillator. A designated person should be appointed to carry out regular checks of the defibrillator.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES The school must have procedures in place to support pupils with health and medical needs. These include a written parental request form, a monitoring system and secure storage for medicines. Staff should be designated to administer medical care as and when required, ensuring each dosage is properly logged to avoid an accidental overdose.</p>	<p>The school has an appropriate medical needs policy which was last reviewed on: February 2026. This is on a bi – Annual process (Every 2 years)</p> <p>Medication is logged and kept track of in school, there is a fridge in the staffroom clearly labelled that stores medication.</p>
<p>BEST PRACTICE: The Information Management Toolkit for Schools (IRMS) is designed as guidance and sets out certain requirements for the keeping of records.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For accidents involving adults in schools, it is the date of the accident + 6 years. • For accidents involving pupils it is the Date of Birth + 25 years • Records relating to serious accidents and injury should be kept for date of incident + 12 years. 	
<p>WHAT THE LAW SAYS: The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, Regulation 8 (1) ‘Every employer shall— Establish and where necessary give effect to appropriate procedures to be followed in the event of serious and imminent danger to persons at work in his undertaking...’</p> <p>The Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981, Regulation 3 ‘(1) An employer shall provide, or ensure that there are provided, such equipment and facilities as are adequate and appropriate in the circumstances for enabling first-aid to be rendered to his employees if they are injured or become ill at work.’</p>	

(2) Subject to paragraphs (3) and (4), an employer shall provide, or ensure that there is provided, such number of suitable persons as is adequate and appropriate in the circumstances for rendering first-aid to his employees if they are injured or become ill at work; and for this purpose, a person shall not be suitable unless he has undergone:

- a) such training and has such qualification as the Health and Safety Executive may approve for the time being in respect of that case or class of case, and
- b) such additional training, if any, as may be appropriate in the circumstances of that case.'

The Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1979, Regulations 25 (3)

'...every employer by whom 10 or more people are normally employed... shall, subject to the following provisions of this paragraph –

Keep readily accessible a book... in which the appropriate particulars... of any accident -causing personal injury to a person employed by the employer...

Communication, consultation and cooperation	What we found during the audit
<p>Communication, consultation, and cooperation are all essential elements of a robust health and safety ethos and are a legal requirement under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.</p> <p>Staff should be provided with health and safety information and be able to raise any health and safety concerns directly to the head, the site manager or caretaker, and their line manager.</p> <p>Additional health, safety, and wellbeing information should be provided to staff by the staff handbook, the health, safety, and wellbeing notice board, and regular items on staff and governors meetings.</p>	<p>There is lots of information in the staffroom. There are bulletins and important information displayed.</p> <p>Group leaders meetings once a week</p> <p>SLT – meeting once a week.</p> <p>A weekly bulletin is sent by email every Friday to all staff and chair and vice governors. This is also displayed in the staffroom.</p>
<p>BEST PRACTICE:</p> <p>Good communication of health and safety can be achieved by several ways. Staff can be provided with health and safety information through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff meetings • Departmental meetings • Health and safety committees • Leadership groups <p>There should be a clearly defined route through which staff can express health and safety concerns. Staff should feel confident that their concerns are dealt with and so ideally such suggestions should be recorded.</p> <p>The staff handbook is a useful way to communicate health and safety procedures. This could be located on the staff shared drive and should include information on how staff can report health and safety concerns, how staff should report defects, risk assessments, emergency procedures, accident reporting and how staff can access health and safety-related policies and procedures.</p> <p>ISO45001 Clauses 7.4.1 to 7.4.3</p> <p>“The organisation must establish, implement and maintain a process or processes for internal and external communications relevant to the OH&S management system, which provides for the gathering, updating and dissemination of information and which encompasses the following: What topics to communicate on, when to communicate, with whom to communicate, how to communicate”.</p> <p>It is, therefore, a legal requirement to consult and communicate with employees in all aspects of health and safety provision within the school and is an essential element of creating a robust health and safety culture.</p> <p>Employers have a duty to consult with their employees, or their representatives, on health and safety matters. Union safety representatives or employee safety representatives can assist with this process as well as providing valuable guidance in health and safety matters.</p>	
<p>WHAT THE LAW SAYS:</p> <p>It is a requirement that employers must consult all their employees on health and safety matters about:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i). the introduction of any measure which may substantially affect their health and safety, e.g., the introduction of new equipment or new systems of work. ii). the arrangements for getting competent people to help them comply with health and safety laws. iii). the risks that have been identified from risk assessments, the hazards and dangers employees will be exposed to, and the measures in place to reduce or remove the risks. iv). the planning and organisation of any health and safety training. v). the health and safety consequences of introducing new technology. 	

Business continuity (Including critical incident management and lockdown)	What we found during the audit
<p>An emergency plan must be prepared so that staff are aware of the procedures to follow in a crisis. It is good practice to formally set out actions to be taken by designated staff during an emergency. The plan should cover minor incidents (e.g., heating breakdown, no water, etc.), when the school may have to close for a short time, and major incidents (e.g., fire, fatality, etc.), which may cause major disruption to the school. The emergency plan must include details of how the school will manage the dismissal of children and the collection arrangements for parents and carers.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to including the following in the plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to respond efficiently during a crisis safeguarding pupils, staff, and visitors, this should name individuals and their roles during the situation. • preventing an escalation of the situation • Arrangements to temporarily relocate pupils if necessary. • Contact details, e.g., emergency numbers, school services, critical incident response teams, etc. • Emergency arrangements in case of an incident during an educational visit. <p>Once the emergency plan has been ratified by the governing body, it should be shared with all those with responsibilities so that they are aware of the procedures to follow in a crisis. SMBC is able to provide advice in relation to emergency planning. For further details, contact samantha.jones@stockport.gov.uk</p> <p>The first step in preparing a lockdown policy is to be realistic about the risks to the school and its pupils, which will be linked to the ease of access into the school buildings. While terrorism has prompted schools to consider a lockdown procedure, different schools will identify different risks, and the likelihood of a negative event will vary. The risk may come from an intruder, an aggrieved parent, or an incident in the immediate vicinity of the school.</p> <p>A written lockdown plan must be in place and have been signed off on by the governors. The lockdown procedure should be tested at least twice per year in order to ensure that staff and pupils are familiar with the requirements.</p> <p>The lockdown plan should include the notification process for a return to normal. Drills and practises should be recorded, and lessons learned should be observed and used to improve the plan when it is reviewed annually.</p>	<p>A critical incident / business continuity plan and a lockdown policy are in place. This was last reviewed in Autumn 2023. This will next be reviewed once the new policy has been issued. This is scheduled to take place Summer 2026.</p> <p>Once reviewed they should reflect the procedures within the school.</p> <p>A lockdown drill has not taken place however there has been meetings to go through the processes of a lockdown. It is recommended that a walk through of a lockdown is completed.</p>

10.2 Buildings and Grounds

Fire Safety Management	What we found during the audit
<p>FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT The school must have an up-to-date fire risk assessment in place, which must be suitable and sufficient meaning that the main risks have been identified within the facilities.</p> <p>All actions must be worked through, and recommendations implemented. See table below for dates and provider.</p>	<p>The school has had a Fire Risk Assessment within the last 4 years. This was last done: 1st February 2024.</p> <p>The school has taken steps to ensure that the remedial works identified have been undertaken.</p>
<p>WHAT THE LAW SAYS: Under The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) 2005 Order every premises with 5 or more employees must assess the risks from fire, record the findings and inform all staff of the outcome of the assessment.</p>	
<p>BEST PRACTICE: It is recommended by SMBC that 4 years is the maximum period that should be left between Fire Risk Assessments.</p>	
<p>FIRE ALARM – TESTING AND MAINTENANCE BY A COMPETENT PERSON The fire alarm must have been serviced within the last 6 months and service records are available to evidence this – see table below.</p>	<p>The school has appropriate arrangements in place with for the testing of the fire alarm every 6 months and could evidence that these checks had been undertaken.</p> <p>This was last completed in 1st March 2025. Safe and Secure</p> <p>Remedial work identified had been carried out as a result of the checks.</p>
<p>EMERGENCY LIGHTING TESTING AND MAINTENANCE BY A COMPETENT PERSON The emergency lighting must have been serviced within the last 12 months and service records available to evidence this. See table below.</p>	<p>The school has appropriate arrangements in place with for the testing of the emergency lighting annually and could evidence that these checks had been undertaken.</p> <p>1st August 2025 with a 100% testing sign off. -Safe and Secure</p> <p>Remedial work identified had been carried out as a result of the check.</p>
<p>FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT – SERVICE BY A COMPETENT PERSON Fire-fighting equipment must have been serviced in the last 12 months and service records available to evidence this. See table below.</p>	<p>The school has appropriate arrangements in place with for the testing of the fire-fighting equipment every 12 months and could evidence that these checks had been undertaken.</p> <p>08.12.2025 – Safe and Secure</p> <p>Remedial work identified had been carried out as a result of the checks.</p>
<p>CALL POINTS – CHECKS BY THE SCHOOL A different call point should be tested weekly, and the results recorded. The Fire Authority will ask to see evidence that these tests are carried out when the school</p>	<p>The school has arrangements in place for the weekly testing of the call points and is keeping</p>

<p>is inspected. Failure to produce written evidence could result in an improvement notice. It is an offence to falsify records. See table below.</p>	<p>appropriate records. Action is being taken when faults are identified. The last record is dated: Friday 20th of February.</p>
<p>EMERGENCY LIGHTING – CHECKS BY THE SCHOOL Emergency lights must be tested monthly. See table below.</p>	<p>The school has arrangements in place for the monthly testing of the emergency lighting and is keeping appropriate records. Action is being taken when faults are identified. The last record is dated: February 2026.</p>
<p>WHAT THE LAW SAYS: All emergency lights must be checked each month to ensure continued operation of all assets. Results should be recorded and faults rectified immediately.</p>	
<p>MEANS OF ESCAPE – CHECKS BY THE SCHOOL The school must check the facilities, equipment, and devices (e.g., fire exits, fire doors, exit routes) provided for fire safety on a weekly basis for damage, blockages, and ease of access. A written record of these checks should be kept. See table below.</p>	<p>The school has arrangements in place for the weekly means of escape checks and is keeping appropriate records. Action is being taken when issues are identified. The last record is dated: 23.02.2026</p>
<p>WHAT THE LAW SAYS: It is a legal requirement to ensure that facilities, equipment, and devices provided for fire safety are checked on a weekly basis. For example, that emergency exit routes are not blocked, that final exit routes and stairwells are free from combustible material and that fire doors are in good working order. Regular checks must be included in an effective fire prevention monitoring routine.</p>	
<p>FIRE DRILLS Timed emergency evacuation drills must be carried out each term and properly recorded. See table below.</p>	<p>The school practices a fire drill on a termly basis.</p> <p>The last fire drill took place on: 09.02.2026.</p> <p>The school has good arrangements in place for the reviewing of the fire drill which are recorded.</p> <p>Required actions resulting from the fire drill are recorded.</p>
<p>BEST PRACTICE: Guidance in relation to the display of pupil's work in in accordance with the Fire and Regulatory Reform Order 2005 and as agreed by OFSTED, Chief Fire Officers Association and the Department for Education is available from the health, safety and wellbeing team on request. HRSafety&HealthTeam@stockport.gov.uk</p>	

Asbestos	What we found during the audit
<p>An up-to-date management survey of Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) must be held by the school, and the risks associated with these ACMs must be assessed. The survey should be updated annually to reflect changes in circumstances and the condition of the asbestos. A plan must exist for the management of the asbestos in the school.</p> <p>Staff and visitors to the school (especially contractors) must be made aware of the location of any asbestos and understand the risks involved in any accidental disturbance. The management of asbestos must be kept under review and be reported to the governors at least annually or when any refurbishment work is due to take place in the school.</p> <p>There is a legal duty to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and contractors are made aware of the location and type of ACM. • The state of the ACMs is monitored, and changes in condition are reported immediately. <p>The survey and risk register are updated following the removal of any ACMs by a competent person.</p>	<p>The school provided the following documentation in relation to their management of ACM: Stockport 360.</p> <p>A management survey dated: 1st April 2025.</p> <p>A management plan dated: 1st April 2025</p> <p>An asbestos register dated April 2025 and corresponding floor plan.</p> <p>The condition of the asbestos is being checked by Stockport Homes in accordance with the management plan/survey every year.</p> <p>The asbestos register and floor plan is held in the reception and is being shown to contractors who sign a log to indicate that they have been made aware of the location of ACM within the school.</p>
<p>WHAT THE LAW SAYS The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 states: “The measures to be specified in the plan for managing the risk shall include adequate measures for</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) monitoring the condition of any asbestos or any substance containing or suspected of containing asbestos. b) ensuring any asbestos or any such substance is properly maintained or where necessary safely removed; and c) ensuring that information about the location and condition of any asbestos or any such substance is: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) provided to every person liable to disturb it (ii) made available to the emergency services.” 	
Legionella Risk Assessment (LRA)	What we found during the audit
<p>It is a legal requirement to have up to date versions of the following two documents available for inspection on site at any time:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Legionella Risk Assessment (LRA) 2. A Written Scheme of Works (sometimes called a Written Scheme of Control) <p>These documents must have been completed by a competent person.</p> <p>Concerns raised in the risk assessment must have been addressed and the school should have received a prioritised list and explanation of what work is required and why.</p> <p>It is recommended that weekly temperature tests as recommended by the legionella risk assessment should be carried out by the site manager, who must have received the necessary training.</p>	<p>A Legionella risk assessment and written scheme were evidenced during the audit which have been undertaken within the last two years. AEC – June 2024.</p> <p>The remedial actions identified in the risk assessment have been addressed. Acorn are due to carry this out in May 2026.</p> <p>Monthly temperature testing, anti-scald checks and periodic testing of the TMV’s is being undertaken by Acorn – 24th February 2026.</p> <p>The Site Manager is undertaking weekly flushing of the little used</p>

<p>Further advice is available on the management of Legionella from your service provider and via SLA on-line.</p>	<p>outlets and a record of this is being maintained.</p>
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WHAT THE LAW SAYS:

Extracts below taken from L8 (Fourth edition) Published 2013

Legionella Risk Assessment

47. The record of the assessment is a living document that **must be reviewed to ensure it remains up to date**. Arrange to review the assessment regularly and specifically whenever there is reason to suspect it is no longer valid. An indication of when to review the assessment and what to consider should be recorded. This may result from, e.g.:

- (a) changes to the water system or its use
- (b) changes to the use of the building in which the water system is installed
- (c) the availability of new information about risks or control measures
- (d) the results of checks indicating that control measures are no longer effective
- (e) changes to key personnel
- (f) a case of legionnaires' disease/legionellosis associated with the system

Written Scheme of Works

65. For precautions to remain effective, the condition and performance of the system will need to be monitored. The appointed responsible person should oversee and manage this. Or, where appropriate, an external contractor or an independent third party can do it. Management should involve:

- (a) checking the performance and operation of the system and its component parts
- (b) inspecting the accessible parts of the system for damage and signs of contamination
- (c) monitoring to ensure that the treatment regime continues to control to the required standard.

66. **The frequency and extent of routine monitoring will depend on the operating characteristics of the water system.**

Advice should be taken from competent service providers on the frequency of the Risk Assessment and the Written Scheme of Control.

Gas and electrical safety: systems and appliances	What we found during the audit
<p>GAS SAFETY Service records should be available to show that the gas boilers are serviced regularly, See table below.</p>	<p>The gas tightness testing has been undertaken within the last 5 years. 20th July 2025 by DODDs</p> <p>Appropriate arrangements are in place for a gas safe catering check to be undertaken. This is done by DODDs – 1st October 2025.</p> <p>The correct documentation for this was evidenced at the audit. Appropriate arrangements are in place for the annual testing of the gas boilers by DODDs – 22nd September 2025.</p>

	Appropriate arrangements are in place for the thorough examination of the pressure systems associated with the heating system, in accordance with a written scheme of control.
<p>FIXED ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION A competent person should have checked the fixed electrical installations within the last 5 years and documentation provided to evidence this. Failed installations and other C1 and C2 recommendations should have been acted upon. See table below.</p>	<p>The electrical installation has been tested within the last 5 years by The system is categorised overall as satisfactory. February 2023 - DODDs The C1 and C2 faults have been rectified.</p>
<p>PORTABLE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES The school has a suitable and sufficient PAT policy in place (including a risk assessment) and any equipment identified as high risk in this assessment has been tested. Further information and full suite of management documentation is available on SLA online. See table below.</p>	<p>The school has appropriate arrangements in place for the PAT testing of high-risk electrical appliances by a contractor. August 2025 – Inspexx</p>

Outdoor play equipment	What we found during the audit
<p>As part of best practice, a formal prior to use inspection of the playground equipment should be carried out daily by supervising staff. Monthly recorded inspections should be undertaken and recorded by a competent person (Site Supervisor) and records available to verify this. Additionally, an annual inspection by an insurance approved contractor should be carried out. Any issues raised should have been suitability dealt with. See table below.</p>	<p>The school has appropriate arrangements in place for the annual inspection of the play equipment and can evidence that this has taken place within the last twelve months. Sports Safe (portable) – June 2025 Triad (Fixed) – September 2025 Monthly inspections are taking place by the SM and is recorded.</p>

Contractors	What we found during the audit
<p>The school uses some contractors that have not come from an approved list. Care should be taken to ensure that contractors meet certain criteria including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what experience they have in the type of work you want done. • health and safety policies and practices. • examples of their recent health and safety performance (number of accidents etc.). • qualifications and skills. • their selection procedure for sub-contractors. • their safety method statements. • health and safety training and supervision. • their arrangements for consulting their workforce. • if they have any independent assessment of their competence. • if they are members of a relevant trade or professional body. 	<p>The school has a facilities management agreement in place with Stockport Homes. Freshfield Nursery sources Most of its contractors through this arrangement. The school sources the following contractors independently: Safe and secure Acorn Risk assessments and method statements should be obtained for any work undertaken, in addition to having undertaken a vetting process.</p>

<p>The school can then decide how much evidence needs to be sought in support of what prospective contractors have stated.</p>	<p>The SMBC contractors guidance is provided.</p>
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<p>Pedestrian and vehicular movement</p>	<p>What we found during the audit</p>
<p>The school should look carefully at arrangements for drop off and pick up times and conduct a whole site-specific risk assessment where high risks are identified, and reactive measures taken to mitigate risk.</p> <p>Pedestrian walkways should be provided and clearly defined to ensure staff, pupils, parents, and visitors have a safe route into and out of the school building wherever possible.</p> <p>Pupil areas should be properly separated from car parks and other vehicle movement areas such as deliveries and refuse collection where practicable.</p>	<p>N/A</p>

<p>Kitchen: access</p>	<p>What we found during the audit</p>
<p>Because this is a high-risk area access to the kitchen should be secure and appropriate signage displayed to prevent unauthorised access.</p> <p>Any staff or visitors entering the food preparation area should wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment such as slip resistant footwear.</p> <p>Hair must be tied back and covered with a hat to avoid contaminating food.</p>	<p>The school has appropriate arrangements for securing the kitchen against unauthorised access.</p>

<p>Kitchen: extractor hoods</p>	<p>What we found during the audit</p>
<p>The extractor hoods should be cleaned and serviced on an annual basis, which is good practice. The school should ensure that the recommended system is cleaned and serviced to the standard in TR19 guidance.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>BEST PRACTICE: Extractor hoods and local exhaust ventilation systems should be cleaned and serviced by a competent person at least annually.</p>	

<p>Stage lighting and rigging</p>	<p>What we found during the audit</p>
<p>Stage lighting electrical systems should be periodically inspected annually and have an Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) to demonstrate a compliant maintenance regime. Compliance with wiring regulations BS7671: 2008 is required and overhead static equipment such as fixed lighting bars, curtain tracks or other equipment must be inspected annually under the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER). Whilst Winched systems such as scenery bars</p>	<p>N/A</p>

and pulleys need to be tested annually under the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998. PAT is also required annually of frequently moved lights/fittings. See table below.	
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Roller shutters	What we found during the audit
Design, manufacture, supply, and installation of roller shutters comes under Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008 but there is no specific health and safety legal requirement dictating how often roller doors should be inspected or tested. SMBC recommends an annual safety and maintenance inspection under PUWER (1998) which requires that work equipment is safe to use on installation and maintained in safe condition for use. Also, regulation 5 of the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare Regulations), 1992 states that any powered door needs to be “maintained in an efficient state...subject to a suitable system of maintenance”. See table below.	<p>The school has appropriate arrangements in place for the annual testing of the roller shutters and could provide evidence that this had taken place within the last 12 months.</p> <p>This was completed by Safe and Secure – June 2025.</p>
<p>BEST PRACTICE: BS standard EN 12635:2002 provides guidance on documentation, operation, use and maintenance including requirements for a logbook which should detail; operating instructions, maintenance and repair visits, details of work undertaken, details of changes/upgrades, name date and signature of responsible person</p>	

Gates and barriers	What we found during the audit
The legal position is that powered gate systems are “machinery”. The Health and Safety Executive has lead responsibility for enforcement of this legislation, which has been transposed into UK law as the Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations .2008. The school should have suitable and sufficient gates and barriers providing adequate security for the school. All gates should be tested annually by a competent contractor:	<p>The school has appropriate arrangements in place for the annual testing of the gates and barriers and could provide evidence that this had taken place within the last 12 months.</p> <p>Triad – September 2025.</p>
<p>BEST PRACTICE: Gates and fences in a primary school should as a minimum conform to BS EN 1176 and be RoSPA-approved.</p>	

Site security (including digital security)	What we found during the audit
<p>Intruder and lockdown alarms and CCTV The school must have appropriate security measures in place to help prevent trespass, burglary, and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The law requires employers to take a common sense and proportionate approach to identify, assess, and keep under review health and safety-related risks and take steps to eliminate or reduce those risks. This includes security risks, such as attacks on staff and pupils.</p> <p>In England safeguarding legislation is based on 3 main Acts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children Act 1989 • Children Act 2004 	N/A

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and Social Work Act 2017 <p>Safeguarding legislation requires anyone working with children and young people to share information or concerns relating to a child's safety and wellbeing.</p> <p>For further information see:</p> <p>https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8023/</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2</p>	
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WHAT THE LAW SAYS:
 Every school is different, and you should seek advice from your local police service's designing out crime officer (DOCO) for clarification of any specific concerns relating to the security of your premises.

Air conditioning units	What we found during the audit
<p>The school should have an annual maintenance regime in place with a registered air conditioning company. A full record of inspections and maintenance visits should be kept and available for inspection. Units should be serviced annually.</p> <p>The school must check that units have been cleaned and serviced thoroughly.</p>	<p>The school has appropriate arrangements in place for the annual maintenance of the air conditioning and could provide evidence that this had taken place within the last 12 months.</p> <p>Venture – 17th February 2026.</p>
<p>BEST PRACTICE: Regular servicing improves the efficiency of your air conditioner. Professional advice says that for every year of operation in which you do not service your air-conditioning it loses 5% of its efficiency. By law any cooling or heating systems with more than 3kg of ozone depleting substances including HCFCs and HFCs must be checked annually for leakage. F-Gas Regulations contain requirements for labelling, leak checking, record-keeping, and maintenance staff qualifications. All air conditioning systems with an effective combined rated output of more than 12kw must be regularly inspected by an energy assessor. The inspections must be no more than five years apart.</p>	

LOLER inspections	What we found during the audit
<p>All lifting equipment within the school should be tested in line with the legislation every 6 months for equipment used for lifting of persons and 12 months for lifting equipment used for lifting of goods.</p> <p>A record should be kept of these tests.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>WHAT THE LAW SAYS: Lifting equipment within a school that lifts people including passenger lifts and hoists mechanical needs to be tested every 6 months as do lifting accessories, including slings, shackles, hooks and chains. The inspected and testing is a requirement of the Lifting Operations and Lifting Regulations, 1998.</p>	

10.3 High-risk curriculum areas and staff training

Science	What we found during the audit
A full range of risk assessments must be in place and the department should comply with all CLEAPS requirements. Full guidance documents are available from HRSafety&HealthTeam@stockport.gov.uk	N/A
Physical education: equipment	What we found during the audit
All PE equipment should be serviced annually by a competent person and recommendations made to rectify faults followed up. Service records should be available to evidence this.	N/A
Physical education: storage	What we found during the audit
PE equipment must be properly stored so that staff and pupils can easily access it without causing injury. Mats must be stored appropriately and away from fire exits. Heavy equipment should be stored at lower levels.	N/A
Design and technology	What we found during the audit
A full range of risk assessments must be in place and the department complies with all Design and Technology codes of best practice.	N/A
<p>BEST PRACTICE: It is recommended by SMBC that all CLEAPS documentation is read and understood by appropriate Heads of Department.</p>	
Health and safety training: induction training	What we found during the audit
<p>New staff must receive health and safety information during their induction period. Induction training includes procedures for emergency evacuation, a copy of or access to the school's health, safety and welfare policy, accident reporting procedure, location of asbestos containing material, how to report maintenance issues, etc.</p> <p>A formal record of the information given should be placed on staff's personal records.</p> <p>Further guidance and information on what should be included in the training can be obtained from SLA Online.</p>	<p>The school offers induction training including the following health and safety content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire safety and emergency procedures Awareness of the Health and Safety policy Awareness of the location of school policies First aid arrangements Accident procedures Walk around sheets for the site No smoking No mobiles Asbestos information <p>All staff sign to say they have received an induction.</p>
<p>WHAT THE LAW SAYS: It is a legal requirement that all new staff receive health and safety induction training. Keeping induction training records enables the school to demonstrate that health and safety training has been given. It is recommended that a record of the health and safety induction information given be kept on employees' personal files.</p> <p>The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, Section 2 (2) (c)</p>	

‘Without prejudice to the generality of an employer’s duty under the preceding subsection, the matters to which that duty extends include in particular—...
 ...The provision of such information, instruction, training, and supervision as is necessary to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety at work of his employees...’

The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, Regulation 10
 ‘Every employer shall provide his employees with comprehensible and relevant information’.

The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, Regulation 13 (2)
 ‘Every employer shall ensure that his employees are provided with adequate health and safety training...on their being recruited into the employer’s undertaking; and on their being exposed to new or increased risks...’

General health and safety training	What we found during the audit
<p>All staff must have received health and safety training relative to their role and responsibility, and this should be recorded in a training matrix and kept up to date by the School Business Manager/Training Coordinator.</p> <p>It is recommended that those dealing with health safety and wellbeing in schools receive training undertaken by IOSH called Managing Safely:</p> <p>https://www.iosh.co.uk/managingsafely/#</p>	<p>Legionella awareness – SM, SBM, HT</p> <p>Asbestos awareness – SM, HT, SBM</p> <p>Fire safety/Marshall – SM, HT, SBM along with designated members of staff.</p> <p>Risk assessment- SBM, SM, Finance Manager</p> <p>Ladder training – SM, Hygiene Manager</p> <p>WAH – SM, HM</p> <p>Manual Handling – All Staff Leaders HS awareness or Managing Safely - SBM</p> <p>Care Taker / Site Manager Awareness – SM</p> <p>SM has carried out online health and safety training.</p>

BEST PRACTICE:
 IOSH Managing safely in schools: <https://www.iosh.com/training-and-skills/iosh-training-courses/managing-safely/>

The Health and Safety at Work Act requires employers to "provide whatever information, instruction, training, and supervision as is necessary to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety at work of your employees."

This is expanded by the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations, which identify situations where health and safety training is particularly important, e.g., when people start work; because of being transferred or given a change of responsibilities; the introduction of new work equipment or a change to existing work equipment; and or where existing skills may have become rusty or need updating.

You should assess the risks to employees while they are at work and to any other people who may be affected by the way the work is carried out. This will identify the required information, instruction, or training required to enable employees to carry out their work safely. Refresher training should also be provided as necessary.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS:

Appropriate training may include but are not limited to the following:

Course: Fire safety awareness Fire warden training Working with hazardous substances Moving and handling of pupils Ladder / access equipment	Requirement of: Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order COSHH Regulations Manual Handling Regulations Working at Height Regulations	Attendees Leadership Team All staff. Site Supervisor/Cleaners Site Supervisor/Cleaners Site Supervisors
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10.4 Performance monitoring and measurement

Active monitoring	What we found during the audit
Monitoring of the working environment and review of work systems, premises, plant, and equipment should be frequent and systematic. The school should undertake health and safety walk around with the Health and Safety Governor, every term, which is attended by key people. A record should be kept of this walk around and an action plan drawn up and worked through in a prioritised fashion.	Spread sheets are in place and all procedures are on a rolling process. Facilities tracker which is bespoke created by Jeanette for Freshfield Nursery.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS:
The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, Regulation 5
 ‘(1) Every employer shall make and give effect to such arrangements as are appropriate, having regard to the nature of his activities and the size of his undertaking, for the effective planning, auditee, control, monitoring and review of the preventive and protective measures.
 (2) Where the employer employs five or more employees, they shall record the arrangements referred to in paragraph (1).’

Reactive monitoring	What we found during the audit
Investigations should be conducted for all accidents and incidents. They should be proportionate to the event and look to identify root cause and corrective actions. NB: The school must contact the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team in the event of a serious on-site accident and the team will offer support and may conduct an accident investigation.	Medical tracker is used for trend analysis.

WHAT THE LAW SAYS:
The Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1979, Regulations 25 (1)
 ‘Every employer shall take reasonable steps to investigate the circumstances of every accident of which notice is given to him...’

10.5 Audit

Auditing and reviewing the OHSWMS	What we found during the audit
<p>Internal termly walk round inspections of the OHSWMS should take place in the form of documented site inspections and formulated action plans, which are reviewed to ensure that corrective action is taken where necessary.</p> <p>A key part of this process is the annual review of the Health, Safety, and Wellbeing Policy and associated procedures and assessments to ensure that these are current and specific to the school.</p>	<p>Annual walk around takes place with the governor. This was last carried out 2nd December 2025.</p> <p>SBM and SM do a monthly walk around together Action plans are drawn up and appropriate measures are taken. Due to covering two sites this may change to bi-monthly walk arounds.</p>
<p>An external annual audit and inspection of the OHSWMS should take place. This may be completed by SMBC. The audit will recommend improvements to Health, Safety, and Wellbeing practices and give timeframes for implementation.</p> <p>Previous recommendations should have been adopted by the school within the time frames in, order for continuous improvement to be shown.</p>	<p>SMBC are the current provider.</p>
<p>WHAT THE LAW SAYS: The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, Regulation 5 ‘Every employer shall make and give effect to such arrangements as are appropriate, having regard to the nature of his activities and the size of his undertaking, for the effective planning, auditing, control, monitoring, and review of the preventive and protective measures.</p>	
<p>Management reviews should be systematically undertaken by the Head teacher and School Business Manager. They should consider Health, Safety, and Wellbeing performance indicators such as number of accidents, location of accidents and trend analysis. There should also be evidence that audit findings, School improvement plans, are reviewed and prioritised by the Head teacher and Board of Governors.</p>	<p>This has been evidenced on the audit.</p>

10.6 Statutory compliance

Responsible Person	Activity	Frequency	Planned for date	Done date	Completed by (contractor/site supervisor name)	R A G	Notes
Headteacher	Asbestos management - annual management report	Annually	01.04.26	01.04.25			
Contractor	Asbestos management - specific surveys prior to intrusive works	As required	N/A				
Site Supervisor	COSHH risk assessments from data sheets	Regularly	Jan 27	Jan 26			
Contractor	Drainage maintenance	Annually		22.12.25			
Contractor	Electrical - 5-year fixed wire testing	5 years	01.01.285	01.01.23			
Contractor	Electrical - PAT (high-risk items only)	Annually	01.08.26	01.08.25			
Site Supervisor	Electrical - PAT (recorded visual checks of low-risk items)	Bi-annual	ongoing				
Contractor	Fire Risk Assessment	4 years	01.02.27	01.02.24			We were advised 5 years unless changes were made
SBM	Fire Risk Assessment <i>review</i>	Annually		Feb 26			Done by an Annual report to the Governors
Contractor	Fire call points	Annually	01.03.25	01.03.26			
Site Supervisor	Fire call points	Weekly	Ongoing Fridays				
Headteacher	Fire drills	Termly		09.02.26			
Contractor	Fire emergency alarm panel	Annually	01.03.26	01.03.25			
Site Supervisor	Fire emergency lighting	Monthly	ongoing				
Contractor	Fire emergency lighting	Bi-annual	01.08.26	01.08.25			Now annual
Site Supervisor	Firefighting equipment	Monthly	ongoing				
Contractor	Firefighting equipment	Annually		01.12.25			Awaiting reports chased
Site Supervisor	Fire means of escape	Weekly	ongoing				
Contractor	Gas safety - all gas appliances located on-site	Annually	01.07.26	01.07.25			

Audit and Inspection of: Freshfield Nursery 24.02.2026

Responsible Person	Activity	Frequency	Planned for date	Done date	Completed by (contractor/site supervisor name)	R A G	Notes
Contractor	Gas safety - boilers & heating plant comprehensive maintenance	Annually	22.09.26	22.09.25			
Contractor	Gas safety - pressure system expansion vessel inspection	14 Months	01.07.26	01.07.25			
Contractor	Gas safety - soundness/tightness	5 years	20.07.30	20.07.25			
Contractor	Gates and barriers	Annually	30.09.26	30.09.25			
Site Supervisor	Gates and barriers	Weekly	ongoing				
Contractor	Grounds Maintenance	Termly	ongoing				New contractor
Contractor	Intruder Alarm	Annually	01.08.26	01.08.25			
Contractor	Legionella - up-to-date risk assessment and written scheme	Biennially	01.06.26	01.06.24			
Contractor	Legionella anti scald	Monthly	ongoing				
Site Supervisor	Legionella management weekly flushing	Weekly	ongoing				Of little-used outlets
Headteacher	Lockdown - test of procedures and policy	Bi-annual	ongoing				Staff meeting 05.02.26
Contractor	PE Equipment	Annually	13.06.26	13.06.25			
Site Supervisor	Playground equipment	Monthly	ongoing				
Contractor	Playground equipment	Annually	30.09.26	30.09.25			
Contractor	Roller shutter annual maintenance	Annually	23.06.26	23.06.25			
Headteacher	Site-specific risk assessments - 3 examples	Annually		Jan 26			
Contractor	Stage lighting and rigging & AV Systems	Annually	N/A				
Contractor	Tree inspections	Biennially	01.06.25	01.06.26			With new contractor

10.7 Physical Inspection – Observations and Recommendations

	Location	Defect	Remedy	Time Frame
1	Throughout the Nursery	There were pictures/ notices being displayed on heaters.	There should be nothing being stuck onto heaters or any sources of heat.	Immediate
2	Boiler Room Storage area	There is a large build up of tube lights that are not used.	Have the lights removed following correct disposal procedures.	1 Month
3	2's Main Room	The computer workstation is overfilled and is not accessible as a formal workspace.	This area must be cleared and remain accessible as an intended workstation. This should be closely monitored.	1 Week

10. Guidance to school

On reviewing this audit and inspection report, the Head teacher should report to the appropriate committee, which can in-turn report to the school's governing body.

Referencing the recommendations, the school's leadership team should put together a prioritised action plan to rectify the identified deficiencies. The plan should set out clear actions, identify task completers and associate target timescales.

Support and guidance are available from the Council's Health, Safety and Wellbeing team where needed. HRSafety&HealthTeam@stockport.gov.uk

11. Executive Summary

Freshfield Nursery is a lovely and bright establishment where staff and children both looked happy and cheerful. On arrival it was clear to see that there's been a lot of effort and continuous improvement put in by all staff to maintain and continue to make positive changes within the nursery. There has been some great advances from the last the years audit in terms of compliance monitoring and streamlining current processes. Over the last year Freshfield Nursery has combined with Tithe Barn Primary School, the transition would have been an eye opening experience for everyone involved and would have taken a lot of work between both sites to create and maintain positive working relationships. With what was evidenced at the Audit it is important to highlight that throughout the transition standards have not slipped and Freshfield Nursery which remains a very organised establishment in terms of Health and Safety. It was also lovely to see the continuation of wellbeing considerations and practices that remain embedded into day to day life at Freshfield nursery. On the walk around it was seen that there has been a number of improvements to the outside play areas in terms of cleanliness and maintenance. The nature school continues to be developed and remains in really good condition, it was noted that the area was remarkably tidy and well organised as an outside learning space. It's clear to see there has been a lot of improvement with the organisation of toys, teaching areas and quiet areas within the nursery, this was great to see. However within the 2's room the standard set by the rest of the nursery slips a little in relation to the workspace area that is being used as a bit of a dumping ground. The computer is a designated workspace and should be treated as such. There should be nothing covering the computer monitor or tower once standards have been established and set this needs to be closely monitored. All of the paperwork is very well organised and all relevant matrix systems are easy to follow and are well maintained. The Site Manager checks are all in place and are maintained to a good standard. All staff at Freshfield Nursery should be proud of the work and effort they put into the nursery every day. It is clearly seen that there is a lot of love and pride going into the everyday workings of Freshfield Nursery.

12. Inspection and Audit Action Plan 2025-2026			
Item		Time Frame	Date Completed
Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to maintain documentation standards. Archive old paperwork that is 2 years plus. 	Ongoing	
Lockdown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carryout a lockdown drill. This can be carried out as a staff only exercise or with the inclusion of pupils, how ever you decide to carry out the drill. 	By end of Term	
Physical Inspection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete actions from the physical inspection table. 	Ongoing	