

Esgobaeth Wrecsam

Diocese of Wrexham



Health and Safety Policy

worknest
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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

This Health and Safety manual has been prepared by WorkNest on our behalf and with our involvement. It contains our Health and Safety Policy as required by the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and it defines the way we manage the health and safety hazards and risks associated with our business, premises and activities.

The Diocese of Wrexham is committed to managing health and safety effectively to protect our Office holders, Employees and Volunteers and other persons with whom we interact because we recognise that we have not only a moral and legal duty but also that our Office holders, Employees and Volunteers are our greatest asset.

Our Health and Safety Policy Statement sets out our commitment and the objectives we aspire to in managing health and safety. It is signed by the most senior person in our diocese to demonstrate that our commitment is led from the top.

Our approach to managing health and safety will be pragmatic and proportionate and will be prioritised according to risk with the objective of maintaining continuous improvement. We accept that we cannot eliminate risk from everything we do but we can manage risk in such a way that exposure to hazards is controlled as far as is reasonably practical.

We recognise that improvement in health and safety will not happen by chance and that planning to manage using a systematic approach through risk assessment is a necessary first step and an ongoing process. In moving forwards we will wherever possible eliminate risk through selection and design of buildings, facilities, equipment and processes. Where risks cannot be eliminated they will be minimised by the use of physical controls or, as a last resort, through systems of work and personal protection.

Our success in managing health and safety will be measurable and we look to establish performance standards against which we can monitor our progress to identify future actions to go into our improvement programme.

Based on our performance measurement in the form of accident monitoring, internal monitoring and external audits we will review our health and safety arrangements periodically and at least annually. The results of our measurement will be recorded and presented to the Board in our Annual Report.

This Policy has been created by the named consultant from WorkNest with the co-operation of our staff. They have signed the Policy to confirm that at the time of creation it is suitable, sufficient and relevant to our circumstances and operations. Our nominated responsible person has signed the Policy to confirm that it is a true reflection of the activities and operations that we undertake and the circumstances in which the diocese operates.

Creation Date	Signed on behalf of WorkNest	Confirmed
14/05/2024		

POLICY REVIEW

This Health and Safety Policy will be reviewed annually by WorkNest in conjunction with our nominated responsible person. As each review is completed it will be signed off by the consultant from WorkNest and confirmed by our nominated responsible person.

Review Date	Signed on behalf of WorkNest	Confirmed

DOCUMENT CONTROL

The electronic copy of the Health and Safety Policy provided by WorkNest will remain the controlled copy. Where further controlled copies are required then these should be issued accordingly and added to a register of controlled copies. Any amendments made to the policy will be provided for each of the controlled copies to ensure all controlled copies in circulation remain up to date.

If uncontrolled copies of the policy are printed either in whole or part, or if uncontrolled electronic copies are issued, then these will be clearly marked as an 'UNCONTROLLED COPY'.

Register

Copy Number or Reference	Location kept
Version 1- 14/05/2024	Worknest System

AMENDMENT RECORD

Any amendments made to the Health and Safety Policy will be recorded below with information on changes made.

Where significant changes are to be made which could impact on the diocese or our parishioners, we will consider the reasons for change, potential problems and how it will be implemented.

Date	Section	Ref /Title	Details of amendment made	Change made by
15/05/24	2	Policy	Replace Worknest policy statement with Diocese of Wrexham statement	Susan Doran
03/06/24	All	Policy	Replace employees with Office holders, Employees and Volunteers'	Susan Doran
07/06/2024	All	Policy	Amendments to policy as requested	Susan Doran

LEGISLATION

Extracts of relevant legislation are provided for ease of reference on the WorkNest webpage. Full copies of relevant legislation are available on the Office of Public Sector Information web page (www.opsi.gov.uk) and the National Archives (www.legislation.gov.uk)

GUIDANCE

Guidance on a number of health and safety issues can be accessed by logging onto the WorkNest webpage which we hope you will find useful as a quick reference source.

Should you require further advice or assistance not available here then remember that advice on any health and safety issue is available from the WorkNest advice line - **Tel: 0345 226 8393.**

FORMS

Relevant forms and templates that may be utilised can be accessed by logging onto the WorkNest webpage. <https://worknest.com/employment-law-hr/fixed-fee-service/myworknest/> If you have trouble logging on please contact WorkNest directly.

POLICY STATEMENTS

2. HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT

Our faith teaches us that we are all the image and likeness of God, and all human life is sacred. The Trustees wish to give expression to that belief by ensuring that all appropriate duties of care are observed with the help and cooperation of the clergy and people of the Diocese, in order to achieve the highest standards of Health, Safety and Wellbeing.

The Board of Trustees of the Diocese of Wrexham recognises that it has a legal duty of care towards protecting the health and safety and wellbeing of its staff and others who may be affected by the diocese's activities, and that managing health and safety is a critical function.

This Policy seeks to protect all those members of the congregation, visitors and others who may be affected by our activities, and to secure the Health, Safety and Wellbeing of everybody who visits our premises or who works for us in either a paid or voluntary capacity.

As well as complying with the legal duties of care, our aim is to establish best Health & Safety practises through a process of planning, monitoring and control.

The Diocesan Trustees wish to support the people in such parishes, or who carry out such activities. This support will be given by the Curial office through clear channels of communication, consultation and training.

In order to discharge its responsibilities the board will:

- Bring this Policy Statement to the attention of all Office holders, Employees and Volunteers, contractors and parishioners across the Diocese.
- Carry out or arrange regular review of risk assessments to identify proportionate and pragmatic solutions to reduce risk
- Communicate and consult on matters affecting health and safety
- Comply fully with all relevant legal requirements, codes of practice and regulations at International, National and Local levels
- Eliminate risks to health and safety, where possible, through careful selection and design of materials, buildings, facilities, equipment and processes
- Encourage people to identify and report hazards so that we can all contribute towards improving safety.
- Ensure so far as possible, and with the cooperation of parish priests, that emergency procedures are in place at all locations for dealing with health and safety issues.
- Pursue a policy and arrangements for maintenance of Diocesan premises, and for maintenance of are plant and equipment.
- Only engage contractors who are able to demonstrate due regard for health and safety matters
- Provide adequate resources to control the Health & Safety risks arising from our work activities
- Provide adequate training and ensure, with the support of parish priests, that all involved are competent to do their tasks
- Provide an organisational structure that defines the responsibilities for health and safety
- Provide information, instruction and supervision.
- Regularly monitor performance and revise policies and procedures to pursue a programme of continuous improvement.

The Diocese will measure the effectiveness of this Policy through the active monitoring of all internal safety inspections and audits, and the reactive monitoring of all injury and damage related by investigation.

Safety management within the Diocese is managed through the arrangements and procedures laid out in this Policy Statement and controlled through cooperative effort at all levels. Arrangements will be coordinated through the Curial Office by the Business Support Manager, and led by the Diocesan Treasurer.

The Trustees of the Diocese of Wrexham undertake to ensure that reasonable resources – in terms of time, finance and personnel are made available to carry this Policy into full effect.

This Health and Safety Policy will be reviewed at least annually and revised as necessary to reflect changes in Diocesan /Parish or other relevant activities and any changes to legislation. Any changes to the Policy will be brought to the attention of all concerned in the Diocese.

Signed:

Name: Peter Brignall

Dated:

Position: Bishop of Wrexham

ORGANISATION FOR HEALTH & SAFETY

3. DIOCESE FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY

The overall responsibility for health and safety rests at the highest management level. However, it is the responsibility of every employee to co-operate in providing and maintaining a safe place of work.

This part of our policy allocates responsibilities to managers to provide a clear understanding of individuals' areas of accountability in controlling factors that could lead to ill health, injury or loss. Office holders and managers (and volunteers taking responsibility for Health & Safety) are required to provide clear direction and accept responsibility to create a positive attitude and culture towards health and safety.

The following positions have been identified as having key responsibilities for the implementation of our health and safety arrangements:

Board of Trustees

Office holders, Employees and Volunteers

Contractors

Worknest

HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

4. HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

Board of Trustees

The Board has the ultimate responsibility for the health and safety of Diocese of Wrexham but discharges this responsibility through the Chair of Trustees down to Managers, Office holders, Supervisors Office holders, Employees and Volunteers.

The Board has nominated the Chair of Trustees to have special responsibility for health and safety.

The Board will ensure that:

- they provide a lead in developing a positive health and safety culture throughout the diocese
- all its decisions reflect its health and safety intentions
- adequate resources are made available for the implementation of health and safety
- they will promote the active participation of Office holders, Employees and Volunteers in improving health and safety performance
- they will review the health and safety performance of the diocese on an annual basis.

Office holders, Employees and Volunteers

All Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must:

- take reasonable care of their own safety
- take reasonable care of the safety of others affected by their actions
- observe the safety rules
- comply with the Health and Safety Policy
- conform to all written or verbal instructions given to them to ensure their personal safety and the safety of others
- dress sensibly and safely for their particular working environment or occupation
- conduct themselves in an orderly manner in the work place and refrain from any antics or pranks
- use all equipment, safety equipment, devices and protective clothing as directed
- avoid any improvisations of any form which could create an unnecessary risk to their personal safety and the safety of others
- maintain all equipment in good condition and report defects to their supervisor
- report any safety hazard or malfunction of any item of plant or equipment to their supervisor
- report all accidents to their supervisor whether an injury is sustained or not
- attend as requested any health and safety training course
- observe all laid down procedures for processes, materials and substances used
- observe the fire evacuation procedure and the position of all fire equipment and fire exit routes.

Contractors

All contractors must:

- take reasonable care of their own safety
- take reasonable care of the safety of others affected by their actions
- observe the safety rules
- submit their health and safety policy and relevant risk assessments and method statements to us for approval
- comply with and accept our health and safety policy, if they do not have one
- conform to all written or verbal instructions given to them to ensure their personal safety and the safety of others
- dress sensibly and safely for their particular working environment or occupation
- conduct themselves in an orderly manner in the work place and refrain from any antics or pranks
- use all equipment, safety equipment, devices and protective clothing as directed
- avoid any improvisations of any form which could create an unnecessary risk to their personal safety and the safety of others
- maintain all equipment in good condition and report defects to their supervisor
- report any safety hazard or malfunction of any item of plant or equipment to their supervisor
- report all incidents to their supervisor and to us whether an injury is sustained or not
- attend as requested any health and safety induction training course
- observe all laid down procedures for processes, materials and substances used
- observe the fire evacuation procedure and the position of all fire equipment and fire exit routes.

WorkNest

WorkNest, in agreement with management, provides us with the following services:

- development of our documentation throughout the period of our contract and keeping it updated for:
 - changes in Health and Safety legislation relevant to us
 - Organisational changes which affect our management system.
- a general risk assessment in the first part of the contract that forms the basis of our risk management programme and helps us plan our future actions to reduce risk.
- a consultant visit to train senior managers and to support our implementation of this Policy by:
 - assisting us to complete specific risk assessments
 - providing further training, as agreed, on relevant agreed topics
 - reviewing and auditing our health and safety procedures and legal compliance
 - providing advice on implementing changes and system procedures.

WorkNest is also contracted to:

- fulfil the role of 'Competent Person', providing advice and assistance on Health and Safety issues
- provide for us a telephone advisory service - available 24 hours per day, 365 days of the year
- provide crisis help if we have a serious accident or incident involving the Enforcement Authorities
- provide briefings to help keep us up to date with new and forthcoming legislation.

Parish Council, Finance Secretariat and Trustees Meeting

The Parish Council, Finance Secretariat and Trustees Meeting's responsibility is to facilitate communication and consultation on health and safety issues across the diocese.

They are responsible for ensuring that:

- there is regular communication and consultation with staff on health and safety issues
- health and safety issues raised by Office holders, Employees and Volunteers are discussed and considered for action
- health and safety standards within departments are monitored
- trends in accident statistics across the diocese are identified and making recommendations for action
- health and safety is promoted and new initiatives are considered to progressively improve standards in all areas
- Office holders Employees and Volunteers are aware of significant changes to our health and safety policy documentation.

HEALTH AND SAFETY RULES

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY RULES

This section of our Health and Safety Policy specifies the rules laid down for the attention of all Office holders, Employees and Volunteers. These rules are prepared in accordance with legal requirements and acknowledged safe working practices. In addition to the legal duty imposed upon Office holders, Employees and Volunteers to comply with these rules, failure to observe them will be considered to be a breach of the contract of employment and will result in disciplinary action being taken.

Office holders, Employees and Volunteers are reminded that a breach of health and safety legislation by an employee is a criminal offence and action taken by an Enforcing Officer against an individual may result in heavy penalties.

Safety rules may vary depending upon the nature of work and the circumstances therefore the overriding requirement is that Office holders, Employees and Volunteers are expected to act in a sensible manner and adhere to verbal instructions given by Managers, Clergy and personnel.

General

- It is the duty of all Office holders, Employees and Volunteers to co-operate with management in fulfilling our legal obligations in relation to health and safety.
- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must not intentionally or recklessly interfere with anything provided in the interests of health, safety or welfare.
- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers are required to notify to management of any unsafe activity, item or situation.

Working Practices

- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must not operate any item of plant or equipment unless they have been trained and authorised.
- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers under the age of 18 years must not operate any item of plant or equipment unless they have received sufficient training or are under adequate supervision.
- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must not make any repairs or carry out maintenance work of any description unless authorised to do so.
- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must use all substances, chemicals, liquids etc, in accordance with all written instructions.
- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must not smoke except in prescribed areas.

Hazard / Warning Signs and Notices

- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must comply with all hazard/warning signs and notices displayed on the premises.

Working Conditions / Environment

- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must make proper use of all equipment and facilities provided to control working conditions/ environment.
- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must keep stairways, passageways and work areas clear and in a clean and tidy condition.
- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must dispose of all rubbish, scrap and waste materials within the working area, using the facilities provided.
- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must clear up any spillage or liquids within the work area in the prescribed manner.
- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must deposit all waste materials and substances at the correct disposal points and in the prescribed manner.

Protective Clothing and Equipment

- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must use all items of protective clothing/equipment provided as instructed.
- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must store and maintain protective clothing/equipment in the approved manner.
- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must report any damage, loss, fault or unsuitability of protective clothing/equipment to their supervisor.

Fire Precautions

- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must comply with all laid down emergency procedures.
- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must not obstruct any fire escape route, fire equipment or fire doors.
- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must not misuse any fire fighting equipment provided.
- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must report any use of fire fighting equipment to their supervisor.

Accidents

- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must seek medical treatment for work related injuries they receive by contacting a designated first aider. Upon returning from treatment they must report the incident to their supervisor.
- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must ensure that any accident or injury treatment is properly recorded in the Accident Book.
- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must notify management of any incident in which damage is caused to property.

Health

- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must report to management any medical condition or medication which could affect the safety of themselves or others.
- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must co-operate with the management on the implementation of the medical and occupational health provisions.

Rules Covering Gross Misconduct

An employee or volunteer will be liable to summary dismissal if they are found to have acted in any of the following ways:

- A serious or wilful breach of Safety Rules.
- Unauthorised operation of any item of plant or equipment.
- Unauthorised removal of any item of first aid equipment.
- Wilful damage to, misuse of or interference with any item provided in the interests of Health and Safety or welfare at work.
- Unauthorised removal or defacing of any label, sign or warning device.
- Horseplay or practical jokes which could cause accidents.
- Making false statements or in any way deliberately interfering with evidence following an accident or dangerous occurrence.
- Misuse of any item of equipment, utensil, fitting/ fixture, vehicle or electrical equipment.
- Deliberately disobeying an authorised instruction.

ARRANGEMENTS

6. ARRANGEMENTS

Accident, Incident and Ill-Health Recording, Reporting and Investigation

This policy sets out the procedures that are to be followed when any employee, volunteer, visitor or contractor has an accident, near miss or dangerous occurrence on the diocese's premises during the course of their visit or employment.

This will also apply to visitors who are members of the public and are therefore not at work. In addition Office holders, Employees and Volunteer will develop a work-related illness must also report via these procedures.

Definitions:

An **accident** is an unplanned event that causes injury to persons, damage to property or a combination of both.

A **near miss** is an unplanned event that does not cause injury or damage but could do so.

A **work-related illness** is a prescribed illness that is obtained by an employee through the course of work or from a non-employee as a result of activities carried out by the diocese.

The Accident Book

All accidents resulting in personal injury must be recorded in the organisation's or parish Accident Book.

The Accident Book will comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act.

The Accident Book will be reviewed regularly by Office holder, manager to ascertain the nature of incidents that have occurred in the workplace. This review will be in addition to any investigation of the circumstances surrounding each incident.

All near misses must also be reported to management as soon as possible so that action can be taken to investigate the causes and to prevent recurrence.

Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must ensure that they are aware of the location of the accident book.

Reporting Requirements

Certain accidents causing injury, both fatal and non-fatal, certain occupational diseases and certain dangerous occurrences are reportable to the Enforcing Authority under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR).

The following events must be reported to the Health and Safety Executive:

- A death
- A specified injury to an employee or volunteer as detailed in regulation 4
- An injury to a non-employee where that person is taken directly to hospital for treatment as a result of their injury
- Any dangerous occurrence
- Any employee or volunteer diagnosed by a qualified medical practitioner as suffering from a disease specified in the Regulations

- Any employee or volunteer diagnosed with a cancer caused by work-related exposure to a known carcinogen or mutagen.

Injuries that lead to a worker or volunteer being incapacitated for **more than seven consecutive days** as the result of an occupational accident or injury (not counting the day of the accident but including weekends and rest days) must also be reported within 15 working days using the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) website.

You **must** also keep a record of an accident if the worker or volunteer has been incapacitated for **more than three consecutive days**. If you are an employer, who must keep an accident book under the Social Security (Claims and Payments) Regulations 1979, that record can be treated as a record for the purposes of RIDDOR.

Contact details for the Health and Safety Executive are:

Tel: 0345 300 9923 (Monday to Friday 8:30am to 5:00pm)

Website: www.hse.gov.uk

For further advice on injuries, diseases or dangerous occurrences requiring notification please contact the WorkNest Advice Line. (Tel: 0345 226 8393)

The completed report form sent back by the HSE should be kept with the other accident records and documents; this will confirm the notification has been made.

Accident report, completed notification form and investigation notes, witness statements and photographs are to be kept on file to advise the insurers of a potential claim and to present to the Enforcing Authority in the event of an investigation.

Records are to be kept for 3 years from the date of the incident.

Investigation

All injury related accidents that are either notified to the Enforcing Authority or where a serious injury has occurred will be investigated:

- to ensure that all necessary information in respect of the accident or incident is collated
- to understand the sequence of events that led to the accident or incident
- to identify the unsafe acts and conditions that contributed to the cause of the accident or incident
- to identify the underlying causes that may have contributed to the accident or incident
- to ensure that effective remedial actions are taken to prevent any recurrence
- to enable a full and comprehensive report of the accident or incident to be prepared and circulated to all interested parties
- to enable all statutory requirements to be adhered to.

The investigation will include obtaining signed witness statements, photographs and drawings as appropriate.

Asbestos

The diocese will protect Office holders, Employees and Volunteers and other persons potentially exposed to asbestos as far as is reasonably practicable. Everyone who needs to know about the presence of asbestos will be alerted. No one will be allowed to start any work that could disturb asbestos unless the correct procedures are to be employed.

This will be achieved by minimising exposure through:

- the management of asbestos-containing materials in the workplace premises by
 - **Assessment** - The premises will be surveyed to determine whether asbestos-containing materials are present. It will be presumed that materials contain asbestos unless there is strong evidence to the contrary.
 - The amount and condition of the asbestos-containing material will be assessed and measures will be identified to ensure that airborne asbestos fibres are not present or formed in the workplace.
 - **A Written Plan** - A written plan or register that sets out the location of the asbestos-containing material and how the risk from this material will be managed will be prepared and steps will be taken to put the plan into action. The plan or register will be made available and the arrangements will be reviewed at regular intervals or when there has been a significant change to the diocese or personnel.
 - **Access to Asbestos-containing Materials** - Access to asbestos-containing materials in the premises will be controlled so as to prevent inadvertent disturbance of the material and the release of asbestos fibres. Systems will be put in place to ensure that anyone liable to disturb asbestos-containing materials is made aware of their location.
 - **Monitoring and Maintenance** - The condition of all asbestos-containing materials or materials suspected of containing asbestos will be inspected at agreed intervals to ascertain that there has been no damage or deterioration. Where damage or deterioration is found the asbestos-containing material will be reassessed and repaired or removed as appropriate.

Asbestos-related Emergencies

Procedures to deal with asbestos-related incidents will be in place (including the provision of information and warning systems) unless there is only a slight risk to the health of Office holders, Employees and Volunteers.

Arrangements for Controlling Work on Asbestos

Any work on, or removal of, asbestos-containing materials will be controlled to ensure that adequate precautions are taken to prevent the release of asbestos fibres.

Work with asbestos and asbestos-containing materials is to be carried out by a licensed contractor (licensed by the HSE) unless the work is exempted from the requirement for licensing.

Selection and Control of Contractors to Work on Asbestos-containing Materials

When contractors are engaged to work on the premises, adequate steps will be taken to ensure the contractors are competent and have sufficient skills and knowledge to do the job safely and without risks to health.

Only contractors licensed by the HSE will be used for the removal of asbestos-containing materials, unless the work involves the removal of materials in which:

- asbestos fibres are firmly linked in a matrix
- the exposure during the removal process is likely to be sporadic or of low intensity.

Contractors hired to carry out building or allied trade work that will involve minor work with asbestos must comply with the Control of Asbestos Regulations.

Procedures for Dealing with Health and Safety Issues

Where an employee or volunteer raises a health and safety problem related to work with asbestos, the diocese will:

- take all necessary steps to investigate the circumstances
- take corrective measures where appropriate
- advise the employee of actions taken.

Where a problem arises relating to the condition of, or during work on, asbestos-containing material, the employee or volunteer must:

- inform a responsible person immediately, usually a supervisor or manager
- in the case of an accident or emergency, respond quickly to ensure effective treatment.

Communication and Consultation

It is a legal requirement for the diocese to establish arrangements to communicate and consult with Office holders, Employees and Volunteers on issues affecting their health and safety and to take account of their views.

To achieve this objective we will:

- establish effective lines of communication
- involve and consult with Office holders, Employees and Volunteers through:
 - individual conversations
 - notice boards
 - internal publications
 - clergy, staff and volunteer meetings
 - health and safety meetings.
- display the 'Health and Safety Law – What You Need To Know' poster
- consult with Office holders, Employees and Volunteers when changes to processes, equipment, work methods etc. are to be introduced that may affect their health and safety.

Disabled Persons

The diocese will give full and proper consideration to the needs of disabled Office holders, Employees and Volunteers and visitors.

To achieve this, the diocese will:

- treat all disabled Office holders, Employees and Volunteers and visitors with respect and dignity, both in the provision of a safe working environment and in equal access to the diocese's facilities
- ensure that risk assessments are undertaken of the special needs of the disabled and carry out reasonable adjustments to the premises and/or employment arrangements
- encourage Office holders, Employees and Volunteers with special needs to suggest any premises or task improvements to their line managers
- discipline any Office holders, Employees and Volunteers found treating their disabled colleagues with less than the expected standards of respect and dignity
- in an emergency evacuation, ensure suitable plans are in place which will assist disabled people to leave the premises swiftly.

Display Screen Equipment

All reasonable steps will be taken by the diocese to secure the health and safety of Office holders, Employees and Volunteers who work with display screen equipment.

To achieve this objective the diocese will:

- carry out an assessment of each user's workstation
- implement necessary measures to remedy any risks found as a result of the assessment
- provide adequate information and training to persons working with display screen equipment
- endeavour to incorporate changes of task within the working day, to prevent intensive periods of on-screen activity
- review software to ensure that it is suitable for the task and is not unnecessarily complicated
- arrange for the provision of free eye tests when requested, at regular intervals thereafter and where a visual problem is experienced
- arrange for the supply, at a subsidised cost (to be discussed with the business manager) for any corrective appliances (glasses or contact lenses) where these are required specifically for working with display screen equipment
- advise existing Office holders, Office holders, Employees and Volunteers and Volunteers, and all persons applying for work with display screen equipment, of the risks to health and how these are to be avoided
- investigate any discomfort or ill-health believed to be associated with the use of display screen equipment and take appropriate remedial action
- make special arrangements for individuals with health conditions that could be adversely affected by working with display screen equipment.

Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must:

- comply with the instructions and training given regarding safe workstation set-up and use, including the need for regular changes of activity or breaks and the use of the equipment provided
- inform their departmental supervisor/line manager of any disability or health condition which may affect their ability to work using display screen equipment or be affected by working with DSE (this information will be treated confidentially)
- report to their departmental supervisor/line manager any discomfort or health concern believed to be associated with the use of DSE (this information will be treated confidentially).

Driving for Work

Driving is an integral part to some roles within the diocese and as such requires driving on diocesan business. Driving has inherent risks associated with it which drivers should be made aware of.

The diocese is committed to reducing the risks its staff face or create when driving at work and therefore will:

- ensure risk assessments are completed and that journeys are planned
- not put unreasonable time constraints on travel
- ensure those driving for business are competent (and where required, authorised) and fit
- provide any additional training that may be deemed necessary to reduce driving related occupational risks
- provide sufficient information and guidance for managers and drivers to enable them to understand the additional occupational risks involved in driving
- establish a travel plan which will limit the requirement for travel and make provisions for long journeys
- require drivers to annually submit copies of their insurance, the MOT certificate or evidence of the MOT exemption for their vehicle and their current driving licence.

Implementation

The diocese asks its entire staff to play their part, whether they use a diocesan vehicle, their own or a hire vehicle.

Drivers

Drivers will remain responsible for their safety and others and must comply with the Highway Code and Road Traffic Act.

It is the responsibility of drivers to inform their manager of:

- anything that could affect their driving e.g. health conditions or injuries, use of prescribed medication
- changes to licence such as; limitations, offences recorded, period bans
- vehicle defects that affect ability / safety to drive
- any accidents / incidents that occurred whilst driving on behalf of the diocese.

Before driving, drivers must

- review the need to travel
- have a valid licence for the vehicle they are driving and for any overseas travel if required
- ensure valid insurance for business use
- carry out a pre-use vehicle check
- allow sufficient time to drive allowing for traffic, poor weather and rest breaks
- ensure sufficient rest
- be physically fit, with zero alcohol level and not under the influence of drugs that may affect the ability to drive

- be physically fit and have a level of alcohol below the maximum limit allowed, ideally zero and not under influence of any drugs that may affect the ability to drive
- have had an eye test in last 2 years and be using any required corrective appliance
- adjust their driving position, head restraints and mirrors to ensure maximum comfort and safety.

Whilst driving, drivers must

- drive in accordance with the applicable law and with consideration for the safety of passengers and other road users
- take regular rest breaks every 2-3 hours or at first signs of tiredness
- remain in control of the vehicle at all times
- not smoke in a diocese vehicle
- only use hands free electronic devices e.g. mobile phone, satellite navigation, mp3 player, when safely set up to do so i.e. using an appropriate hands-free device
- follow all safety instructions when taking their vehicle on board ferries, trains or other vehicle-carrying craft, including parking and leaving their vehicle on a vehicle deck and travelling in a designated passenger area while the craft is underway.

Diocesan Senior Office holders and Managers

Managers should ensure that the driving policy is brought to the attention of drivers and they will:

- lead by example, both in the way they drive and by not tolerating poor driving practices amongst colleagues
- challenge unsafe attitudes and behaviours and encourage staff to drive safely
- monitor compliance with the driving policy at team meetings, staff appraisals and periodic checks

Electricity

All reasonable steps will be taken to secure the health and safety of Office holders, Employees and Volunteers who use, operate or maintain electrical equipment.

To ensure this objective the diocese will:

- ensure electrical installations and equipment are installed in accordance with the Wiring Regulations (BS 7671) published by the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET)
- maintain the fixed installation in a safe condition by carrying out routine safety tests
- inspect and test portable and transportable equipment as often as required to ensure safety
- promote and implement a safe system of work for maintenance, inspection and testing
- ensure Office holders, Employees and Volunteers who carry out electrical work are competent to do so
- maintain detailed records.

Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must:

- visually check electrical equipment for damage before use
- report any defects found to their line manager/supervisor
- not use defective electrical equipment
- not carry out any repair to any electrical item unless qualified to do so
- switch off non-essential equipment from the mains when left unattended for long periods
- not bring any electrical item onto the diocese premises until it has been tested and a record of such a test has been included in the appropriate record
- not leave electric cables in such a position that they will cause a tripping hazard or be subject to mechanical damage.

Environment

All reasonable steps will be taken to protect the environment. In order to discharge its responsibilities the diocesan and parish management will:

- comply fully with all relevant legal requirements, codes of practice and regulations
- prevent pollution to land, air and water
- reduce water and energy use
- minimise waste and increase recycling within the framework of our waste management procedures
- identify and manage environmental risks and hazards
- involve volunteers and visitors suppliers and subcontractors in the implementation of our objectives
- promote environmentally responsible purchasing
- provide suitable training to enable Office holders, Employees and Volunteers to deal with their specific areas of environmental control
- improve the environmental efficiency of our transport and travel
- establish targets to measure the continuous improvement in our environmental performance
- eliminate risks to the environment through selection and design of buildings, facilities, equipment and processes. Where risks cannot be eliminated they will be minimised by the use of physical controls or, as a last resort, through systems of work and personal protection
- only engage contractors who are able to demonstrate due regard to environmental matters
- bring the Environmental Policy Statement to the attention of all Office holders, Employees and Volunteers and parishioners.

Environmental complaints procedure

On receipt of a complaint about any environmental related matter the following procedure will be implemented:

- the name, address and contact details will be taken from the complainant along with details of the complaint including dates, times, frequency, impact and location
- full details of the complaint will be recorded and passed to the Office holder or diocesan manager for an investigation to be instigated
- investigations will be commenced at the earliest opportunity and at least within 24 hours
- where the complaint is found to be justified immediate measures will be taken to remedy the problem as far as is reasonably practicable
- results of all investigations will be recorded and copied to the complainant, the diocesan manager
- the complainant will be kept advised of the results of any investigation and the measures being taken to seek a solution; including details of the proposed timescales where immediate resolution is not possible.

All Office holders, Employees and Volunteers are responsible for working towards the objectives contained within this policy.

Fire

All reasonable steps will be taken to prevent a fire occurring. In the event of fire, the safety of life will override all other considerations, such as saving property and extinguishing the fire.

In order to prevent fire and to minimise the likelihood of injury in the event of a fire the diocese will:

- assess the risk from fire at our premises and implement appropriate control measures
- ensure good housekeeping standards are maintained to minimise the risk of fire
- provide and maintain safe means of escape from the premises
- develop a fire evacuation procedure for all buildings
- provide and maintain appropriate fire-fighting equipment
- regularly stage fire evacuation drills, inspect the means of escape and test and inspect fire-fighting equipment, emergency lighting and any fire warning systems
- provide adequate fire safety training to Office holders, Office holders, Employees and Volunteers and Volunteers, plus specialist training to those with special responsibilities
- make arrangements for the safe evacuation of deaf or otherwise disabled persons
- make arrangements for ensuring all visitors are made aware of the fire evacuation procedures
- display fire action notices
- keep fire safety records.

The diocese does not require persons to attempt to extinguish a fire but extinguishing action may be taken if it is safe to do so.

Immediate evacuation of the building must take place as soon as the evacuate signal is given. All occupants, on evacuation, should report to the pre-determined assembly points.

Re-entry of the building is strictly prohibited until the fire brigade officer or a senior person present declares it is safe to do so.

Office holders, Employees and Volunteers are encouraged to report any concerns regarding fire procedures so the diocese can investigate and take remedial action if necessary.

Hazardous Substances (COSHH)

All reasonable steps will be taken to ensure all exposure of Office holders, Employees and Volunteers to substances hazardous to health is prevented or at least controlled to within statutory limits.

The diocese will implement the following:

- maintain an inventory of all substances hazardous to health kept or present on site and retain copies of relevant hazard data sheets
- competent persons will be appointed to carry out risk assessments of the exposure to substances hazardous to health and advise on their control
- all operations which involve, or may involve, exposure to substances hazardous to health will be assessed and appropriate control measures will be taken if elimination or substitution of the substance is not possible
- engineering controls will be properly maintained by planned preventive maintenance and annual performance monitoring to ensure continued effectiveness
- systems of work will be reviewed at suitable intervals and revised if necessary
- all Office holders, Employees and Volunteers and others who may work in the affected areas will be informed of the purpose and safe operation of all engineering controls
- personal protective equipment (PPE) will only be used as a last resort or as a back-up measure during testing or modification of other controls
- the type and use of PPE will be carefully assessed and maintained according to manufacturers' instructions
- assessments will be reviewed periodically or if changes to the operation or any hazardous substances used
- qualified professionals, where necessary, will carry out health surveillance
- employee health records of all exposures to substances hazardous to health will be kept for a minimum of 40 years
- all Office holders, Employees and Volunteers will be provided with understandable information and appropriate training on the nature of the hazardous substances they work with Office holders, Employees and Volunteers will be informed about any monitoring and health surveillance results
- all changes to control measures and changes of PPE will be properly assessed and no new substances will be introduced into the workplace without prior assessment.

Information and Training

The diocese will give sufficient information and training to ensure full understanding of the hazards to health posed by substances in the workplace and the importance of the control measures provided. Information will also be given to others who may be affected such as contractors, temporary staff and visitors where appropriate.

Office holders and volunteers of areas which use substances hazardous to health will be given additional training to ensure the proper management of the risks.

Health, Safety and Welfare

The diocese is committed to providing suitable health, safety and welfare facilities in line with current legislation, in particular the provision of:

- adequate maintenance of workplace and equipment
- appropriate ventilation, temperature control and lighting
- suitable cleanliness and housekeeping standards
- adequate workspace
- properly designed workstations
- well maintained traffic routes and floors
- appropriate fall protection
- suitable glazing
- safe access and egress (well maintained exits and entrances)
- appropriate sanitary and washing facilities
- separate toilet facilities for men and women
- plentiful wholesome drinking water supply and cups
- seating with an incorporated back rest
- facilities for rest periods, hot drinks and meals preparation
- showering facilities if the nature of an Office holders, Employees and Volunteers' work requires this
- appropriate first aid provision
- appropriate emergency, fire and evacuation equipment and procedures.

The diocese recognises these responsibilities are required for any work whether on a remote work site, at their usual workplace or central services.

Legionnaires Disease

All reasonable steps will be taken to identify potential legionellosis hazards and to prevent or minimise the risk of exposure.

At risk systems include the hot and cold water storage and distribution system and the wet cooling of air in the air conditioning system

To achieve control of legionella bacteria the diocese will implement the following:

Avoidance of Conditions Favouring Growth of Organisms

As far as practicable, water systems will be operated at temperatures that do not favour the growth of legionella. The recommended temperature for hot water is 60°C and either above 50°C or below 20°C for distribution, as care must be taken to protect people from exposure to very hot water.

The use of materials that may provide nutrients for microbial growth will be avoided. Corrosion, scale deposition and build-up of bio films and sediments will be controlled and tanks will be lidded.

Avoidance of Stagnation

Dead-legs, which occur when water services leading from the main circulation water system to taps or appliances, are used only intermittently and other parts of systems which may provide a reservoir for infection will be identified and where possible eliminated.

- **System Maintenance**

Water systems will be disinfected by an effective means before being taken into service and after shut downs of five or more days. Plant will be regularly inspected and maintained (e.g. by monthly visits from a water treatment specialist). Plant will be disinfected periodically (normally twice yearly) by chlorination or by temporarily raising water temperatures. Biocides may be used to control microbial growth. Maintenance personnel must wear appropriate protective clothing.

- **Sampling**

Sampling for legionella will not normally be necessary, unless in the case of an outbreak or to monitor the effectiveness of precautionary measures.

- **Record Keeping**

Records will be kept of all maintenance, temperature monitoring and sampling carried out.

Selection, Training and Competence of Staff

Persons carrying out control measures will receive appropriate training and supervision so they are able to perform their duties competently.

Action in the Event of an Outbreak

A contingency plan in case of an outbreak of legionellosis will be prepared. This will include the:

- identification of people who may have been exposed
- involvement of public health authorities
- dissemination of information to Office holders, Employees and Volunteers and other interested parties as to the nature of the risks.

Lone Working

The diocese will ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that Office holders, Employees and Volunteers and self-employed contractors who are required to work alone or unsupervised for significant periods of time are protected from risks to their health and safety.

The diocese will determine, by risk assessment, those activities where work can actually be done safely by one unaccompanied person. This will include the identification of hazards from means of access and/or egress, plant, machinery, goods, substances, environment and atmosphere, etc.

Particular consideration will be given to:

- the remoteness or isolation of workplaces
- any problems of communication
- the possibility of interference, such as violence or criminal activity from other persons
- the nature of injury or damage to health and anticipated "worst case" scenario.

Information and Training

Office holders, Employees and Volunteers and others will be given all necessary information, instruction, training and supervision to enable them to recognise the hazards and appreciate the risks involved with working alone.

Office holders, Employees and Volunteers will be required to follow the safe working procedures devised including:

- when working alone, e.g. in an isolated area of a building with all doors closed, ensure that someone is aware of your presence
- check that work being done has been subject to risk assessment and check the assessment yourself – some work may have been identified as requiring the assistance of a second person
- if possible and arranged beforehand, keep in regular contact with someone else, e.g. use a mobile phone to call into the office or a designated buddy/contact every couple of hours indicating your movements
- do not put yourself at risk; if you do not feel safe discuss the situation with your immediate manager
- report all accidents, injuries, near-misses and dangerous occurrences to your immediate manager.

Manual Handling

To prevent injuries and long term ill-health from manual handling the diocese will ensure that operations which involve manual handling are eliminated, so far as is reasonably practicable. Where it is not practical the diocese will carry out a manual handling risk assessment to determine what control measures are required to reduce the risk to an acceptable level.

To implement this policy the diocese will ensure that:

- manual handling risk assessments are carried out where relevant and records are kept
- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers are properly supervised
- adequate information and training is provided to persons carrying out manual handling activities including details of the approximate weights of loads to be handled and objects with an uneven weight distribution
- any injuries or incidents relating to manual handling are investigated, with remedial action taken
- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers adhere to safe systems of work
- safety arrangements for manual handling operations are monitored and reviewed
- where relevant, Office holders, Employees and Volunteers undertaking manual handling activities are suitably screened for reasons of health and safety, before doing the work
- special arrangements are made for individuals with health conditions which could be adversely affected by manual handling operations.

Reducing the risk of injury

In considering the most appropriate controls, an ergonomic approach to designing the manual handling operation will optimise the health, safety and productivity associated with the task.

Techniques of risk reduction will include:

- mechanical assistance
- redesigning the task
- reducing risk factors arising from the load
- improvements in the work environment
- employee selection.

No employee or employee will be required to lift any item that they do not feel confident of doing without risking personal injury.

New and Expectant Mothers

The diocese recognises that the general precautions taken to protect the health and safety of the workforce as a whole may not in all cases protect new and expectant mothers and there may be occasions when, due to their condition, different and/or additional measures will be necessary.

To implement effective measures for new and expectant mothers the diocese will ensure that:

- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers are instructed at induction to inform their relevant manager of their condition at the earliest possible opportunity and that the highest level of confidentiality is maintained at all times
- risk assessments are carried out for all work activities undertaken by new and expectant mothers and associated records and documentation maintained
- necessary control measures identified by the risk assessment are implemented, followed, monitored, reviewed and, if necessary, revised
- new and expectant mothers are informed of any risks to them and/or their child and the controls measures taken to protect them
- any adverse incidents are immediately reported and investigated
- appropriate training etc is provided where suitable alternative work is offered and accepted
- provision is made to support new and expectant mothers who need to take time off work for medical reasons associated with their condition
- where relevant a suitable rest area is provided to enable the new or expectant mother to rest in a degree of privacy and calm
- where risks cannot be eliminated or reduced to an acceptable level then consideration will be given to adjusting working conditions and/or hours or if necessary providing suitable alternative work or suspension with pay.

Risk Assessment

Risk assessment is a systematic examination of what within our diocese can cause harm to people and it helps us determine whether we are doing enough or further actions are required to reduce the likelihood of injury or ill health.

Our policy is to complete a general risk assessment of all our known and reasonably foreseeable health and safety hazards covering all our premises, equipment and activities in order to plan and prioritise the implementation of the identified control measures.

More detailed specific risk assessments will also be carried out as determined by the general assessment to address those premises, equipment, people or activities to comply with specific legislation or to proactively manage health and safety risks.

We will ensure that:

- assessments are carried out and records are kept
- control measures introduced as a result of assessments are implemented and followed
- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers are informed of the relevant results and provided with necessary training
- any injuries or incidents lead to a review of relevant assessments
- assessments are regularly monitored and reviewed
- suitable information, instruction and training will be provided to all persons involved in the risk assessment process.

We may be controlling risks in various ways, determining the effectiveness of those controls is part of our risk assessment process.

Smoking

Exposure to second-hand smoke, also known as passive smoking, increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other illnesses. Ventilation or separating smokers and non-smokers within the same airspace does not stop potentially dangerous exposure.

It is the policy of the diocese that all of its workplaces are smoke-free and that all Office holders, Employees and Volunteers have a right to work in a smoke-free environment.

Smoking is prohibited throughout the entire workplace and this includes the use of all artificial smoking aids (electronic or otherwise) with no exceptions. This includes diocesan vehicles that are used by more than one employee. If you have a diocesan car that is designated for your sole use and that is never used by other Office holders, Employees and Volunteers then you can smoke in it if you wish – but the diocese recommends that you do not do so. This policy applies to all Office holders, Employees and Volunteers, parishioners and visitors.

Implementation

All staff are obliged to adhere to and facilitate the implementation of the policy.

The diocese will ensure that all Office holders, Employees and Volunteers and contractors are aware of the policy on smoking. They will also ensure that all new personnel are given a copy of the policy on recruitment or induction.

Appropriate 'no smoking' signs will be clearly displayed at or near the entrances to the premises. Signs will also be displayed in company vehicles that are covered by the law.

Stress

The Health and Safety Executive define stress as “the adverse reaction people have to excessive pressure or other types of demand placed on them”. This makes an important distinction between pressure, which can be a positive state if managed correctly, and stress which can be detrimental to health.

Stress at work can come about for a variety of reasons. It may be excessive workload, unreasonable expectations, or overly-demanding work colleagues. As a reasonable company, we try to ensure that you are in a pleasant working environment and that you are as free from stress as possible.

We will:

- work to identify all workplace stressors and conduct risk assessments to eliminate stress or control the risks from stress
- regularly review risk assessments
- consult with Safety Representatives on issues relating to the prevention of work-related stress
- provide access to confidential counselling for Office holders, Employees and Volunteers affected by stress caused either by work or external factors
- provide training for all managers and supervisory staff in good management practices
- provide adequate resources to enable managers to implement the company’s agreed stress management strategy.

Office holders, Employees and Volunteers who experience unreasonable stress which they think may be caused by work should raise their concerns with their Manager or through the diocese’s grievance procedure.

Following action to reduce the risks, they shall be reassessed. If the risks remain unsustainable by the employee concerned, efforts shall be made to reassign that person to other work for which the risks are assessed as tolerable.

Training

Training in health and safety is a legal requirement and also helps create competent Office holders, Employees and Volunteers at all levels within the diocese to enable them make a far more effective contribution to health and safety, whether as individuals, teams or groups.

Competence of individuals through training helps individuals acquire the necessary skills, knowledge and attitude which will be promoted by Office holders, managers and supervisors throughout the diocese.

Our training objectives will cover three areas, that of the diocese, the job and individuals.

All Office holders, Employees and Volunteers will need to know about:

- the health and safety policy
- the structure and system for delivering this policy.

Office holders, Employees and Volunteers will need to know which parts of the system are relevant to them, to understand the major risks in our activities and how they are controlled. All Office holders, Employees and Volunteers will be provided with the diocesan Health and Safety Handbook.

Managers and supervisors training needs will include:

- leadership and communication skills
- safety management techniques
- skills on training and instruction
- risk assessment
- health and safety legislation
- knowledge of our planning, measuring, review and audit arrangements.

All our Office holders, Employees and Volunteer training needs will include:

- relevant health and safety hazards and risk
- the health and safety arrangements relevant to them
- communication lines to enable problem solving.

All Office holders, Employees and Volunteers will receive **induction training**. Such training will cover:

fire procedures, warning systems, actions to be taken on receiving warning, locations of exits/escape routes, evacuation and assembly procedures, first aid/injury reporting procedures, names of first aiders/appointed persons, instruction on any prohibition areas (i.e. no smoking), issue of protective clothing/equipment and its use, instruction under COSHH, mandatory protection areas, thorough instruction applicable to their particular duties at work etc.

Training needs will be reviewed as a result of job changes, promotion, new activities or new technology, following an accident/incident and performance appraisal.

Records of training will be kept for all Office holders Employees and Volunteers.

Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must:

- participate in the induction training activities they have been required to attend or carry out
- work according to the contents of any training they receive
- ask for clarification of any points they do not fully understand
- not operate hazardous plant or equipment, use hazardous chemicals or carry out any hazardous activity unless they have been appropriately trained and instructed.

Violence

The diocese recognises that in certain situations violent behaviour towards staff may occur and therefore will take all reasonable measures to protect staff from violence and aggression.

We define violence and aggression as:

- actual or threatened physical assaults on staff
- psychological abuse of staff
- verbal abuse which includes shouting, swearing and gestures
- threats against Office holders, Employees and Volunteers

To achieve this objective we will:

- carry out risk assessments of potential conflict situations to determine the control measures necessary to protect staff
- ensure that premises are kept secure
- inform all Office holders, Employees and Volunteers of the procedure following a violent or challenging behaviour incident
- not tolerate violence or challenging behaviour towards our Office holders, Office holders, Employees and Volunteers and Volunteers
- train our Office holders, Employees and Volunteers who may be exposed to violence or challenging behaviour situations
- support the Office holders, Employees and Volunteers involved in any incident
- support their decisions regarding the pressing of criminal charges
- provide any counselling or post-incident assistance required by the Office holders, Office holders, Employees and Volunteers and Volunteers
- keep records of all incidents of violence and aggression and review the control measures with a view to continual improvement in employee safety.

Visitors

In the interest of safety and security, the diocese will take the necessary measures to protect staff and visitors from any accidents or incidents that may occur during visiting.

Office holders, Employees and Volunteers hosting visitors must ensure that:

- they are authorised to enter the premises or accompanied
- they adhere to applicable health and safety instructions and rules during their visit
- adequate information is passed to ensure their safety including emergency information
- any protective clothing required is provided and worn
- any accidents / incidents involving visitors are reported through the accident reporting arrangements.

Office holders, Employees and Volunteers aware of people on the premises who may be unauthorised should report these to the Office holder or staff member for action.

Emergency Action

In the event of the fire alarm sounding, all visitors should be escorted to the assembly point by their host. Visitors should not leave the area before notifying the senior person present.

Work At Height

The diocese will take all reasonable steps to provide a safe working environment for all Office holders, Employees and Volunteers who may be affected by work at height activities.

The diocese will ensure that:

- all work activities that involve work at height are identified and assessed
- the need to undertake work at height will be eliminated whenever it is reasonably practicable to do so
- adequate and secure working platforms with guard rails and toe boards will be used in preference to ladders which will be used for light, short duration work only and secured to prevent displacement
- when necessary, only scaffolds and scaffold towers that have been erected by a competent person will be used
- roof lights and other fragile surfaces will be protected to prevent falls
- risks associated with those activities where work at height cannot be eliminated are evaluated and steps are taken to control them
- all the necessary equipment to allow safe access to and egress from the place of work is provided
- all the necessary equipment to ensure adequate lighting and protection from adverse weather conditions is provided
- suitable plant is provided to enable the materials used or created in the course of the work are safely lifted to and from the workplace and stored there if necessary
- any working platform and its supporting structures are selected and/or designed in accordance with current standards
- regular inspections of all equipment required for working at height are undertaken
- competent persons are appointed to be responsible for the supervision of all work at height and associated activities
- any contractors from whom they procure services comply with this policy.

Information and Training

The diocese shall provide any information, instruction and training required to work in a safe manner when working at height.

Work Equipment

The diocese will provide a safe working environment in relation to work equipment safety and ensure all Office holders, Employees and Volunteers receive appropriate safety information and training in their work equipment.

To achieve this objective the diocese will:

- provide work equipment that is suitable for the purpose and compliant with the requirements of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations
- retain and make available the manufacturer's instruction manual for each item of equipment, where relevant
- before using any item of work equipment, ensure that a risk assessment is carried out and brought to the attention of relevant Office holders, Office holders, Employees and Volunteers and Volunteers
- inspect all equipment at installation and prior to first use
- regularly inspect work equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations
- maintain work equipment in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations
- keep records of all inspections and maintenance
- provide adequate instruction, information and training to Office holders, Employees and Volunteers to enable the work equipment to be used and maintained safely
- provide refresher training as appropriate and as determined necessary by workplace inspections.

Working Time Regulations

The diocese will ensure that all workers under their control adhere to the working time regulations.

The working time regulations are designed to limit the number of hours individuals have to work. The diocese will NOT encourage workers to work over the 48 hours but workers can choose to work longer hours if they wish by opting out. Workers cannot be forced to opt out and can revoke their opt out, if they give a suitable notice period.

Individuals who are tired due to working excessive hours are more likely to suffer from mental health problems, general ill health and make mistakes leading to accidents.

A summary of the requirements for adult workers:

- a maximum of 48 hours per week, averaged out over a 17 week reference period (Office holders, Employees and Volunteers can opt out of this)
- entitlement to a minimum uninterrupted rest period of 11 hours in every 24-hour period with no opt out
- entitlement to 28 days paid holiday per year (including statutory holidays) for full time workers (pro-rata for part time workers)
- maximum of 8 hours per shift for night shift workers
- free health assessments for night shift workers
- 24 hour rest period at least once a week, can be 48 hours every fortnight with no opt out
- entitlement to a rest break, if working over six hours
- Office holders, Employees and Volunteers must not suffer any detriment if they choose not to opt out.

Travelling to and from the normal work place, break periods, rest periods, holidays and sickness do not count as working time.

The reference period of 17 weeks can be increased 26 weeks or 52 weeks by local collective agreements with recognised trade unions or official employee representatives.

A young person's maximum hours are limited to 40 hours per week with no reference period.

Young persons are generally excluded from shift working.

Further information

All Office holders, Employees and Volunteers should refer to the Employee Contract for full details of the diocese's policy on working times, holidays and other benefits.

RISK ASSESSMENT

7. RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment involves identifying the hazards present in the work place or arising out of any work activity and evaluating the extent of the risks involved to Office holders, Employees and Volunteers and others, taking into account existing precautions and their effectiveness.

A **hazard** is something with a potential to cause harm and can include articles, substances, plant or machines, methods of work and the work environment.

Risk is the likelihood of harm from that hazard being realised. Risk increases with the number of people exposed to the hazard and also with the potential severity of the harm i.e. the resultant injury or ill health effect. If there are no hazards there are no risks.

The regulations require that risk assessments are '**suitable and sufficient**' in that they should identify all the significant hazards present within the business and its activities and that they should be proportionate to the risk. The assessment should cover all risks that are reasonably foreseeable.

The risk assessment must identify all those people who may be affected by the hazard, whether they are workers or others, such as members of the public.

We may be controlling risks in various ways, determining the effectiveness of those controls is part of the risk assessment process.

Health and safety law does not demand absolute safety when considering what safety controls are required but measures taken should go as far as is '**reasonably practicable**'; a balance between risk and costs, the greater the risk the greater the need to commit resources in terms of time and money to remove or control the risk.

It is a legal requirement that the significant findings of our risk assessments are brought to the attention of our Office holders, Office holders, Employees and Volunteers and Volunteers.

Carrying out risk assessments

Those who are involved in risk assessments should:

- be competent
- have knowledge and experience of working procedures in practice, potential dangers and strengths and weaknesses of existing precautions
- have knowledge and experience of how to solve problems identified by the assessment
- be in a position to give the commitment, co-operation and resources required to implement the assessment results.

It is important that the person carrying out the risk assessment is competent. This means that the person must have the necessary skills and knowledge gained through experience and training and may have qualifications that enable them to make sound judgments.

The five stages of risk assessment

STEP 1 - IDENTIFY THE HAZARDS

Look for hazards by walking around the workplace. List the hazards that could reasonably be expected to cause harm. Ask for the opinion of Office holders, Employees and Volunteers as they may have noticed things that are not immediately obvious.

Examples of hazards include:

- cables trailing over floors
- fire
- chemicals
- work benches which are too high or too low
- electricity
- loads which have to be moved manually
- work equipment
- working environment e.g. ventilation, lighting, heating.

STEP 2 - IDENTIFY WHO MAY BE HARMED AND HOW

List groups of people and individuals who may be affected by the hazards e.g.:

- staff
- members of the public
- contractors on the premises.

Pay particular attention to vulnerable persons, e.g. those with disabilities, visitors, Employees and Volunteers who are pregnant or who have recently returned to work after having a baby, inexperienced Office holders, Employees and Volunteers or young persons.

STEP 3 - EVALUATE AND CONTROL THE RISK

Evaluate the risks arising from the hazards and decide whether existing precautions are adequate or if more should be done. When evaluating the extent of the risk, account should be taken of the chance of some harm occurring (likelihood), the likely severity of this, and the number of people who could be affected. The formula:

Severity x Likelihood = Risk

Is used on the risk forms within this policy manual

Even after all precautions have been taken some risk may remain. Ensure the precautions in place meet standards set by legal requirements comply with a recognised standard, represent good practice and reduce the risk as far as is reasonably practicable.

Where additional controls or further action are necessary to reduce the risk, decide what more could reasonably be done by adopting the following principles:

- avoid the risk completely
- evaluate risks which cannot be avoided
- combat risks at source

- adapt work to the individual
- make use of technical progress
- replace the dangerous with none or less dangerous
- develop an overall prevention policy
- give priority to measures which protect the greatest number of people
- give appropriate instructions to Office holders, Employees and Volunteers

IMPLEMENTING AN ACTION PLAN

Once the level of risk has been determined and the control measures needed to reduce or eliminate the risk established, an action plan should be drawn up with timescales for implementation of the control measures.

STEP 4 - RECORD YOUR FINDINGS

The significant findings of the assessment must be recorded since these provide evidence that something has been done, it is also a legal requirement. Keep any written assessments for future reference and ensure that Office holders, Employees and Volunteers are informed of the findings and control measures, either existing or additional, that have to be observed and used. In some circumstances the findings of the risk assessment should also be given to others who could be affected, for example agency workers, contractors etc.

Hazards and example controls

Hazard	Example control measures
Manual handling	Mechanical aids, hoists, getting assistance, breaking loads into smaller units, training
Hazardous substances	Substitution for less hazardous alternatives, extract ventilation, personal protective equipment, training
Work equipment (machinery, tools, etc.)	Guarding, demarcation of danger zones, restricted operation and use planned preventative maintenance, training
Ladders	Avoid working at height. correct type of ladder/stepladders, maintained, training
Electricity	Insulated tools, residual circuit breakers, fuses, earthing, inspection and testing of systems and appliances
Stairs, etc	Good lighting, handrails, non-slip surfaces, slightly raised/highlighted front edges
Fire	Detection/warning systems, fire drills, extinguishers, signs, suitable storage facilities for substances and goods, fire retardant furniture and fittings
Noise	Reduction at source, isolation, ear protection, demarcation of danger zones

Stress	Reduce/increase workload, more control over work, work suitable for the individual, avoidance of monotonous repetitive work
Work environment	Good lighting, ventilation, redesign layout of area, heaters/coolers

STEP 5 - MONITOR AND REVIEW THE ASSESSMENT

It is important that the control measures are monitored and that records are kept. A regular review of the assessments should be made to take into account any changes to the methods or systems of work. You should also review the assessment following an accident, where there has been a significant change to the work, if new information comes to light, or if there is any other reason to believe that it may no longer be valid. Following the review, additional control measures should be implemented if required. Even if there are no significant changes since the original risk assessment, it should be regularly reviewed to confirm that it is still relevant and valid.

Fire Risk Assessment

A fire risk assessment is an organised and methodical look at the premises, the activities carried on there and the likelihood that a fire could start and cause harm to those in and around the premises.

The aims of the fire risk assessment are:

- to identify the fire hazards
- to reduce the risk of those hazards causing harm to as low as reasonably practicable
- to decide what physical fire precautions and management arrangements are
- necessary to ensure the safety of people in your premises if a fire does start.

The significant findings of the fire risk assessment, the actions to be taken as a result of the assessment and details of anyone especially at risk must be recorded.

It is important that the fire risk assessment is carried out in a practical and systematic way and that enough time is allocated to do a proper job. It must take the whole of your premises into account, including outdoor locations and any rooms and areas that are rarely used. Small premises may be able to assess as a whole, in larger premises you may find it helpful to divide them into rooms or a series of assessment areas using natural boundaries, e.g. process areas, offices, stores, as well as corridors, stairways and external routes.

Risk assessments must take account of other users of the buildings and co-operation and communication of hazard and risk must be shared between businesses to ensure a co-ordinated response is prepared and implemented.

You need to appoint one or more competent persons to carry out any of the preventive and protective measures needed to comply with the legislation. This person could be you, or an appropriately trained, employee or, where appropriate, a third party.

Your fire risk assessment should demonstrate that, as far as is reasonable, you have considered the needs of all relevant persons, including disabled people.

Six Steps to Fire Risk Assessment

1. Identify the hazards

- Sources of ignition
- Sources of fuel
- Sources of oxygen.

2. Identify people at risk

- Office holders, Office holders, Employees and Volunteers and Volunteers
- People in and around the premises
- Vulnerable persons, disabled etc.

3. Evaluate, remove, reduce and protect from risk

- Evaluate the risk of fire occurring
- Evaluate the risk to people from fire
- Remove or reduce the fire hazards
- Remove or reduce the risks to people.

4. Consider:

- Detection and warning
- Fire fighting
- Escape routes and travel distances
- Lighting
- Signs and notices
- Maintenance.

5. Record, plan, inform, instruct and train

- Record the significant findings and action taken
- Prepare an emergency plan
- Inform and instruct relevant people; co-operate and co-ordinate with other businesses
- Provide training.

6. Review

- Keep assessment under review
- Revise where necessary.

MONITORING HEALTH AND SAFETY

8. MONITORING OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

Measurement is essential to maintain and improve our health and safety performance to identify how effectively we are controlling risks and how well we are developing a positive health and safety culture.

There are two types of performance monitoring, active and reactive.

Proactive monitoring

Monitoring is an Office Holder's or managers responsibility and each of the key management positions are expected to play their part in monitoring achievement against relevant health and safety standards. Office holders and Managers will be expected to provide evidence that they have carried out monitoring within their areas of responsibility and they are reinforcing their commitment to health and safety objectives in general and helping to develop a health and safety culture.

This approach to proactive monitoring gives the diocese feedback on its performance before an accident, incident or case of ill health.

Managers and supervisors with defined health and safety responsibilities must monitor in detail the areas for which they have day to day control. Much of this checking will be informal and not recorded but formalised, structured checks are also essential to ensure all areas are covered and to demonstrate compliance to senior managers who must in turn seek assurance that first line monitoring is taking place.

Office holders, Employees and Volunteers who take a proactive interest or represent groups for health and safety can also be involved with monitoring and may take the format of a health and safety tour or if more formally via a devised checklist.

Reactive monitoring

Reactive monitoring of events including accidents, incidents, cases of ill health or property damage provide an opportunity to check performance and learn from mistakes and improve control measures.

Trends and common features arising from accident and incident investigation can identify jobs or activities where future health and safety initiatives would be most beneficial. Investigations may also provide valuable information in the event of legal action or an employee claim.



Rt Rev Peter M Brignall

Bishop of Wrexham

