Premises management policy

The Gates Primary School

Approved by:	Personnel, Finance and Buildings Committee	**Date:** May 2026
Last reviewed on:	NA	
Next review due by:	May 2027	

1. Aims

Our school aims to ensure that it:

- Manages its buildings and equipment in an efficient, legally compliant way
- Inspects and tests buildings and equipment regularly, taking into account statutory requirements and best practice recommendations
- Promotes the safety and wellbeing of our staff, pupils, parents and visitors through effective maintenance of buildings and equipment in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Complies with the requirements of The School Premises (England) Regulations 2012
- Complies with the requirements of the statutory framework for the EYFS

2. Guidance

This document is based on the Department for Education's guidance on good estate management for schools.

3. Roles and responsibilities

The Governing Board, Headteacher, School Business Manager and Site Manager will ensure this premises management policy is properly implemented, and that tests and inspections are carried out in accordance with this policy.

The Headteacher, School Business Manager and Site Manager are responsible for ensuring relevant risk assessments are conducted and for reporting to the governing board, as required.

The Site Manager is responsible for:

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

This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

4. Inspection and testing

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

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

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

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

ISSUE TO INSPECT	FREQUENCY	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Portable appliance testing (PAT)	Annually. Regular visual inspections where PAT is not required. We will refer to HSE guidance on maintaining portable electric equipment for suggested intervals and types of testing/inspection.	Site Manager
Fixed Appliance Testing (FAT) (including lightning conductors)	Annually. Inspection and testing always carried out by a competent person.	Site Manager
Emergency lighting	Monthly flash test. 6-monthly condition test (including 3-hour battery test) by a competent person.	Site Manager
Electrical testing	Every 5 years by competent person checking all electrics in the building	Site Manager

ISSUE TO INSPECT	FREQUENCY	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Gas appliances and fittings	Routinely, in accordance with manufacturer recommendations (or other professional advice if unavailable). Annual safety checks (in line with good practice / required if the premises are used for residential accommodation). All work carried out by a Gas Safe Registered engineer.	Site Manager
Pressure systems/Boilers	Annually. Our programme takes account of the list on page 44 of the HSE's Safety of Pressure Systems guidance, and an examination of the system is carried out by a competent person by the date set at the previous examination – see pages 35 to 37 of the HSE guidance).	Site Manager
Legionella checks on all water systems	Risk assessment of each site carried out and reviewed as required by a competent person. The frequency of monitoring checks varies for evaporative cooling systems, hot and cold water systems and other risk systems – specific details can be found in guidance for each type from the HSE.	Site Manager
Asbestos	No asbestos present – certificate held	N/A
Equipment used for working at height	Inspected before use, and at suitable intervals appropriate to the environment it's used in and how it's used – 6 monthly. In addition, inspections after anything that may affect the safety or stability of equipment, e.g. adverse weather or accidental damage.	Site Manager
Fire detection and alarm systems	Weekly alarm tests, with a different call point tested each week where applicable. Quarterly and annual inspections and tests by a competent person. Fire risk assessment by a competent person also includes the maintenance of fire detection and alarm systems – as required.	Site Manager
Fire doors	Monthly by a competent person.	Site Manager

ISSUE TO INSPECT	FREQUENCY	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Firefighting equipment	Most equipment – extinguishers, fire blankets, hose reels, fixed systems (such as sprinkler systems) and fire service facilities (such as dry risers and access for emergency vehicles) – inspected annually (by a competent person where required) unless manufacturers' guidelines suggest differently.	Site Manager
Intruder Alarm	Annual. Check security system is in working order.	Site Manager
Extraction systems	Regular removal and cleaning of grease filters and cleaning of ductwork for kitchen extraction systems. Local exhaust ventilation systems (such as those for working with hazardous substances) examined and tested at least every 14 months by a competent person. More routine checks also set out in system logbooks.	Site Manager
Chemical storage	Inventories are kept up-to-date. Risk assessments for the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) are reviewed on a regular basis, plus whenever it's considered that the original assessment may no longer be valid, or where the circumstances of the work change significantly and may affect employees' exposure to a hazardous substance (in line with HSE guidance on COSHH assessment).	Site Manager
Playground and gymnasium equipment	Annual inspection by competent person	Site Manager
Tree safety	As part of risk assessment responsibilities, periodic visual checks for stability are carried out, with more detailed assessments if suspected structural faults or other risks are found.	Site Manager in conjunction with Mowitts and LA Tree Audit.
Water Coolers	Biannual (twice per year)	Site Manager

5. Risk assessments and other checks

Please refer to our risk assessment policy for information about the school's approach to risk assessment.

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

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

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

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

6. Monitoring arrangements

The application of this policy is monitored by the Site Manager, School Business Manager and Headteacher through, among other things, visual checks of the school site and equipment, and checks of risk assessments.

Copies of risk assessments and paperwork relating to any checks are kept in the Site Manager's office.

This policy will be reviewed by School Business Manager annually. At every review, the policy will be shared with and approved by Personnel, Finance and Buildings Committee.

7. Links with other policies

This premises management policy is linked to our:

- Health and safety policy
- Risk assessment policy