



# YCAT

**YORKSHIRE  
COLLABORATIVE  
ACADEMY TRUST**

## Health & Safety Policy

Adopted	<b>February 2025</b>
Frequency of review	<b>1 year</b>
Approved by	<b>Trustees</b>
Review date	<b>Feb 2026</b>

Date of review	Reason for review	Date of next review

## Health & Safety Policy Statement

As a leader of the community that it serves, Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust (YCAT) recognises and accepts the financial and legal responsibilities and duties that it has for the health, safety and welfare of its employees and others affected by YCAT's activities.

YCAT's commitments are:

- To prevent injury and ill health associated with Trust's activities
- To provide a healthy and safe working environment
- To promote a positive health and safety culture throughout the organisation
- To satisfy applicable legal and other requirements
- To control health and safety risks through applying a hierarchy of control
- To continually improve the Trust's health and safety management system and performance
- To engage employees in developing and implementing a joint approach to the management of health, safety, and welfare
- To set health and safety objectives and monitor their achievement

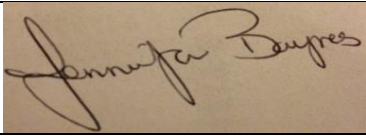

In our positions as Chairman of the Trustees and Chief Executive, we are committed to integrating health and safety into decision-making and risk management processes within Trust. The Trustees and Local Governing Bodies of YCAT schools will support us in this role and, together with the Individual school's Leadership Team, will ensure the effective leadership of health and safety for the Trust and others affected by the Trust's activities.

Employees with management responsibilities will ensure that all significant risks are properly assessed, controlled and any measures implemented to mitigate risk are appropriately monitored. We regularly review these assessments, to ensure that the Trust complies with legal requirements and strives to achieve best practice.

We will maintain arrangements to consult employees, trade union representatives and others who may be affected by YCAT activities, to encourage a joint approach to the management of health, safety, and welfare.

The Trust expects all employees and those undertaking work on behalf of, or in partnership with, YCAT to take reasonable care of their own health and safety, for the health & safety of others and to co-operate with the YCAT in the performance of its moral and statutory duties.

The Trust will monitor health and safety performance and review its policies and procedures to ensure the achievement of best practice in all aspects of health and safety management.

Signed		Chair of Trustees
Signed		Chief Executive
Date	11/2/2025	
Review Date	Feb 2026	



## **Health and Safety Organisation**

This section details the health and safety roles and responsibilities assigned to specific posts and functions within the Trust.

### **Chair of the Trustees**

The Chair of the Trustees ensures that the work of the Executive Leadership Team and Trustees is conducted in accordance with The Trust's policy and procedures for health and safety and with due regard for relevant statutory provisions.

### **All Trustees**

All Trustees ensure that all the decisions they make are in line with this policy and other Trust policies and procedures. This ensures that they give due regard to health and safety and any relevant statutory provisions. This principle is upheld by all committees and during all contacts with employees and members of the public.

### **Chief Executive**

The Chief Executive has overall personal responsibility for the effective leadership for health and safety in the Trust. The Chief Executive carries out the following duties:

- Ensure that the health and safety policy and management systems are an integral part of The Trust's culture, of its values and performance targets.
- Provide effective leadership to Trustees by agreeing and reviewing targets for maintaining standards and, where appropriate, for achieving improvements in health and safety performance.
- Ensure that adequate resources are made available to achieve high standards of health and safety.
- Monitor and review health and safety performance by receiving both specific (e.g., incident-led) and routine reports.

## **Local Governing Body**

The Local Governing Body are responsible for the effective leadership of health and safety within their School. The Local Governing Body carry out the following duties:

- Ensure that the health and safety policy and management systems are an integral part of the individual school, of its values and performance standards.
- Ensure that individual schools have a clear management structure, and that health and safety responsibilities are effectively communicated and included in job descriptions.
- Ensure that there are adequate and appropriate arrangements to encourage the trust, participation, and involvement of all employees on health and safety issues.
- Ensure there are adequate arrangements so that the required health and safety information is shared between those that need it.
- Ensure that there are systems and arrangements to secure the competence and capability on health and safety related matters of all employees and others who are part of the conduct of the schools' undertakings.
- Provide visible leadership on health and safety to head teachers by setting and reviewing targets for achieving improvements in health and safety performance including conducting Termly Visual Inspections.
- Approve the school's health and safety action plan and monitor its implementation.
- Ensure that adequate resources are made available to achieve high standards of health and safety performance.
- Monitor health and safety performance by receiving both specific (e.g., incident-led) and routine reports including reviewing accident, incident and near miss reports on a termly basis.
- Keep health and safety performance under review at Local Governing Body meetings and ensure a formal annual review is carried out.
- Consult the NYES H&S Service and others to monitor the need for further health and safety measures.

## **Head Teachers**

Head Teachers are responsible for the effective implementation of this health and safety policy and associated management systems in all Trust schools. They are responsible for ensuring that staff are aware of their responsibilities for implementing the day-to-day operation of all health and safety systems and procedures within their schools. In addition to these general duties, they will carry out the following:

- Ensure that the health and safety policy and management systems are an integral part of the culture, values, and performance standards in their schools.
- Ensure that their school has a clear management structure, and that health and safety responsibilities are effectively communicated.
- Provide visible leadership on health and safety to staff by setting and reviewing targets for achieving improvements in health and safety performance.
- Oversee implementation of the health and safety action plans and monitor their implementation.
- Ensure that adequate resources are made available to achieve high standards of health and safety performance.

- Monitor health and safety performance by receiving both specific (e.g., incident-led) and routine reports.
- Ensure suitable first aid arrangements are maintained at the premises.
- Ensure that arrangements are in place, so they are advised of any accidents, incidents and health and safety issues occurring in the school.
- Co-ordinate the accident/incident reporting, recording and investigation system.
- Keep health and safety performance under review and play a full and active part in the review process at School Improvement Leadership Group meetings.
- Ensure that all employees have been informed of any significant risks to their health and safety, and any control measures, workplace precautions, safe systems of work, etc. that must be taken to minimize these risks.
- Ensure that health and safety issues are considered in all lesson plans and school activities.
- Satisfy themselves that suitable health and safety standards are maintained and arrange for any shortcomings in safety standards, inspections, training, and instruction to be rectified where practicable.
- Monitor the need for any further health and safety measures, instruction, and training.
- Provide effective leadership on health and safety to their staff by setting and reviewing targets for achieving improvements in health and safety performance.
- Consult NYES Health and Safety Service and others who may assist with monitoring the need for further health and safety measures.
- Ensure that contracts are in place for building maintenance including the inspection and testing of equipment in the premises e.g., boilers, electrical, fire equipment, gas, lifts, etc.
- Ensure suitable arrangements are in place at the premises for the management of contractors and construction projects on site.
- Maintain suitable arrangements in the premises to manage any asbestos present in the building.
- Maintain suitable arrangements in the premises to manage any legionella risk in the building.
- Exercise the authority to stop work in cases where there is an intolerable risk of serious injury or likelihood of fatality.

### **NYES Health and Safety Service**

The Trust has appointed the NYES Health and Safety Service as their competent person in accordance with the Regulation 7 of the Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999. The NYES H & S Service provides strategic health and safety advice and support to the schools, Trustees, Head Teachers, and employees of the Trust. However, neither under the terms of this Policy, or under health and safety statutory requirements, can the NYES H & S Service relieve either managers or supervisors of their operational health and safety responsibilities.

The NYES H&S Service carries out the following duties:

- Work in partnership with individual schools to develop an annual health and safety action plan by undertaking the Paperwork Evaluation Checklist for each school.
- To escalate or report as appropriate any failure to implement the health and safety plan to the Chief Executive.
- To contribute to, and engage in, the development of policies and procedures relating to health and safety.
- Advise on the implementation of health & safety policy, procedures, and management systems for existing and new activities.
- Support and empower head teachers to develop and implement effective health & safety risk management in their individual schools.
- Promote a positive health & safety culture, based on sensible risk management, to secure high standards of health and safety.
- Advise on the development of health & safety action plans, including the setting of realistic short-term and long-term objectives by conducting an annual Premises Inspection.
- Advise and inform on all aspects of health & safety, including new legislation, affecting the work of the Trust.
- Advise on the implementation of the health & safety risk assessment system and prioritisation of control measures.
- Advise on health & safety training for staff.
- Conduct an annual fire risk assessment for each school.
- Advise as to whether appropriate health and safety signs and information is displayed.
- Advise as to whether suitable first aid arrangements are maintained at the premises through the Paperwork Evaluation Checklist.
- Advise to ensure that emergency procedures are developed and periodically tested for the premises.
- On multi-occupancy sites advise as to whether that there is co-operation and co-ordination of health and safety arrangements between all parties.
- Advise as to whether suitable and sufficient risk assessments are carried out in each school through dip sampling. Risk Assessments should be recorded, communicated to the relevant staff, and reviewed at least annually (or sooner if there is a significant change) and modified if necessary.
- Report to management on health & safety performance and standards.
- Provide the main point of contact and maintain professional working relationships with health and safety enforcing authorities.
- Exercise the authority to stop work in cases where there is an intolerable risk of serious injury or likelihood of fatality.

### **Trade Union Safety Representatives**

Trade Union Safety Representatives are consulted where appropriate on matters affecting the health and safety of employees they represent, in compliance with relevant statutory requirements. Formal consultation with Trades Unions on health and safety takes place at individual schools' level through the various risk management and health and safety groups.

## **All Employees, Trainees, Temporary Workers and Volunteers**

All employees, trainees, temporary workers, and volunteers have an important part to play in protecting themselves and others. Health and safety responsibilities are based on legal obligations and are subject to The Trust's disciplinary procedures. All employees, trainees, temporary workers, and volunteers are required to:

- Take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and others, who may be affected by what they do or fail to do at work.
- Co-operate with all head teachers and the NYES H & S Service on health and safety matters.
- Familiarise themselves with, and to act in accordance with, any health and safety procedures that have been issued to them or otherwise brought to their attention.
- Act in accordance with any safety training, or any verbal safety instructions that has been provided to them.
- Make full and proper use of any personal protective equipment (PPE) and clothing provided to them, in accordance with instructions or training received. Report any loss of, or obvious defect in, such PPE to their supervisor or manager.
- Adopt safe behaviour and avoid interfering with or misusing anything provided in the interest of health, safety, or welfare.
- Report any accident/incident or near miss to their head teacher (to be done on the day of accident/incident or as soon as possible thereafter). This includes reporting any accident/incident involving a non-employee while on The Trust premises, sites or affected by The Trust activities, which comes to their attention.
- Report to their head teacher any work situation they consider to represent a serious and immediate danger to health and safety, or any other relevant matter that they consider to represent a shortcoming in current arrangements for health and safety.
- Follow any laid down emergency procedures in the event of serious imminent danger, such as emergency evacuations, lockdown etc.

## **Health and Safety Arrangements**

The Trust develops arrangements for the management of health and safety, which we systematically apply in all activities and services throughout the Trust and its schools. In addition to these arrangements, supplementary procedures, guidance and other health and safety systems are developed at service, premises and/or local level and detailed in the school's own health and safety policy.

The detailed health and safety arrangements are on the Trust's intranet and detailed withing policies and procedures held on Risk Manager. This enables document control, the sharing of best practice and promoting transparency. Each school in the Trust has their own Health and Safety Policy that sets out the Health and Safety Arrangements on each individual site. These are published on each school's website.

Schools can access documentation from [NYES Health and Safety Service Resources | NYES Info](#) (NYES).