

Director: Mr Trevor Cristin

HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSIBILITIES

We would like to share with all our schools the sad death of one of the Caretakers at a school in Brighton & Hove while working at height. The LA have issued notification and guidance to their schools and we want to ensure that similar robust practices are taking place in all our schools across the Diocese. Please see an extract from their information to Brighton & Hove schools below.

“The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has formally written to the council providing notification that there have been contraventions in the health and safety law, explaining what was wrong and what is needed to be done to put things right. There are actions that the council and school must implement in the coming weeks. It is not yet clear if the HSE will be bringing any prosecution as a result of the incident.

The HSE have identified that the template health and safety policy for schools needed to be amended to provide greater signposting to the council’s Working at Height Standard and for schools to ensure they set out their own local arrangements for managing working at heights within their school’s Health and Safety Policy.

Can I remind you at this point that Health and Safety is directly delegated to the Governors and management team of the school. It is your responsibility to ensure that Health and Safety is dealt with on a day to day basis and that you have arrangements in place for monitoring health and safety performance.

It is important to note that working at height is the biggest cause of fatalities in the workplace. It is therefore essential to ensure policies, arrangements and responsibilities are clear and understood. I’d like to reiterate that risk assessment is key to ensuring safe systems of work are established and you must be assured with the arrangements you have in place. The need for assurance applies to the management of all health and safety arrangements in your settings, this includes ensuring all staff are empowered to challenge and stop unsafe practices.”

Please urgently review your policies and practices and ensure that you are undertaking regular Health & Safety audits.

Sally Collins
Capital Asset Programme Manager
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