

ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL

Premises Management Policy



Approved by:	Full Governing Body	Date: July 2024
Last reviewed on:	July 2024	
Next review due by:	July 2028	

Mission Statement

St Bernard's is a school community that aims to live by Jesus' commandment "love one another as I have loved you."

We are a Catholic learning community committed to the on-going development of the entire potential of every person, achieved through a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum.

We care for each other as individuals of equal worth, regardless of status, sex, race or religion and thus actively seek to promote safeguarding, justice and fairness.

We provide an atmosphere in which all can grow in our Faith and encourage this faith by a lively relevant liturgy.

We work with parents, parishes, local communities and industry to prepare our students for the opportunities of adulthood.

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1. Aims

Our school aims to ensure that it:

- Manages its buildings and equipment in an efficient, legally compliant way
- Inspects and tests buildings and equipment regularly, taking into account statutory requirements and best practice recommendations
- Promotes the safety and wellbeing of our staff, pupils, parents and visitors through effective maintenance of buildings and equipment in accordance with the [Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974](#)

2. Guidance

This document is based on the Department for Education's guidance on [good estate management for schools](#).

3. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board, headteacher and facilities manager will ensure this premises management policy is properly implemented, and that tests and inspections are carried out in accordance with this policy.

The headteacher and facilities manager are responsible for ensuring relevant risk assessments are conducted and for reporting to the governing board, as required.

The site manager is responsible for:

- Inspecting and maintaining the school premises
- Conducting repairs and maintenance
- Being the first point of contact for any issues with the premises
- Conducting and keeping a record of risk assessments and incident logs related to the school premises
- Liaising with the facilities manager about what actions need to be taken to keep the school premises safe

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

4. Inspection and testing

We maintain accurate records and details of all statutory tests which are undertaken at our premises. This includes relevant paperwork and certificates.

All requirements and recommendations highlighted in inspection reports and certificates are reviewed and acted on as necessary.

As part of the records of completed works, we include the dates when the works were undertaken and the details of the individual or company who completed them, along with their qualifications/certifications and/or experience.

The table below sets out the issues we inspect, the inspection frequency, and the person responsible for checking each issue and, where appropriate, engaging a suitably qualified person to carry out inspection, testing or maintenance. It covers statutory checks as well as recommended good practice checks from relevant guidance. It is based on the Department for Education's [guidance on good estate management for schools](#).

ISSUE TO INSPECT	FREQUENCY	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Portable appliance testing (PAT)	Variable, according to risk and how the equipment is constructed. Regular visual inspections where PAT is not required. We will refer to HSE guidance on maintaining portable electric equipment for suggested intervals and types of testing/inspection.	Elecspec – annually at Easter One of our premises team is also qualified and carries out PAT tests at other times. Cleaners' equipment gets PAT tested by the cleaning company.

ISSUE TO INSPECT	FREQUENCY	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Fixed 5 year electrical installation tests (including lightning conductors)	Variable, according to the number and severity of faults found at last inspection. Inspection and testing are always carried out by a competent person. Lightning Protection.	Elecgroup – Due 2026 Rodells – Annually in May.
Emergency lighting	Monthly flash test. 6-monthly condition test (including 3-hour battery test) by a competent person.	Internally Laser electrical service.
Lifts	At least every 6 months for passenger lifts and lift accessories, every 12 months for other lifts (e.g. goods lifts) – always by a competent person.	Eastern Lift Services – 2 goods lifts – 2 services. Platform passenger lift – twice a year Performing Arts Lift – four times a year.
Gas appliances and fittings	Routinely, in accordance with manufacturer recommendations (or other professional advice if unavailable). Annual safety checks (in line with good practice / required if the premises are used for residential accommodation). All work carried out by a Gas Safe Registered engineer.	Annually in August and carried out by Balm & Davies
Air conditioning systems	Inspections by an energy assessor at regular intervals (not exceeding 5 years). Annual certificated inspection to ensure no refrigerant leakage. Bi-annual checks and an annual maintenance schedule (in line with good practice).	Serviced twice a year, April and October – Complete Cooling Ltd
Legionella checks on all water systems	Risk assessment of each site carried out and reviewed regularly by a competent person. The frequency of monitoring checks varies for evaporative cooling systems, hot and cold water systems and other risk systems – specific details can be found in guidance for each type from the HSE .	Every 2 years risk assessment. Carried out by H20

ISSUE TO INSPECT	FREQUENCY	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Asbestos	<p>Regular inspections as part of the asbestos register and management plan.</p> <p>Reviews of the asbestos register annually.</p> <p>Refurbishment and demolition surveys before any refurbishment or demolition work.</p>	<p>The register is updated when asbestos is removed. Surveys are done before any refurbishment work.</p> <p>Kadec – Original Surveyor</p>
Equipment used for working at height	<p>Inspected before use, and at suitable intervals appropriate to the environment it's used in and how it's used.</p> <p>In addition, inspections after anything that may affect the safety or stability of equipment, e.g. adverse weather or accidental damage.</p>	<p>Point of use inspection</p> <p>Yearly checks done</p>
Fire detection and alarm systems	<p>Weekly alarm tests, with a different call point tested each week, where applicable.</p> <p>Twice yearly inspections and tests by a competent person.</p> <p>Fire risk assessment by a competent person also includes the maintenance of fire detection and alarm systems.</p>	<p>Internally by premises team</p> <p>May and August carried out by Blakes Fire & Security</p> <p>Worknest</p>
Fire doors	<p>Regular checks by a competent person.</p>	
Firefighting equipment	<p>Most equipment – extinguishers, fire blankets, hose reels, fixed systems (such as sprinkler systems) and fire service facilities (such as dry risers and access for emergency vehicles) – inspected annually (by a competent person where required) unless manufacturers' guidelines suggest differently.</p>	<p>Annual testing in February – Safe Fire Protection Ltd</p>
Extraction systems	<p>Regular removal and cleaning of grease filters and cleaning of ductwork for kitchen extraction systems.</p> <p>Local exhaust ventilation systems (such as those for working with hazardous substances) are examined and tested at least every 14 months by a competent person.</p> <p>More routine checks also set out in system logbooks.</p>	<p>Every 8 weeks – Just Filters</p> <p>Twice a year Bright Hygiene</p> <p>Annually Techomak</p>

ISSUE TO INSPECT	FREQUENCY	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Chemical storage	<p>Inventories are kept up to date.</p> <p>Risk assessments for the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) are reviewed on a regular basis, plus whenever it's considered that the original assessment may no longer be valid, or where the circumstances of the work change significantly and may affect employees' exposure to a hazardous substance (in line with HSE guidance on COSHH assessment).</p>	COSHH / Data sheets are in the COSHH cabinets
Playground and gymnasium equipment	<p>Regular inspections – at least annually, and more regularly where any equipment is used more frequently than normal (e.g. where community use increases how often equipment is used).</p> <p>Outdoor fixed play equipment – periodic and annual inspections by a competent person.</p> <p>Fitness Suite</p>	<p>Universal – annually in May</p> <p>Universal - annually</p> <p>Annually in February carried out by Southern Gym Ltd</p>
Tree safety	As part of risk assessment responsibilities, periodic visual checks for stability are carried out, with more detailed assessments if suspected structural faults or other risks are found.	<p>Premises do visual checks</p> <p>Tree Surgeon - Annually</p>
Radon	<p>Risk assessments including radon measurements will be carried out in all of our above-ground workplaces in radon-affected areas, and all of our below-ground workplaces.</p> <p>Radon measurements will last for 3 months, using radon monitors, in line with Public Health England (now the UK Health Security Agency) radon guidance for schools.</p> <p>Where measurements show radon levels below 300Bq/m³, radon levels will be remeasured at least every 10 years. If significant changes are made to the buildings or work processes, remeasurement will also be considered.</p> <p>For any sites with radon levels above 300Bq/m³ we will work with a radiation protection adviser to manage reduction and decide on risk assessment and remeasurement frequency.</p>	Not applicable

5. Risk assessments and other checks

In addition to the risk assessments, we are required to have in place (please refer to our health and safety policy for more information, we make sure we have risk assessments in place, regularly updated, to cover:

- Car parking and vehicle/pedestrian segregation
- Traffic management
- Lettings

We also make sure further checks are made to confirm the following:

- Correct and up-to-date information is displayed in all notices
- Compliance with the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 during construction projects
- Contractors have the necessary qualifications to carry out the specified work
- Compliance with the Equality Act 2010 when making changes or alterations to a building or the external environment

6. Monitoring arrangements

The application of this policy is monitored by the facilities manager and headteacher through, among other things, visual checks of the school site and equipment, and checks of risk assessments.

Copies of risk assessments and paperwork relating to any checks are kept in the premises office.

This policy will be reviewed by the Facilities Manager every 4 years. At every review, the policy will be shared with and approved by [the governing board/committee name/governor role/the headteacher].

7. Links with other policies

This premises management policy is linked to our:

- Health and safety policy