

Carlisle & Hampton Hill Federation

Managing Contractors Guidance & Policy

Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must work to provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

UNICEF Article 24 Convention on the Rights of the Child



Statutory Policy:	No
Source of policy e.g. AfC	Federation
Date of review:	March 2025
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Staff member responsible:	D Fawcett
Governor name & committee responsibility:	Finance and Premises Committee
This policy was ratified by Full Governing Body (if applicable):	
Date next due for review:	March 2028

Legal Requirements

Any person or company commissioned by an organisation to provide discrete services within the terms of a legally binding contract is defined as a contractor for the purposes of this policy. The Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 requires employers to ensure the safety of their employees, other people such as contractors and members of the public affected by the employer's business. Contractors are obliged not to endanger themselves, their colleagues and other people affected by their work.

The use of contractors is widespread across most organisations. In some cases contractor staff may be based permanently on site, for example cleaning or catering staff, or contractors may be engaged for one-off pieces of work, either short term repair or installation work, or a major programme of demolition and construction. As such this document is split into four parts, a general statement of policy and sections covering the most common circumstances under which contractors are used.

Part:	Description:
Part A:	General Statement of Policy for contractors working on school sites.
Part B:	Regular contracts on site; this is broken down further to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Contractors either based or largely based on site, for example cleaners and caterers;❖ Contractors that undertake regular site visits for example, those carrying out statutory inspection and testing, (fire alarm inspection and maintenance or water bacterial testing etc.) In some cases this may be the same person visiting site each time but may not always be the case.
Part C:	Contractors engaged for one-off and/or short duration work, (this work may fall under the Construction Design Management Regs).

Part D:	<p>The use of contractors for longer duration/large scale work, such as demolition, refurbishment and/or construction work. This work would definitely be covered by the Construction Design Management Regs and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Work organised in-house by your organisation; ❖ Work organised by an outside agency, such as your host borough, Achieving for Children or the Diocese
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Part A Statement of Policy

Carlisle Infants & Hampton Hill Federation maintains high standards of health & safety and requires contractors and their staff to undertake their work in a way that does not put themselves or others at risk.

Arrangements are in place in order that any work undertaken on school premises is carried out in a way that does not put school pupils or staff at risk and prevents unauthorised persons from entering the area where work is being undertaken.

The standards and rules outlined in this policy are in addition to any particular agreed systems of work for a specific job. The school will appoint a responsible representative for liaison with the contractor and their staff.

The schools reserve the right to require the removal from the premises of any members of the contractor's staff who do not comply with the school requirements or who put themselves, or others, at risk. The schools similarly reserve the right to require the removal of any plant, equipment, or material, which, in the opinion of the school representative, is dangerous when used in the way intended by the contractor.

Selection of Contractors:

Carlisle & Hampton Hill Federation understands it has a legal responsibility to manage work involving contractors so as to minimise risks to employees, the contractor's employees and others, such as pupils and visitors, who may be affected by the work.

This responsibility extends to the choice of a contractor who is competent to undertake the work safely and to the exchange of information between the contractor and the school.

When choosing contractors directly, the school makes use of a Safety Systems in Procurement, (SSiP) pre- assessment scheme, such as CHAS (Contractors Health and Safety Scheme) in order to ensure that the organisation chosen has the legally required health & safety standards in place.

In addition to this, the school ensures the contractors are suitably qualified, e.g. NICEIC for electricians, Gas Safe Registered for gas contractors.

In planning work, the school requires the contractor's method statements and risk assessments in advance of

the commencement of work.

Provision of Emergency Information:

The school fire procedure, including the method of raising the alarm, the location of the fire alarm call points, fire extinguishers, escape routes and the fire assembly point, together with the action to be taken if the alarm sounds, will be explained by the school representative before work on the premises is started.

The school representative will also identify the location of any known asbestos in the building/on the site and instruct contractor staff that this must not be disturbed or damaged in any way.

Monitoring of Contractors

All contractors on site, whether engaged directly by the school or by a third party receive regular monitoring. The form and frequency of the monitoring is commensurate with the level of risk of the activity and will be agreed as part of the work planning process.

Guidance

Monitoring standards of Health & Safety during work:

No contractor control system will work if there is not an element of monitoring of the standards actually being achieved in practice. The degree of monitoring will depend on the type of work involved and in particular a greater level of monitoring will be required where the contractor is operating in close proximity to other regular activities.

The purpose of monitoring is to establish that the agreed standards are being achieved and to take action if they are not. Where monitoring indicates that standards are poor, this calls into question whether the contractor can be regarded as competent to undertake similar work in the future.

Monitoring by the school is not intended to be, and should not be regarded as, part of the contractor's supervision arrangements for the work involved. Indeed, if monitoring detects poor standards this may call into question the adequacy of the contractor's supervision.

Where monitoring indicates poor standards this should be addressed with the contracting company concerned and, if necessary, work should be stopped pending the problems being resolved.

Where poor standards are identified, the frequency of monitoring should be increased until confidence is established in the standards being maintained.

Depending on the type of work, the following should be considered with regard to monitoring:

- ❖ Whether the work is being undertaken in line with the agreed rules and procedures for the job. For example, if a job which was planned as requiring scaffolding is being undertaken just with ladders.
- ❖ That they have the agreed arrangements in place for the significant hazards identified, such as work at height or excavations etc. and that they have all of the equipment and Personal Protective Equipment, (PPE) specified in their risk assessments and method statements.
- ❖ Whether the nature of the work, or its location, is different from that originally planned or intended. For example, if work which was planned to be undertaken in a remote area of the site extends to a main entrance to a building.
- ❖ Whether any risks have arisen that were not originally identified. This may particularly occur if the activities of other contractors which were not anticipated become involved. For example, the original planned work may involve fixing floor tiles with a flammable adhesive and it subsequently becomes apparent that a plumber using a blow torch is needed to repair a water leak in the same area.
- ❖ To establish if originally agreed controls are adequate. For example, it may be established that children are managing to gain entry to an area which was fenced off to prevent such entry and better or more fencing is required.

❖ General site cleanliness and security; the access and egress from the site should be clear, the site should be tidy and secure with adequate storage arrangements for tools/equipment and that all work is being correctly supervised.

It is the Policy of Carlisle & Hampton Hill Federation to refuse to engage contractors to undertake work who are not competent to undertake the work safely, even if their quotation for the work involved is the lowest available.

Part B

Regular Contractors Policy

Guidance:

Framework Agreements/Building Management or Facilities Management Providers:

There are a number of ways in which schools can manage the engagement of regular site contractors. These include, being part of a Framework Agreement, buying into a contract managed by a third party organisations and/or buying into a Building Management/Facilities Management contract.

● Framework Agreement:

This is where a number of organisations get together in order to make use of “economies of scale” when procuring contractor services. Whilst these are “group” procurements, one of the organisations will still have to “take the lead”. It is also possible to procure services from the Framework without being part of the Framework.

NB: Framework agreements can be made up of a variety of organisations; they are commonly used by local authorities and it may be that any Framework that the school buys into is managed by a local authority of a borough, geographically well away from the school.

● Contract Managed by Third Party:

This is similar to a Framework, in that another (larger) organisation procures a service from a contractor that the school can then buy into. The rationale being that the larger organisation can negotiate better terms than a small, single school. The main difference to a Framework is that it is one organisation undertaking the procurement rather than a “framework” group.

● **Building Management/Facilities Management Contracts:**

This is where the school obtains its building/facilities management from an outside provider; a single company that provides either its own staff or subcontractors to carry out the building management/facilities management activities at the school.

There are a range of providers, and schools can choose to obtain different levels of service from them. For example, some schools use a facilities management provider for all of the statutory inspection and maintenance requirements; other schools may obtain all of the building management, up to and including on site caretaking activities.

School's Responsibilities:

Where schools make use of any of the above it must confirm:

- ❖ That the lead organisation has suitable assessment processes in place
- ❖ How the contract key performance indicators are monitored and is the school expected to play any part in this?
- ❖ How is the school kept informed of when contractors will be on site and the activities they are undertaking?
- ❖ How is the school kept informed of the findings of any testing and/or inspection carried out?

Part C

One-off or Short Term use of Contractors Policy

The Carlisle and Hampton Hill Federation understands that there are hazards associated with any contractor work and that the risk of incident is increased when the contractors are unfamiliar with the sites and are there to undertake short duration repair and/or upgrade work.

When identifying contractors directly there are arrangements in place, (detailed in Part A) to ensure that they are suitable and competent to carry out the work.

Guidance:

Identifying Suitable Contractors:

It must be established that the contractor is competent to manage health and safety matters both generally and in relation to the particular work involved. General health and safety standards can be assured by the use of organisations that are registered on a Safety Systems in Procurement, (SSiP) database. One example of this is CHAS, (Contractor Health & Safety database) another is Constructionline. However, when using Constructionline, the user must select only those contractors that have achieved the higher level of Health & Safety accreditation, the lower level does not meet the requirements of SSiP.

The competence of the contractor for the particular work involved must be considered in relation to the type of work required to be undertaken and the normal work undertaken by the contractor. For example, a competent gas contractor may be well experienced in gas safety work, but may not have the competence to erect scaffolding to access roof mounted gas heaters. The manager responsible for engaging the contractor should therefore make enquiries as to the training of the contractor's staff to work on, or erect, scaffolding.

The extent to which enquiries are made about the contractor's competence depends on the nature of the risks of the work involved; the higher the risks involved the greater assurance needed in terms of competence.

Where the work involved is significant construction, or building maintenance work falling within the requirements of the Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 2015, then the appointed Principal Designer is responsible for advising on the competence of the Principal Contractor to be appointed.

NB: A full guidance document for CDM, that must be followed, is available on SLA online.

It is understood that any construction, demolition and/or refurbishment, even small scale or short duration, will fall under the requirements of the Construction Design Management Regulations. In order to meet its legal obligations, the school makes use of the Action HR CDM Guidance.

For the following types of work, the school requires a Permit to Work to be in place:

- ❖ Hot work such as welding, flame cutting, the use of bitumen boilers, blow lamps or of hot air paint strippers.
 - ❖ The use of cartridge operated tools.
- ❖ Work in confined spaces such as entering tanks, drains, manholes, sumps, chimneys, ducting, boilers, or compressed air receivers.
 - ❖ Work in lift shafts or under the lift cage.
 - ❖ Work on steam plant or pipework.
 - ❖ Work with high pressure water jetting equipment.
 - ❖ Digging trenches and excavations or drilling boreholes.
- ❖ Work on roofs or involving scaffolding, or mobile, or suspended access equipment (except where the roof has permanent access arrangements and fixed guard railing).
 - ❖ Work near overhead cables.
- v The use of mobile cranes.
- v Work on live electrical equipment.

When the school is organising the work directly, it will be responsible for managing the Permit to Work system; where the work is being organised by a third party, such as the Local Authority, the school will ensure there is an appropriate permit system in place.

Guidance:

Permit(s) to Work:

A Permit to Work, (PtW) System is a formal written system used to control certain types of work that are potentially hazardous. The types of work involved are typically those associated with non-routine maintenance or contractor activities.

The Permit to Work Form details the work to be done and, in particular, the precautions to be taken. The overall Permit to Work System specifies who will issue the Permits and in what circumstances, what type of work is covered by the Permit System and what training is needed for those involved. Generally, the type of work covered by the Permit System is prohibited unless it has been authorised by a Permit.

The issue of a Permit to Work not only grants permission to undertake a particular task, but also specifies the precautions that have been, or must be, taken to ensure that the work is undertaken safely.

A full Permit to Work system and guidance can be found on SLA online.

Hot Work Permit

One of the most commonly used types of PtW is a Hot Work Permit. Hot works can occur at various stages during small or large maintenance or building projects, it can include use of blowlamps, use of cutting tools, welding and other heat producing equipment, use of hot substances e.g. hot bitumen, etc. Such work should be controlled with the use of a Hot Work Permit. This is a formal method of ensuring hot work activities are undertaken safely.

A Hot Work Permit can be found on SLA online

The school ensures that monitoring arrangements are discussed as part of the work planning process. Prior to any work starting it is confirmed that any pre-arranged safety measures, such as Personal Protective Equipment and barriers etc are in place. Checks will take place throughout the work in order that the school can assure itself that work is taking place in line with the agreed risk assessments and method statements.

Part D

Use of Contractors for Large Scale Work Policy

Where large scale work is taking place at the site, Carlisle & Hampton Hill Federation understands that it has legal duties and responsibilities under the Construction Design Management Regulations.

Depending on the work taking place and the organisation initiating and managing the work, the school's duties and responsibilities may vary. To this end the school makes use of the CDM Guidance provided by the Action HR Health & Safety Team and each project is dealt with on a case by case basis.

Guidance:

Construction Design Management:

Managed In-House

It is important for the school to identify whether the Construction (Design & Management) Regulations apply to any building projects that the school manages itself. Guidelines for schools on these regulations are available on SLA online. As client, the school has duties to provide pre-construction information and appoint competent designers and contractors. For projects involving more than one contractor, the school will need to appoint a Principal Designer and a Principal Contractor.

Managed by an Outside Agency

Large-scale school building works undertaken by another organisation, such as your borough/Achieving for Children/the Diocese, should be managed in a formal way by a consultant(s). Meetings should be held in the school with representatives from the initiating organisation, key school staff, the consultant, the Principal Designer and Principal Contractor (as required by the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (**CDM**)). **The Construction Phase** Plan for the work is provided by the Principal Contractor. For work that is notifiable under the Regulations, the borough should ensure the HSE is notified of the project.

On completion of the work the school must be provided with a 'health and safety file' which provides all relevant information about the new building/extension, e.g. future maintenance, identifying where specialist equipment is required to ensure the safety of operatives, etc.

Use of CDM Guidance:

For construction, demolition and refurbishment works the CDM regulations apply. A full guidance document for CDM, that must be followed, is available on SLA online. The guidance covers:

- ❖ Identification of the roles under CDM
 - ❖ Identification of the Client
 - ❖ Establishing the legal duties of each role under CDM
 - ❖ Assessment of competency
- ❖ Contents of, Pre-Construction Information, Construction Phase Plan and the Health & Safety File

Title:	Print Name:	Signed:	Date:
Headteacher:			
School Business Manager:			