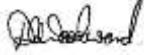





Bradford Central PRU

Working at Heights Policy

Policy agreed by Staff on:	31 January 2017
Ratified by full Management Committee:	31 January 2017
Review Date:	Spring 2020
Agreed Frequency of Review:	3 Yearly
Allocated Group / Person to Review:	MC can delegate to committee or individual member or HT
Signed by Chair:	
Signed by Headteacher:	

Statement of intent

Bradford Central PRU (BCPRU) recognises that there may be an increased risk to the health and safety of employees when working at heights. This policy has been established to identify risks and manage the risks accordingly.

Bradford Central PRU has a duty under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of employees. BCPRU also has obligations under the Work at Height Regulations 2005.

Within this policy, 'working at height' refers to situations where staff in the course of their duties work at heights in the PRU and are physically isolated from colleagues, possibly without immediate access to assistance.

1. Definition

BCPRU adopts the definition of the Health and Safety Executive. Work at height means work in any place where, if precautions were not taken, a person could fall a distance liable to cause personal injury. You are working at height if you:

- work above ground/floor level
- could fall from an edge, through an opening or fragile surface or
- could fall from ground level into an opening in a floor or a hole in the ground

Work at height does **not** include a slip or a trip on the level, as a fall from height has to involve a fall from one level to a lower level, nor does it include walking up and down a permanent staircase in a building.

2. Work at height procedure

2.1. The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring suitable procedures are in place for undertaking risk assessments for all situations requiring work at height. These procedures must ensure that all involved are aware of the precautions and methods of work to be followed, including emergency action to be taken if necessary.

2.2. An approved list of equipment is the only equipment to be used whilst working at heights. The equipment list is:

- A two step, step ladder.
- Elephant's foot.

Only caretaking staff have the authority to use other equipment than that listed above. Caretaking staff are only authorised to use this equipment when they have received the correct training on the use and maintenance of the equipment. The School Business Manager and the caretaking staff will work together to ensure risk assessments and work method statements are in place, for equipment, other than that listed above, is being used.

2.3 Working at height should be avoided, where it is practicable to do so, but where work at height cannot be avoided, the risk and consequences of falls should be prevented, using either an existing place of work that is already safe or using the right type of equipment (see point 2.2). This includes:

- 2.3.1 Ensuring that equipment supplied is suitable, stable and strong enough for the job, maintained and checked regularly.
- 2.2.1. Taking into account weather conditions that could compromise worker safety.
- 2.2.2. Undertaking as much work as possible from the ground.
- 2.2.3. Checking that the place where work at height is to be undertaken is safe. Each place where people will work at height needs to be checked each time, before use.

- 2.2.4. Preventing materials or objects from falling or, if it is not reasonably practicable to do so, taking suitable and sufficient measures to make sure no one can be injured.
 - 2.2.5. Ensuring that workers can get safely to and from where they work at height.
 - 2.2.6. Storing materials and objects safely to ensure they won't cause injury if they are disturbed or collapse.
 - 2.2.7. Workers ensuring that they don't overload or overreach themselves when working at height.
 - 2.2.8. Taking precautions when working on or near fragile surfaces.
 - 2.2.9. Considering emergency evacuation and rescue procedures.
- 2.3. It is the responsibility of the individual concerned to ensure all necessary precautions, authorised equipment and methods are adhered to at all times, in accordance with their instructions and training.
- 2.4. Any person, who becomes aware of circumstances involving work at height, where the existing control methods are ineffective, must inform the Headteacher or School Business Manager as soon as possible.
- 2.5. Risk assessments must cover all work currently undertaken at heights (or proposed to be), where the risk may be increased by the work activity itself, or the lack of available assistance, should something go wrong. Once relevant tasks are identified, the following must be considered:
- 2.5.1. Plant and equipment: Plant and equipment used by individuals working at height will be assessed for suitability and safety.
 - 2.5.2. Access and egress: Some work at height may require access to locations that are difficult to access or egress. Assessments will consider whether these tasks are safe.
 - 2.5.3. Lone working: Work at height will not be undertaken when working alone.
- 2.6. Work equipment should be assembled and/or installed according to the manufacturer's instructions and in keeping with industry guidelines.
- 2.7. Where the safety of the work equipment depends on how it has been installed and/or assembled, the School Business Manager should ensure it is not used until it has been inspected in that position by a competent person.
- 2.8. Any equipment exposed to conditions that may cause it to deteriorate, and result in a dangerous situation, should be inspected at suitable intervals appropriate to the environment and use.
- 2.9. A record will be maintained of any inspection for types of work equipment, including guard rails, toe-boards, barriers or similar collective means of protection, and working platforms, both fixed and mobile.
- 2.10. Working platforms used for construction work and from which a person could fall more than 2 metres must be inspected:
- 2.10.1. After assembly/installation in any position.
 - 2.10.2. After any event liable to have affected its stability.
 - 2.10.3. At intervals not exceeding 7 days.

- 2.11. Where it is a mobile platform, a new inspection and report is not required every time it is moved to a new location on the PRU premises.
- 2.12. Any equipment, such as a mobile elevating work platform (MEWP), which has come from an external supplier, must be accompanied by a clear indication to everyone involved, when the last thorough examination has been carried out.

3. Assessing risks

- 3.1. The PRU's risk assessment will include the following considerations:
 - 3.1.1. Safety of the pupils, staff, visitors, contractors and the general public.
 - 3.1.2. Hazardous nature of any general work at height on the site (i.e. environmental conditions).
 - 3.1.3. Required competency level of staff to undertake work at height.
 - 3.1.4. Required level of competence and ability to use access equipment.
 - 3.1.5. Required level of supervision.
 - 3.1.6. The safest equipment to use on site.
 - 3.1.7. The condition of access equipment and its maintenance.
 - 3.1.8. Other methods of safe access for higher risk or time-consuming jobs at height.

4. Control measures

- 4.1. In order to manage general risks, the following control measures have been put in place. Persons working at height must:
 - 4.1.1. Not undertake work for which they are not trained/qualified for
 - 4.1.2. Only use the approved equipment for working at height.
 - 4.1.3. Take reasonable care of their health and safety.
 - 4.1.4. Not put themselves in danger.
 - 4.1.5. Know, and follow, safe working procedures.
 - 4.1.6. Never rush or cut corners.
 - 4.1.7. Follow reasonable targets.
 - 4.1.8. Stop for regular breaks and, if possible, change activity after prolonged periods.
 - 4.1.9. Working at height using a ladder should not last any longer than 30 minutes.
 - 4.1.10. Inform the Headteacher or School Business Manager of any relevant medical conditions.
 - 4.1.11. Inform the Headteacher or School Business Manager of any hazards or accidents encountered.
- 4.2. The following communication procedures will also be put in place:
 - 4.2.1. The worker will inform someone when they are working at height, how long they will be, and when they expect to be finished.
 - 4.2.2. In the event that a worker has an accident or falls into difficulties, they are to use their mobile telephone to contact the Headteacher, their nominated person, or the emergency services.

4.3. First aid kits can be found in the following locations:

Aireview

- The staffroom in the first base cupboard.

Jesse Street

- The staffroom on the first bookcase.

5. Training

- 5.1. The School Business Manager will ensure that only individuals with sufficient skills, knowledge and experience are employed to perform a task at height using the equipment NOT listed in point 2.2, providing, where necessary, the appropriate training has been undertaken.
- 5.2. Where staff members are currently undergoing training, they should work under the supervision of somebody competent to work at heights.
- 5.3. Where a working at height activity is low-risk and of a short duration, competence requirements may be no more than making sure an employee receives instruction on how to use the equipment and appropriate on-the-job training.
- 5.4. Where a member of staff finds that they are required to use an item of access equipment on which they have not had instruction/training, or where they are unsure of correct or safe use, then they are to contact the School Business Manager prior to use.
- 5.5. The School Business Manager will maintain an up-to-date record of all instruction and training given to staff members.
- 5.6. Refresher training will be provided every three years.

6. Monitoring and review

- 6.1. The School Business Manager is responsible for monitoring this policy and procedures and amending accordingly following incidents or concerns.
- 6.2. The policy will be reviewed by the School Business Manager every three years.

7. Circulation

- 7.1. This policy will be circulated to every member of staff who shall annually sign a statement which affirms that he/she has:
 - Has read and understood the policy.
 - Has agreed to comply with the policy.
- 7.2. This policy will be included in the publication scheme on the PRU's website and will be made available to the public.