

# **St. Theresa's Catholic Primary School**

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Catholic Primary School



## **LEGIONELLA MANAGEMENT PLAN**

"We learn together, we play together, we pray together, we grow together in the love of God"

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## Validation Grid

<b>Title</b>	Legionella Management Plan
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<b>Committee</b>	Wellbeing
<b>Target Audience</b>	School Community
<b>Stakeholders Consulted</b>	Governors
<b>Curriculum / Non Curricular</b>	Non Curricular
<b>Associated Policies / Documents</b>	Health & Safety Policy, Critical Incident Policy
<b>New Policy or Review of Existing Policy</b>	New
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Headteacher

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Chair of Governors

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## **Statement of Intent**

- The school recognises its legal responsibilities to take all reasonable precautions to prevent or control the risks to staff, pupils and others from exposure to Legionella bacteria.
- Legionnaires' disease is a potentially fatal form of pneumonia caused by the inhalation of water droplets infected with the legionella bacteria. Legionella bacteria can occur naturally in lakes, rivers, etc. and in the water systems of buildings, such as schools. The bacteria thrive between temperatures of 20°C and 45°C; however, it can be killed by elevated temperatures or chemical treatment methods.
- To comply with its legal duties, the school will:
  - i. Adopt the guiding principles set out in relevant Approved Codes of Practice
  - ii. Identify and assess sources of risk
  - iii. Appoint a 'Responsible Person' to ensure the school meets its health and safety duties and takes responsibility for controlling any identified risk
  - iv. Clearly define the organisational arrangements for achieving compliance (see Roles and Responsibilities)
  - v. First consider whether the risk of Legionella can be prevented
  - vi. Where an identified risk cannot be prevented, prepare, implement and manage a course of action for controlling the risk
  - vii. Keep records and check that what has been done is effective
  - viii. Ensure resources are made available to achieve compliance
  - ix. Ensure all those personnel involved in the management of legionella risks are appropriately informed, instructed, and where necessary, trained and supervised

*Infrequently Used Outlet* is a term used to describe a domestic water outlet that is not used at least once a week for a minimum period of two minutes e.g. emergency showers, toilets or sinks in redundant or little used parts of buildings.

## **1. Legal Framework**

This Policy defines the school's arrangements for the management of Legionella and the measures to be taken for the protection of staff, students and visitors to its premises. It defines how the school will identify and manage the risks arising from exposure to Legionella bacteria in water systems.

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002
- Safety Representatives and Safety Committees Regulations 1977
- Health and Safety (Consultation with Employees) Regulations 1996
- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 2013 (RIDDOR)
- Notification of Cooling Towers and Evaporative Condensers Regulations 1992

This policy has due regard to the following good practice guidance:

- HSE (2013) 'Legionnaires' disease'
- HSE (2014) 'Sensible health and safety management in schools'
- DfE (2018) 'Health and safety: responsibilities and duties for schools'

Copies of those documents referred to above and other useful reference material are available from the Health and Safety Executive website.

## **2. Legionnaires' Disease**

- Legionnaires' disease is a potentially fatal form of pneumonia caused predominantly by the Legionella pneumophila bacteria. Legionella pneumophila and related bacteria are common in natural water sources such as rivers, lakes and reservoirs, but usually in low numbers.
- Since Legionella bacteria are widespread in the environment, they may also contaminate and grow in purpose-built (man-made) water systems such as cooling towers, evaporative condensers and hot and cold water systems. Under certain favourable conditions created in these man-made water systems, Legionella bacteria can multiply, increasing the risk that human exposure to the bacteria will occur. The principal sources of risk within the school are the hot and cold water service and the water tank.
- Legionnaires' disease is normally contracted by inhaling Legionella bacteria in tiny droplets of water (aerosols), deep into the lungs; there is no documented evidence of the disease passing from person to person.

- It can affect anyone, however, some people are at higher risk of infection, including:
  - i. People over 45 years of age
  - ii. Smokers and heavy drinkers
  - iii. People suffering from chronic respiratory or kidney disease
  - iv. People with diabetes, lung and heart disease
  - v. Anyone with an impaired immune system (immunosuppression)
- Legionella bacteria can also cause less serious illnesses which are not fatal or permanently debilitating. The collective term used to cover the group of diseases caused by Legionella bacteria is Legionellosis.

### **3. Roles and Responsibilities**

#### *Governors:*

The Governors are responsible for:

- Ensuring the health and safety of all their employees and pupils
- Appointing suitably qualified Water Treatment Services Providers to manage the necessary procedures for the prevention and control of Legionella

#### *Headteacher:*

The Headteacher is the appointed Responsible Person.

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- Implementing and maintaining the school's planned preventative maintenance system for the control of Legionella bacteria within the school's water distribution systems
- Ensuring that persons carrying out Legionella risk assessments, monitoring and remedial works to operational systems are suitably qualified and competent to do so
- Ensuring that records of risk assessments and precautions are maintained
- Putting in place arrangements for reporting an outbreak or suspected outbreak of Legionnaires' disease
- Reporting to the Governors' Wellbeing Committee on issues regarding managing Legionella
- Ensuring that the requirements of this Policy are implemented
- Ensuring Legionella risk assessments are reviewed regularly, for example when there is any significant change to the installation, a change to the use of the building, or the results of checks indicating that control measures are no longer effective
- Ensuring procedures to manage risk are in place and that actions identified from minimising the risk listed in the risk assessment are reviewed, and actions undertaken accordingly
- Communicating with employees with regard to relevant information on the risks

- and control measures being undertaken to control Legionella bacteria
- Ensuring immediate action in response to notification of positive samples (out of specification results) and for the implementation of remedial actions
- Monitoring the performance of the preferred contractor and discuss deficiencies with the Wellbeing Committee
- Ensuring that Legionella-related incidents are appropriately investigated and, where necessary, reported under RIDDOR
- Ensuring appropriate training is provided

*External Heating Service:*

**SJP Contracts Ltd.** is responsible for maintaining the school's boilers and hot water system.

*External Water Treatment Service:*

**Integrated Water Services (IWS)** is responsible for:

- Delivering a comprehensive water hygiene and control of Legionella bacteria service to ensure the school complies with the Legionella Approved Code of Practice (ACOP L8)
- Carrying out routine testing, monitoring, flushing and cleaning of all systems on a regular basis as agreed in the contract specification
- Examining the test results from the Legionella monitoring programme
- Identifying all recorded defects (including temperatures out-with the required parameters) and ensuring these are communicated to the school
- Keeping records of all such defects and actions taken to rectify them
- Providing a water hygiene and control of Legionella bacteria records management system which complies with the regulations and Legionella Approved Code of Practice (ACOP L8)
- Updating all existing risk assessments every two years as requested by the school
- Agreeing and implementing prioritised corrective actions

*School Site Manager is responsible for:*

- liaising with SJP and IWS
- flushing infrequently used outlets every week and maintaining a log

*School Cleaners:*

The cleaners are responsible for ensuring the cleanliness of water outlets.

*External Property Consultants:*

Barkers Associates are responsible for ensuring all school related building projects comply with legal requirements related to Legionella control.

This includes:

- Checking that designers and installers comply with 'The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999' and with BS EN 806 (Parts 1-5) 'Specifications for installations inside buildings conveying water for human consumption'
- Obtaining a completed Legionella Commissioning Checklist from the installer, reviewed and signed off in conjunction with the designer
- Obtaining from the designer completed drawings, Legionella risk assessment and testing schedules for all new water systems
- Ensuring that when conducting any modification or changes to existing installations all associated drawings, risk assessments and testing schedules are updated and forwarded to the Responsible Person

#### **4. Identification and Assessment of the Risk**

The school will employ suitably qualified and competent persons to carry out a risk assessment at least every two years.

The assessment will comply with the BS 8580 2010 Water Quality, Risk Assessments for Legionella Control, Code of Practice and the HSE publication 'Legionnaires' disease: The control of Legionella bacteria in water systems, Legionella Approved Code of Practice (ACOP L8)'.

Reviews of risk assessments will also take place when:

- There are changes to the water system or its use
- There are changes to the use of the building in which the water system is installed
- New information about risks or control measures becomes available
- The results of checks indicating that control measures are no longer effective
- A case of Legionnaires' disease/Legionellosis is associated with the system

In new buildings, the school's building consultants will ensure that whoever designs, manufactures, imports or supplies water systems, that may create a risk of exposure to Legionella bacteria, so far as reasonably practicable:

- a) The water system is so designed and constructed that it will be safe and without risks to health, when used at work;
- b) Provide adequate information for the user about the risk and measures necessary to ensure that the water systems will be safe and without risks to health when used at work.

This will take the form of a risk assessment which will be provided on completion of works or at handover.

## **5. Controlling and Monitoring the Risk**

The school will employ suitably qualified and competent persons to implement a control and monitoring scheme for all potential sources of risk.

The company employed will carry out assessment; monitoring and control as a member of an accredited body i.e. The Legionella Control Association.

This school currently employs Integrated Water Services (IWS).

IWS will complete the following checks:

- Monthly water temperature monitoring of sentinel and representative hot and cold outlets
- Annual TMV (thermostatic mixing valve) servicing to 9 TMVs
- Annual Legionella sampling – 3 samples to be taken from hot water outlets
- Annual TVC (thermal circulation valves) testing – 3 samples to be taken from cold water outlets

IWS provide copies of worksheets to the school, which contain records of all monitoring checks and the control measures to be adopted. The water file is held in the Site Manager's office.

The Headteacher will report a review of the legionella management work undertaken, put forward recommendations to consider (or approve) to the Wellbeing committee at least annually.

The management and execution of the following situations, is the responsibility of the Headteacher:

- an outbreak of Legionellosis, suspected or confirmed as being centred at the site
- an outbreak of Legionellosis the exact source of which has yet to be confirmed, but which is believed to be centred in an area which includes the site

The school's most recent Water Hygiene Risk Assessment was completed in June 2020.

A copy of the survey is kept in the Health and Safety file in the Headteacher's office.