

# Whitehouse Village Hall

(Registered Scottish Charity No. SC028342)

## Health & Safety Policy

1. The Health, Safety and Welfare of all those managing, using and visiting Whitehouse Village Hall is paramount at all times.
2. Whitehouse Village Hall Committee, recognises and accepts its general duties under The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992 to ensure that the premises are safe and that risks are assessed and managed, so far as is reasonably practicable.
3. The policy of the Committee is to take reasonably practicable measures in relation to the management of Whitehouse Village Hall to comply with all legislative requirements and codes of practice relating to the duties which it has, in order to:
  - Provide healthy and safe working conditions, equipment and systems for our Committee Members and Hirers,
  - Keep the Village Hall and equipment in a safe condition for all users,
  - Provide all necessary support and information to Hall users and hirers.
4. The Committee will work in the furtherance of these aims by:
  - Identifying and assessing risks,
  - Recording assessments and regularly reviewing them,
  - Eliminating or controlling risks,
  - Monitoring compliance and work conditions,
  - Establishing a clear, sensible and practical safety organisation and arrangements.

## Duties

All Committee Members, Contractors, Hirers and Users of the Hall are expected to recognise and accept their duties:

- To follow health and safety instructions and to report hazards,
- To take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and other persons who may be affected by their acts and omissions,
- As regards any duty imposed on the Committee, to co-operate so far as is necessary, to enable that duty to be performed or complied with.

# Organisation

## General Responsibilities:

1. All persons have responsibility for ensuring that their actions do not compromise the health and safety of themselves or any other person on the premises.
2. Anyone who observes a practice or potential hazard, that could compromise the health and safety of any person, has the responsibility to act to remove such danger and further to report such incidents in the Incident Book for the attention of the Committee.
3. Any person noticing potentially hazardous, broken or ineffective equipment, electrical leads, fittings, or Hall-owned appliances that do not have a valid PAT test sticker has the responsibility to draw attention to defects by the use of appropriate means (e.g. a warning label) and to note such action in the Incident Book for the attention of the Committee. Where such a defect poses a potential hazard to health the item in question must be removed from use immediately and removed to a place of safety.
4. **Hirers** are responsible for:
  - Complying with all conditions of hire, as set out in the Hiring Agreement, and for ensuring that their organisation/party conducts its activities in line with such conditions, particularly in respect of compliance with all safety requirements and safety notices. Hirers may have responsibilities above and beyond these with regard to insurance and statutory requirements relating to their particular organisation/activity,
  - Ensuring familiarity with fire safety checks, fire exits, keeping fire exits clear, and evacuation procedures,
  - Designating a responsible person at each hiring/event who will take charge of evacuation in case of emergency,
  - Ensuring that flammable substances are not brought into or used in any part of the Hall or grounds,
  - Checking that, if any portable electrical equipment (including disco) is brought onto the premises, it is safe for use.
5. **Contractors** are responsible for:
  - Safe working practices in respect of themselves, their employees, and the general public, and for meeting their statutory obligations with regard to Health & Safety legislation and Public Liability Insurance,
  - Having regard to the safety of hall users when working on the premises and or in respect of anything left or stored on the premises or grounds,
  - Advising the Committee of any flammable or toxic substances that may be used in the course of work on the premises and having the appropriate equipment available to deal with spillages, combustion or other hazards.
6. The **Committee** is responsible for:
  - Ensuring that all Committee Members, Hirers, Contractors and Users of the Hall are aware of the Health and Safety Policy.
  - Ensuring that the Health and Safety Policy is fully implemented.

- Monitoring compliance with Health and Safety guidelines.
  - Regularly assessing and reviewing risks and recording such risks.
  - Keeping an 'Incident Book' in which any incidents or actions that have, or might have, affected the health and safety of any person may be reported and in which any defective or broken equipment may be noted.
  - Taking such action as may be necessary to rectify the situation, to correct faults or to arrange repair of equipment to ensure health and safety and noting such action.
  - Making such arrangements and releasing such funds as may be necessary to assist in the implementation of this Policy.
  - Making such representations to Committee Members, Hirers, Contractors and Users of the Hall, as may be necessary to ensure their co-operation with Health and Safety Policies, particularly with regard to their actions and activities while on the premises.
  - Cooperating with Hirers, Contractors and Users of the Hall in pursuance of Health and Safety requirements.
7. Specific roles and responsibilities have been delegated by the Management Committee and these are listed at Annex A.

## Procedures

1. This H&S policy document is available to download from the Village Hall website – [whitehousevillagehall.org](http://whitehousevillagehall.org).
2. All hirers will be expected to read through the whole of the Standard Hiring Conditions and sign the hiring form as evidence that they agree and accept these conditions. The hiring conditions will inform all hirers about safety procedures at the hall, which they will be expected to follow (e.g. fire evacuation; use of equipment; reporting of incidents/accidents).
3. All contractors will be made aware of Health & Safety Policy, any identified risks and their responsibilities.
4. Committee members with specific responsibilities for aspects of Health & Safety will report to The Committee at each full committee meeting.
5. The full policy will be reviewed annually, with risk assessments and necessary amendments being made as necessary throughout the year. Such amendments will be appended to the policy documents and made known to Committee Members, Hirers, Contractors and Users of the Hall.

## General Guidelines

These guidelines are provided to assist users in fulfilling their Health & Safety responsibilities

- The entrance must be clear of obstacles and hazards at all times that people are entering or leaving the building.
- Wet floors must be made safe by the application of an absorbent, non-slip surface until such time as the floor can be thoroughly dried.
- The premises should be adequately heated, such heating to be used in accordance with

manufacturers' instructions and to be adequately maintained and regularly serviced. Radiators and pipes should not be allowed to become excessively hot and heating controls should be checked and adjusted accordingly.

- Water for hand or dish washing should not be heated above 60 degrees Centigrade.
- Any floor coverings should lie flat, and edges of rugs/carpets should not be allowed to curl up.
- Spills must be cleared up quickly to prevent slipping.
- Any concerns regarding any electrical installation, plug, lead etc must be notified to the appropriate person/authority immediately.
- Any electrical equipment where there are signs of damage, exposure of components or water penetration etc. must not be touched or operated.
- All hirers should acquaint themselves with the position of the fuse box/main switch as far as is practically possible.
- Electrical leads must not be allowed to trail across floors or from areas where they might be pulled, become caught up or present a trip hazard.
- Fire extinguishers will be regularly serviced, and all persons should fully acquaint themselves with the position and mode of operation of all extinguishers (a fire extinguisher is by all five exit doors).
- All hirers must make themselves aware of the procedure to follow in the event of fire.
- All hirers should be aware of the position of Fire Exits and must ensure that these are kept clear at all times.
- As good practice hirers should have a method to account for the number of persons present during their hire. If the oven/cooker is in use it should not be left unattended, even for a short time. Kettles should not be over-filled, nor should the leads be left to trail over the edge of the work top.
- Children/ persons under the age of 16 are not permitted in the kitchen or store/equipment room without adequate supervision by a responsible adult at all times.
- All cleaning solutions etc. must be kept out of the reach of children.
- Due care should be exercised in the car park area.
- All equipment should be adequately maintained to ensure that there are no sharp edges, loose screws, splinters etc. and that it is fit for purpose.
- Any freestanding equipment should be sturdy or adequately secured to prevent it from being moved or toppled.
- Each person is responsible for ensuring that any item they stack or replace on a shelf cannot fall or be knocked and so cause injury.
- Care should be exercised when replacing tables and chairs into the equipment room. Be mindful of the potential for injury to hands/fingers if due care is not exercised.
- Hirers are responsible for the safety of people on the premises during the period of their hire and should supervise as necessary.
- Bouncy castles are only permitted within the hall, but not outside in its grounds, subject to full

compliance with Hall Booking Condition 17 and the required liability insurance in place.

## Good Working Practices

It is your responsibility to protect yourself from injury when lifting, carrying, pulling or pushing. In order to do this the following guidelines should be observed:

- Do not attempt to lift anything that you know to be beyond your capability.
- Ask for help with large, heavy or awkward items.
- Where possible, lighten the load, separate items so that they are more manageable.
- When lifting heavy objects bend your knees and keep your back straight, ask for assistance if necessary.
- Similarly, with reaching to remove/replace something on a high shelf or to position something on the wall above head height, it is your responsibility to protect yourself from injury, as well as to safeguard others by acting responsibly. In order to do this the following guidelines should be followed:
  - a) Ensure that you are sufficiently elevated to see what you are doing, do not attempt to pull something from a shelf above head height without first checking that it is safe to do so.
  - b) Use an appropriate ladder or step to enable you to reach, do not stand on chairs, not only could a resultant fall cause you injury but could also lead to the injury of others nearby.
  - c) Ask for help if necessary.
  - d) Do not work at height, on steps or ladders until they are properly secured, and another person is present.
  - e) Wear suitable protective clothing/eye protection when undertaking tasks that may involve contact with toxic substances or dust/debris etc.

## Hygiene

In the interests of health good hygiene practices are essential. The following guidelines should be observed:

- Disposable paper hand towels must be provided.
- Plastic gloves should be readily available and should be worn at all times that there might be contact with body fluids e.g. when cleaning toilet areas or for dealing with spilt blood from whatever cause.
- All surfaces at which food is to be prepared or eaten must first be thoroughly cleaned with an appropriate cleaner.
- Hands must be thoroughly washed before food preparation.

## First Aid

1. A well-stocked and appropriately labelled First Aid Box is available in the main kitchen (Cupboard appropriately marked)
2. Accident Report Forms are kept next to first aid box. These forms are used to record all cuts, bumps, falls etc. as well as more serious accidents. The important details to be recorded are:
  - the name and address of the casualty,
  - the date, time and place that the incident/accident occurred,
  - the cause of the accident i.e. what happened,
  - a brief description of the injury (if any) sustained,
  - the first aid (or other) treatment administered and by whom,
  - whether or not medical aid had to be sought,
  - the name of the person who dealt with the incident.

## Incident Book

1. Any person being aware of any practice, action or incident that has, or could have been, injurious to the health of any person, has a **duty to record such incident in the Incident Book and report it to the Booking Secretary for the attention of The Committee.**
2. Any person discovering a faulty or broken piece of equipment should take appropriate action to remove or make safe such equipment and should record all details in the Incident Book for the attention of The Committee.

## Annex A Specific Roles and Responsibilities

First Aid Box	Check and replenish monthly	Dorothy O'Donnell Or Kathy Wells
Checking Incident Book/ Reports at least weekly or as advised of incidents.	Instigate any actions necessary to remove risks e.g. repairs. Report to committee at each meeting or as soon as necessary. Advise responsible person indicated.	Dorothy O'Donnell
Reporting Accidents	Minor accidents to be logged in the Incident Book and reported to The Booking Secretary by Hall users. This information will be reported to the Committee at each meeting or as necessary.	Dorothy O'Donnell
Information to Hirers	For each booking check that new hirers have read and agreed to 'Terms and Conditions'. When amendments made to policy/Risk Assessments the Booking Secretary to contact all hirers to inform and gain their acknowledgement.	Tony Schiffman, Dorothy O'Donnell Or Kathy Wells
Information to Contractors	Liaise with contractors (including self-employed persons) before work is started. Gain their acknowledgement that they have seen the Health & Safety Policy/Risk Assessments and are aware of their responsibilities.	Dorothy O'Donnell Or Committee member organising the work
Risk Assessments/ Monitoring	Complete Risk Assessment forms, monitor and update as necessary. Discuss at committee and advise relevant people to inform hirers/contractors as necessary if amendments are made.	Committee of Trustees collectively approve risk assessments and follow up action.
Fire Risk Assessments/ Monitoring	Complete Fire Risk Assessment, monitor and update as necessary. Report to committee at each meeting and advise relevant people to inform hirers/contractors as necessary if amendments are made.	Tan Black
Annual Testing/Safety Certificates	Make arrangements for annual inspections of gas appliances, electrical appliances, fire extinguishers. Keep relevant certificates and display copies on notice board as required.	Margaret Pratt

Safety Notices	Produce and display relevant safety notices in appropriate areas, including copies of Fire Evacuation Procedures and Floor Plans.	Dorothy O'Donnell, Kathy Wells Or Tony Schiffman
Implementation of Policy	Co-ordinate overall management of policy, including amendments and annual review.	Tony Schiffman Or Dorothy O'Donnell