



the **Gold Standard** in education

Alpha Plus Group Ltd

Health and Safety Policy

Alpha Plus Group Ltd

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London

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Introduction

1.1 The Alpha Plus Gold Standard

Alpha Plus is an education group whose primary purpose is to develop excellence in education through well-directed investment and professional governance. Its commitment to excellence is embodied in its *Gold Standard*, which comprises two dimensions:

- *Cultural* - fostering high aspirations and expectations of staff and children, always recognising that excellence is a never-ending pursuit
- *Operational* - robust educational governance through which schools and colleges are simultaneously supported and challenged in their pursuit of excellence

Each school and college within the Group has its own strong identity and ethos, and Alpha Plus seeks to preserve these values, fostering the independent spirit of the Heads and Principals, and their leadership teams. Heads and Principals set the educational and operational priorities of their institutions, always ensuring that these are consistent with the Gold Standard.

1.2 The Health and Safety Management System

Alpha Plus Group has developed a health and safety management system, comprising of this Health and Safety Policy and supporting Safety Arrangements, to provide the necessary guidance to ensure that health and safety is managed effectively, efficiently and consistently across each nursery, school and college. Within the Alpha Plus Group system, each Head/Principal is responsible for developing and maintaining their own **Health and Safety Plan** which supplements, but should not duplicate, the Alpha Plus system with the local details of responsibilities, processes and procedures.

1.2.1 Health and Safety Documentation

The **MASTER** copies of the policy and safety arrangements are available on the Alpha Plus Group Portal to which all staff have access.

All documents that form the health and safety management system are subject to version control and will include an issue date within the document footer.

1.2.2 Updates and Additions

It will be the responsibility of Alpha Plus Group Ltd and Law At Work Ltd to ensure that the policy and safety arrangements reflect current legislative requirements and standards.

Alpha Plus Group will be responsible for issuing electronic updates and additions via links to the Portal.

Where schools or colleges maintain hard copies of health and safety management system documents it is paramount that they ensure that any updates issued are inserted and expired/updated documents destroyed.

1.2.3 School/College Health and Safety Plan

Heads/Principals will ensure that a health and safety plan is prepared for their school/college. The Health and Safety Plan will demonstrate how the Alpha Plus Group Policy and Safety Arrangements are applied within their respective school/college. A suggested outline of the content/structure of the health and safety plan is included as an appendix to this policy.

1.2.4 Key Contacts

We use a company called “Law At Work Ltd” to provide our business with 24 hour support for health and safety assistance.

- **Health and Safety Advisory Service**

Provides unlimited access to specialist Health and Safety Advisors by telephone and email 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

<p style="text-align: center;">TELEPHONE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">0844 288 4781</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EMAIL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">hands@lawatwork.co.uk</p>
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Health and Safety Policy Statement

Alpha Plus Group Ltd will take all reasonably practicable steps to ensure the health, safety and welfare at work of our staff and all other persons whilst they are on our company premises or affected by our activities.

We will comply with all aspects of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, and all other relevant statutory obligations.

The Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for ensuring that proactive health and safety management systems are in place and remain effective through regular monitoring of health and safety performance.

Alpha Plus Group Ltd expects a high standard of health and safety performance and School Heads and College Principals are responsible for supporting the achievement of health and safety standards by:

- Providing and maintaining safe and healthy working conditions through effective Identification, assessment and management of hazards;
- Providing information, instruction, training and supervision as necessary to enable staff to perform their work safely and efficiently;
- Making available all necessary equipment, safety devices and protective equipment and to supervise their correct and safe use;
- Communicating, and as necessary consulting with staff on health and safety issues;
- Providing and maintaining, so far as reasonably practicable, a safe place of work and safe means of access to and egress from that place of work;
- Providing and maintaining a working environment that is, so far as reasonably practicable, safe, without risks to health and adequate as regards facilities and arrangements for welfare at work.

All staff have a duty to follow safety instructions, exercise personal responsibility and to do everything within their power in the course of their employment to prevent injury or ill health to themselves or others.

Every contractor and subcontractor of Alpha Plus Group Ltd has a duty to comply with current health and safety legislation and meet recognised professional and statutory health and safety standards.

This policy will be subject to monitoring and review on a regular basis to reflect any internal change, legislative and regulatory requirements and to ensure that health and safety standards are maintained.

Signed:  Chief Executive Officer

Date: 10/08/2021

Health and Safety Organisation Chart



2. Responsibilities

Key responsibilities are detailed below to ensure that the health and safety policy is effective. Although not exhaustive, responsibility is assigned for fundamental health and safety related activities.

2.1 Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the proper implementation of the health and safety policy and safety arrangements and for their future development, review and revision as required. This will be achieved by ensuring that:

- (a) specific responsibilities for the implementation and management of health and safety are established and that staff are informed of their responsibilities and duties under the health and safety policy;
- (b) suitable arrangements for the provision of training/instruction are established;
- (c) sufficient resources are provided to support compliance with the policy and arrangements;
- (d) hazards in the workplace are identified by means of risk assessments and that these hazards are removed or minimised as far as is reasonably practicable.
- (e) the health and safety policy and arrangements remain effective through regular monitoring, audit and inspection.

2.2 Director of Property

The Property Director is responsible for the day to day management of health and safety arrangements at Head Office, and the co-ordination of health and safety arrangements at schools and colleges. This responsibility includes ensuring all School Heads and College Principals have carried out all appropriate risk assessments and that the actions identified as part of the risk assessment process have been implemented. The Property Director also has the following responsibilities in relation to health and safety:-

- (a) Providing the main liaison between Alpha Plus Group Ltd and the Law at Work Ltd Health and Safety Service.
- (b) Selection and management of all contractors appointed to carry out work on behalf of Alpha Plus Group Ltd;
- (c) Ensuring that Heads/Principals are implementing the Health and Safety Policy and Arrangements in line with their prescribed responsibilities;
- (d) Ensuring that disciplinary action is taken on staff who persistently breach the company's health and safety policy and arrangements;
- (e) Ensuring all accidents are correctly investigated and recorded;
- (f) Ensuring regular health and safety audits and inspections are carried out and any hazards acted upon;

2.3 School Heads and College Principals

School Heads and College Principals are responsible for implementing the Alpha Plus Group Ltd Health and Safety Policy and Arrangements and for the day to day management of health and safety within their school/college. Their responsibilities include:-

- (a) Ensuring, so far as is reasonably practicable, that conditions within their establishment are safe and without risk to health;
- (b) Ensuring that all staff are made aware of the health and safety policy, safety arrangements and procedures relevant to their area of work.
- (c) Ensuring that risk assessments are carried out for all significant hazards and that they are subject to regular review;
- (d) Identifying the training needs of staff and maintaining health and safety related training records for all staff;
- (e) Advising any person (employee, client, pupil, parent, contractor or visitor) likely to be affected by any known hazard or risk at the school/college, of the proactive or preventative measures to be taken to minimise the risk;
- (f) Ensuring that all accidents and incidents are recorded and investigated.
- (g) Reporting all accidents and incidents to the **Property Director** as soon as possible after the incident, regardless of whether any person (employee, client, pupil, parent, contractor or visitor) has been affected;
- (h) In the event of an accident resulting in a fatality or major injury, advising the **Property Director; Chief Executive Officer and Director of Schools and Colleges** and the **Law At Work Health and Safety Service** immediately.
- (i) Investigating the cause(s) of accidents and incidents, including ensuring that all possible steps are taken to remove the hazard and prevent a recurrence;
- (j) Undertaking regular school/college health and safety inspections to ensure that safe and healthy practices/standards are being adopted and maintained;
- (k) Ensuring that all fire safety and school/college security measures are in place, maintained and documented;
- (l) Ensuring that all staff are trained in the school/college fire and evacuation procedures and the lock down procedures;
- (m) Reporting any damage or defects to property, plant and/or equipment to the **Property Director** and arranging for work to be carried out to the appropriate standard;
- (n) Ensure that suitable first aid provision for staff and children is made within the school/college;
- (o) With the Property Director, ensure disciplinary action is taken for members of staff who persistently breach the health and safety policy/arrangements;
- (p) Working with staff to provide and maintain a safe and healthy school/college environment and ensure any risks identified by staff are acted upon immediately.

- (q) Authorisation and supervision of any contractors who are engaged in activities in the school/college including ensuring that they are made aware of and work within the health and safety policy and arrangements.

2.4 Staff

Staff duties under section 7 of the Health and Safety at Work Act include co-operating with the employer to enable compliance with their statutory duties for health and safety. All staff will, therefore, be responsible for:-

- (a) Informing their School Head/College Principal of any situation or condition at work which they consider is, or could be, a risk to the health, safety and or welfare of staff, children or others;
- (b) Ensuring their own safety and welfare and that of others who may be affected by their acts or omissions at work;
- (c) Avoiding/preventing any activities that could create a hazardous or unsafe condition that could compromise either themselves, others or equipment supplied by Alpha Plus Group Ltd;
- (d) Adhering to all relevant health and safety procedures and safe working practices in line with their training and instructions;
- (e) The proper use, maintenance and storage of any personal protective equipment supplied by Alpha Plus Group Ltd for their safety, health and welfare;
- (f) Reporting all accidents, incidents and/or dangerous occurrences to their School Head/College Principal;
- (g) Abstaining from any form of alcoholic beverage when attending work; while going about Alpha Plus business or when in the charge of a company vehicle;
- (h) Not ingesting, injecting or taking any form of drugs, either prescribed or not, which could in any way affect their ability to function in a safe manner. Where prescribed drugs need to be taken, staff must inform the School Head/College Principal immediately.

3. Organisation

Alpha Plus Group Ltd will ensure that health and safety is an integral part of the overall management culture and will seek to develop a positive attitude to health and safety amongst staff.

3.1 Information, Instruction and Training

All staff will receive induction training at the commencement of their employment that will include health and safety.

Staff will receive relevant information, instruction and/or training to ensure that they work safely and have the necessary skills to carry out the job in which they have been employed.

Training records will be maintained for all staff who will be required to sign the training record to confirm that they have received such information, instruction and/or training. Training records will be held in personnel files.

Alpha Plus Group Ltd recognises that additional or special training may be required on an ongoing basis and will ensure that suitable arrangements for the provision of training are established. Such training may include:-

- Fire safety
- Use of hazardous substances
- Manual handling
- First Aid
- Risk Assessment

3.2 Alcohol and Drugs

Alpha Plus Group Ltd recognises that the provision of a safe and healthy school/college environment may be affected by those who misuse alcohol and drugs and that it may affect their performance, conduct and relationships at work. Against this background the organisation will promote the health and wellbeing of staff to minimise problems at work arising from the effect of alcohol or drugs.

3.3 Communication

Alpha Plus Group Ltd communicates with staff as necessary on health and safety issues by one or more than the following:-

- Written instructions/information by email
- One to one meetings
- Group meetings
- Notice boards
- Alpha Plus Portal

All staff will receive a copy of the Health and Safety Policy and any subsequent amendments. Staff will be required to sign documentation to confirm that they have read and understood the policy and duties placed upon them. The signed documentation will be retained in their training record.

3.4 Consultation

Alpha Plus Group will encourage co-operation and consultation with staff on matters relating to their health and safety at work.

3.4.1 Alpha Plus Group Ltd

The Alpha Plus Group Board meets on a monthly basis and at each meeting will consider Safeguarding, Compliance and Risk which will include monthly updates on health and safety matters including accidents and incidents, health and safety performance; statutory compliance programmes etc.

All Board meetings will be recorded and actions/decision relating to health and safety communicated to all Heads/Principals for information and/or action as appropriate.

3.4.2 School and Colleges

Schools and Colleges will establish suitable health and safety consultation arrangements in the form of a health and safety committee.

The Health and Safety Committee should comprise of members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and staff representation and it is recommended that the Committee operates as follows:-

- (a) The H&S Committee will meet at least once per term, either as a separate Committee, or for smaller establishments, as an extended SLT meeting focussing specifically on health and safety matters and involving staff representatives,
- (b) Meetings will be recorded on the Universal Planner,
- (c) A record of the H&S Committee/Meeting should be retained and action points assigned and monitored as required;
- (d) Key items for discussion/review will include recent accidents/incidents including outcomes of any accident/incident investigations; outcomes of any recent audits or inspections; review of training requirements/training programmes; H&S issues/concerns raised by staff; new/updated Alpha Plus Group Health and Safety information.
- (e) Where required issues will be escalated to the Alpha Plus Group Board this will be via the **Property Director**.

3.5.2 External Communication and Consultation

Our Health and Safety Advisers are:

Law At Work Ltd
Kintyre House
205 West George Street
Glasgow
G2 2LW
Tel: 0844 288 4781

4 Planning and Implementation

4.1 Alpha Plus Group

Alpha Plus Group Ltd have prepared detailed Safety Arrangements to accompany the policy and provide guidance on the management of a range of health and safety issues. Safety Arrangements are accessible to all staff via the Alpha Plus Group Portal.

4.2 Schools/Colleges

Heads and Principals of schools and colleges will prepare a health and safety plan for their area of responsibility outlining the specific health and safety arrangements that are in place. A template for the health and safety plan is provided at Appendix 1.

4.3 PP Projects SharePoint

The PP Projects SharePoint is a web-based management system used to track all life and health and safety regulatory checks on premises and facilities and routine checks that are carried out in each facility, e.g. fire alarm tests, health and safety committee meetings etc.

All Heads/Principals, senior leadership team members and caretakers have access to the SharePoint and can update the information held as required.

4.4 Training

Training on health and safety topics is available as follows:-

- (a) General health and safety training is available from our competent advisers, Law At Work.
- (b) Fire Safety Training is available from our Fire Risk Assessor.

5 Monitoring, Audit and Review of Safety Performance

The effectiveness of the Alpha Plus Group Ltd health and safety policy and arrangements will be monitored in the following ways: -

5.1 Accidents and Incidents

Accidents at the following levels of severity will be analysed by the Property Director with a view to determining and eliminating their causes:-

- Specified injury/dangerous occurrence/industrial disease
- Lost time accidents (7 days or more)
- Other injury

5.2 School/College Inspections and Audit

Regular and systematic inspections will be carried out to ensure that the requirements of the organisations policy and arrangements are being met. Law At Work Ltd.'s health and safety managers will carry out six monthly compliance inspections at each site and report findings to the relevant Head/Principal and to the Property Director.

5.3 PP Projects SharePoint

PP Projects SharePoint provides the system for the storage of and access to individual school property management and health and safety records and includes monitoring to ensure that statutory inspections etc. are completed within the required timescales.

5.4 Policy and Arrangements

This policy and the associated arrangements will be subject to review annually or in the event of any significant change to health and safety law. The review will be carried out by Law Work and any revision will be drawn to the attention of all Heads/Principals and staff to whom the contents are relevant.