

CONTROL OF LEGIONELLA POLICY

DATE OF REVIEW: June 2024

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: Summer 2026

TO BE REVIEWED BY: Business Committee



The school also refers to the guidance laid down in Devon County Council's Health Safety and Wellbeing Guidance Note on Legionella

This policy sets out the control of legionella in hot and cold water systems in school, including responsibilities, training testing and records.

1. POLICY STATEMENT

The school will undertake to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation with regard to the Control of Legionella in hot and cold water systems for all pupils and employees and to ensure best practice by extending the arrangements as far as is reasonably practicable to others who may also be affected by our activities.

2. THE LAW

- a. As legislation is often amended and Regulations introduced, the references made in this Policy may be to legislation that has been superseded. For an up to date list of legislation applying to schools, please refer to the Department for Education website at www.education.gov.uk/schools and the Health and Safety Executive website www.hse.gov.uk.
 - i. Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
 - ii. Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
 - iii. Care Standards Act 2000

3. DEFINITIONS

- a. Legionella is a generic term for a type of bacteria which is common in natural and artificial water systems. Legionellosis is the name given to a group of pneumonia-like illnesses caused by Legionella.

4. MANAGEMENT

The Headteacher will ensure that:

- i. Relevant risk assessments are carried out and that control measures are implemented.
- ii. Appropriate training is provided.
- iii. Ensure that flushing and testing of water outlets is carried out in accordance with Appendix 1.
- iv. Any problems with water or the water system are reported to Devon County Council/NPS.
- v. Monitor disinfection procedures where necessary – see Appendix 2.

- vi. Records are kept for each water outlet of flushing and testing and disinfection procedures.

5. GENERAL INFORMATION

- a. Legionella is a generic term for a type of bacteria (legionellae) which is common in natural and artificial water supplies. The bacteria thrive at temperatures between 20°C and 45°C but can be killed by elevated temperatures or chemical treatment.
- b. The School stores and distributes hot water above 50°C. Users are protected from scalding by controlling the delivery temperature of hot water from a tap to 43°C by the use of thermostatic mixing valves. Checks are required to ensure that the valves are working correctly.
- c. All illnesses due to the legionella species are known collectively as “legionellosis” but the most well-known is “Legionnaires’ disease” which can be serious for elderly people and others with respiratory problems or immune-deficiency.
- d. Infection is only a risk when there is inhalation of very fine water droplets that are contaminated with high concentrations of legionella bacteria. Healthy people are unlikely to contract an infection and outbreaks are rare though well publicised.
- e. Control is normally achieved by suitable design and maintenance of the water system and its associated plant. Additional control is achieved by appropriate storage of water and delivery of water at temperatures which do not allow the bacteria to proliferate.

6. RISK ASSESSMENT

- a. Assessment of risk is mostly confined to
 - i. Monitoring whether control measures are being instigated fully.
 - ii. Correct water temperatures are being maintained.
 - iii. Engineering measures, such as temperature control valves, are working properly.
- b. Any failures must be reported immediately to the Headteacher who will inform Devon County Council/ NPS.

7. CONTROL MEASURES

- a. To achieve ongoing control of legionella, thorough flushing of the water system is required alongside any engineering controls.
- b. Effective control measures will require the school to:
 - i. Monitor any water outlets that are not in regular use.
 - ii. Record the flushing of all water outlets
 - iii. Record the temperature of hot and cold water outlets.
- c. Full details of flushing and testing regimes that need to be carried out can be found in Appendix 1

8. TESTING ARRANGEMENTS

- a. Under certain circumstances, for example when there have been alterations or maintenance work to the water system, testing is to be carried out in accordance with Appendix 1.
 - a. Disinfection of the system will be necessary when testing indicates there is a sufficient level of legionella present in the water system to require treatment – see Appendix 2.

9. INFORMATION, INSTRUCTION TRAINING

- a. The Headteacher will ensure that suitable and sufficient training and information is given the School Caretaker, and any other member of staff, who has responsibilities for flushing, record keeping and taking temperature readings as required by the appendices. (See Appendix 4 for a Site Summary of Nominated Authorities).
- b. Any new measures that are introduced to control legionella will need appropriate training provision.
- c. The School Business Manager will ensure that a record of all instruction and training given to members of staff is recorded in the Legionella Log.

FLUSHING AND TEMPERATURE TESTING PROCEDURES

1. FLUSHING

- a. All water outlets (hot & cold) will be flushed through weekly (but see para c below) and a record will be kept in writing on the water outlet flushing checklist by the person carrying out the flushing.
- b. Flushing will last for at least two minutes at a reasonable flow rate.
- c. Where water outlets are routinely used, then this acts as the flushing routine and additional flushing is not required. However, flushing will always be required for all water outlets during periods of non use which exceed four days. Flushing is only required at the end of the period of non use.

2. TEMPERATURE TESTING

- a. A single cold and hot tap on the main hot and cold water systems, which are not connected via a thermostatic mixing valve, are to be run for one minute (in the case of a hot tap) and two minutes (in the case of a cold tap) every month so that a temperature can be taken using a thermometer and recorded on the Water Temperature Check List.
- b. The cold water outlet temperature should be below 20°C after two minutes running.
- c. The hot water outlet temperature should be above 50°C after one minute running,
- d. If these temperatures cannot be achieved then the Headteacher or School Business Manager is to be informed with a view to taking remedial action or informing Devon County Council/NPS.
- e. Scientific tests may be required when there appears to be a problem with the water supply, e.g. discolouring, temperature problems, etc. These should be reported to the Headteacher with a view to informing NPS who will arrange appropriate testing where it is considered necessary.
- f. If a positive Legionella test is reported there will be a re-test every 3 or 6 months, dependent upon the test results, until two consecutive clear readings are established.

1. PROCEDURE FOR DISINFECTION

- a. If the school produces a sufficiently high result after testing, and a risk assessment recommends action, it will be disinfected by an approved contractor.
- b. The Headteacher or an elected representative will arrange the time and date of disinfection with the selected contractor.
- c. Affected areas will be withdrawn from use until disinfection has been completed. Flushing of outlets in these areas will cease until disinfection has been completed.
- d. A supply of clean water for the kitchen area will be drawn off from an uncontaminated source and stored in containers on the morning of a disinfection visit.
- e. Once disinfection commences, the water system will not be usable (except in WC's) until the contractors declare it safe. (Note: Drinking water must only be drawn from the bottled supply).
- f. Alternative hand cleaning methods will be instigated to supplement the wearing of protective gloves for personal care. (eg. Hibiscrub & antiseptic wipes).
- g. Staff and pupils will be protected from accidental use or drinking of disinfected water by securing the outlets or denying them access.
- h. Disinfected areas will be re-instated immediately after completion of the disinfection process and the flushing regime will recommence.

Appendix 3 To the Control of Legionella Policy

PROCEDURE FOR FLUSHING SHOWERHEADS (INCLUDING THE KITCHEN POT WASH)

- a. Showers should be flushed on a weekly basis and the results recorded in the Legionella Log.
- b. Every quarter showers heads should be dismantled, de-scaled and disinfected.

For showers which are infrequently used we may consider storing the clean shower head in a plastic bag until required and then cleaning and storing again after use.

APPENDIX 4

SITE SUMMARY**NOMINATED AUTHORITIES**RA Number *DCC503*Site Number *4622* Site Name *Hatherleigh Community Primary School*

	NAME	ADDRESS	TEL. NO
STATUTORY SITE DUTY HOLDER	Mr Monger	Hatherleigh Community Primary School, South Street, Hatherleigh, Devon EX20 3JB	01837 810248
NOMINATED RESPONSIBLE PERSON	Mrs Bartle	Hatherleigh Community Primary School, South Street, Hatherleigh, Devon EX20 3JB	01837 810248
DEPUTY NOMINATED RESPONSIBLE PERSON	Mr Monger	Hatherleigh Community Primary School, South Street, Hatherleigh, Devon EX20 3JB	01837 810248
MONITORING PERSON	Mrs Stevens	Hatherleigh Community Primary School, South Street, Hatherleigh, Devon EX20 3JB	01837 810248
DEPUTY MONITORING PERSON	Devon Norse/Mrs Bartle	Hatherleigh Community Primary School, South Street, Hatherleigh, Devon EX20 3JB	01837 810248
SERVICE PROVIDERS	Various	E+ Hereford House Mitre Close Bishopsteignton Devon TQ14 9RY	01626 870309
WATER HYGIENE RISK ASSESSMENT COMPANY		Churchill Environmental Services	0845 345 1576