



Diocese of Norwich
St Benet's
Multi Academy Trust

Lone Working Policy

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Approved By:	Executive Team
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Person Responsible:	Head of Estates

Our Christian Ethos and Values

Our academies are open to all and accepting of all regardless of faith. Our passion and ambition are to see children and young people in all our academies achieve excellent educational outcomes alongside developing and growing into their potential as individuals made in the image of God.

Our culture is one of high aspiration for all. This is rooted in our Christian values as demonstrated in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. We have a desire to see our academies acknowledged as places of aspiration, high quality learning, achievement and hope making a significant contribution to the communities they serve.

All policies within St Benet’s Multi Academy Trust (hereafter referred to as “the Trust”), whether relating to an individual academy or the whole Trust, will be written and implemented in line with our Christian ethos and values.

Overall accountabilities and roles

The Trust has overall accountability for all its academies and staff. Through a Scheme of Delegation for each academy it sets out the responsibilities of the Trust, its Executive Officers, the Local Governance Committee and the Headteacher. The Headteacher of each academy is responsible for the implementation of all policies of the Trust.

All employees of the Trust are subject to the Trust’s policies.

Contents

Policy Statement	3
Scope	3
Aims.....	3
Policy Details	3
Roles and Responsibilities.....	3
Risk Assessment Guidance.....	4
Performance and Risk Management	4
Communicating the Policy	4
Home Visits	4
Evaluation and Review.....	5
Links to Other Policies.....	5

Policy Statement

The Trust is committed to ensure that no lone worker is at greater risk of injuries and ill-health as a result of not being directly supervised or working alone whilst undertaking the Trust's work.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- all employees working at all locations, including those working from home; and
- other workers (e.g. casual and agency workers, secondees) undertaking work on behalf of the Trust.

Aims

- to ensure appropriate and safe practices for lone workers
- to maintain staff well-being

Policy Details

The Trust will ensure

- Early recognition and assessment of the risk to lone worker employees
- Establish effective lone worker risk assessment and incorporate the process and assessment results into management activities i.e. supervision, appraisal, team meeting agendas and other procedures/ management systems.
- Where significant risks are identified, put in place suitable control measures to remove or reduce those risks and establish effective communication and monitoring of control measures.
- Set up effective emergency arrangements and reporting systems to protect lone workers from foreseeable risks.
- That all incidents and near misses are reported and investigated for the purpose of improving safety and preventing recurrences.
- To ensure compliance with the Health and Safety at work act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety 1999.

Roles and Responsibilities

Principal/Headteacher

Has a responsibility to:

- Ensure that lone worker risk assessments have been undertaken and suitable safe working procedures are in place to remove or reduce significant risks.
- Review lone worker incident statistics, identify trends and take action as appropriate.
- Put in place appropriate monitoring as effective means of communication are essential. These methods should be documented and agreed with the lone worker and could include:
 - supervisors periodically visiting and observing people working alone;
 - pre-agreed intervals of regular contact between the lone worker and supervisor, using phones, radios or email, bearing in mind the worker's understanding of English;
 - implementing robust system to ensure a lone worker has returned to their base or home once their task is completed.

Line Managers

Have a responsibility to:

- Ensure that the requirements of this policy are fulfilled.

- Undertake risk assessments of lone worker risk and ensure safe working procedures are in place to remove or reduce significant risks.
- Ensure that all relevant staff are provided with adequate emergency equipment and are able to raise the alarm as far as is reasonably practicable.
- Ensure that lone workers are provided with adequate training via iAM Compliant to ensure they are able to operate safely.
- Ensure employees understand the need to report concerns about safety associated with lone working.
- Ensure all staff are provided with appropriate equipment to be able to undertake their roles safely.

Employees

Have a duty to:

- Comply with the Academy's policy.
- Comply with any instructions provided for reasons of health and safety.
- Attend any training provided for health and safety.
- Report any incidents that may affect the health and safety of themselves or others and seek guidance where required.
- Report any concerns or failures in safety systems.
- Undertake annual training provided via iAM Compliant.
- Seek permission from their direct line manager before any lone working takes place.
- Ensure they do not arrange meetings with parents/carers or member of the public whilst lone working.

Risk Assessment Guidance

- Is the person medically fit to undertake lone working?
- Are channels of communication available in the event of an emergency?
- Do the tasks being undertaken present a risk to the lone worker?
- Is there a risk of violence?
- Involve the person in the risk assessment process to help identify risks.

Performance and Risk Management

Potential risks will be regularly monitored and evaluated to ensure this policy is kept up to date. The training and responsibilities of individuals will be monitored by the Academy through its management and appraisal processes. Where necessary the Academy/Trust will take appropriate action to ensure that this policy is upheld.

Communicating the Policy

Any changes to this policy will be communicated throughout the organisation using appropriate communication channels.

Home Visits

Where at all possible home visits will be made in pairs. If lone visits are made, the member of staff must inform the Academy Office where they are visiting, what time they expect to return, and ensure they have left their mobile phone number to enable contact in an emergency. For home

visits where there is known to be issues with domestic violence and abuse the employer should ensure that staff members visit in pairs.

Evaluation and Review

This policy will be reviewed if:

- New legislation is published, or existing legislation is updated.
- New guidance is published, or existing guidance is updated.
- Research, monitoring or auditing suggests that a review may be required.
- Incident investigation suggests that a review may be required.

Links to Other Policies

- Health & Safety Policy
- Staff Wellbeing Policy