Legionella Policy

January 2025

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Linton School
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Important Contacts

ROLE/ORGANISATION	NAME	CONTACT DETAILS
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Sean Di Sora	Sean.disora@lintonschool.co.uk 01772 957062 07840 803896
Deputy DSL	Steph White	Steph.white@lintonschool.co.uk 01772 957062 07958 717282
Deputy DSL	Paul Barton	Paul.barton@lintonschool.co.uk 01772 957062
Regional Lead	Declan Tuer	Declan.tuer@caretech-uk.com 07827 302334
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for Lancashire County Council	Tim Booth	Tim.booth@lancashire.gov.uk 01772 536694
Lancashire County Council – Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)		0300 123 6720 0300 123 6722 (out of office hours)
Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for Blackpool Council	Amanda Quirke	Amanda.quirke@blackpool.gov.uk 01253 477541
Blackpool Council – Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)		01253 477299
Channel helpline		020 7340 7264

Our School

Linton School is an independent special school for young people with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) difficulties for both boys and girls aged 8-18 years old. The school is registered for up to 12 learners and consists of 4 small classes to provide a nurturing environment to develop and progress throughout their learning journey. We are a trauma informed school that is able to support children and teenagers who suffer with trauma or mental health problems and whose troubled behaviour acts as a barrier to learning. Located in rural Preston we therefore benefit from some amazing outdoor space where we develop our outdoor, equestrian and horticulture skills. All the staff at Linton School are committed to creating a setting which not only focuses on academic success, but also provides our learners opportunities to develop their social, communication and independent skills.

Culture and Ethos

We are committed to providing a nurturing, safe and ambitious learning environment that supports every young person to achieve lifelong skills through a diverse learner centered curriculum. Respectful and supportive relationships are at the heart of all we do; we value every member of the school community equally. Through bespoke curriculums tailored towards each individual pupil's needs, experiences, interests and strengths we foster a love for learning and support our young people to achieve their full potential. As an educational setting our main aim is to prepare our pupils to make a positive contribution towards society by giving our students the skills they need to be successful, resilient and inspirational young adults. Linton schools' purpose is to improve the quality of life for our young people both now, and in the future, 'building our futures together'.

The Vision

Linton School provides a safe, nurturing learning environment to provide skills for lifelong opportunities, which gives the young people an ambitious outlook towards their future.

The vision drives everything we do and will be achieved through:

- Outdoor enrichment activities to promote life skills through play, nurture and teamwork.
- Promoting independence, patience and listening skills through Equestrian lessons.
- Multi-disciplinary links from both internal and external companies to provide a bespoke, broad and balanced curriculum that develops the education of our pupils.
- Empowering each learner to achieve their personal goals and develop a lifelong love of learning.
- A positive and ambitious school environment that promotes learning for all.
- Offering a broad range of learning experiences within the curriculum that values academic attainment as well as developing social skills, experiences and resilience.

More information about the school can be found in the school Prospectus.

1. Definitions.

Legionella Bacteria are naturally present in the environment and if water conditions are favourable to the bacteria i.e. warm, nutritious and stagnant, they will proliferate. Disturbance of this 'contaminated' water can cause tiny droplets to become airborne which, if inhaled, can cause a potentially fatal type of pneumonia called Legionnaires Disease.

Legionella Bacteria may contaminate water systems where the temperature is between 20 and 45˚C. It is uncommon to find any significant growth below 20˚C, the bacteria does not survive for any lengthy period above 60˚C. The optimum temperature growth is 37˚C. Those people especially at risk are the eldery or those who are vulnerable due to reduced immunity, meaning they are less able to fight the disease.

Legionellosis is a collective term for diseases caused by Legionella Bacteria including the most serious Legionnaires' Disease, as well as the similar but less serious condition of Pontiac Fever- a mild flu-like illness caused by Legionella Bacteria, often affecting previously healthy and young individuals. Symptoms can include fever, headaches and muscle aches but, unlike Legionnaires' disease, Pontiac fever does not cause pneumonia. The illness will usually clear up without treatment within two to three days.

It can affect anybody, but some people are at higher risk, the risk does increase with age, however, also at higher risk are;

- people over 45 years of age
- smokers and heavy drinkers
- people suffering from chronic respiratory or kidney disease
- diabetes, lung and heart disease
- anyone with an impaired immune system

The Bacterium Legionella Pneumophila and related bacteria are common in natural water sources such as rivers, lakes and reservoirs, but usually in low numbers. They may also be found in purpose-built water systems such as cooling towers, evaporative condensers, hot and cold water systems and spa pools.

If conditions are favourable, the bacteria may grow increasing the risks of Legionnaires' disease and it is therefore important to control the risks by introducing appropriate measures outlined in Legionnaires' Disease - The Control of Legionella Bacteria in water systems. People contract Legionnaires' Disease by inhaling small droplets of water (aerosols), suspended in the air, containing the bacteria. Certain conditions increase the risk from legionella if:

- The water temperature in all or some parts of the system may be between 20-45 °C, which is suitable for growth it is possible for breathable water droplets to be created and dispersed.

- aerosol created by a cooling tower, or water outlets water is stored and/or recirculated there are deposits that can support bacterial growth providing a source of nutrients for the organism e.g. rust, sludge, scale, organic matter and biofilms.

2. The law.

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.

- The Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999 as amended 2003 & 2006
- The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 as amended 2003 & 2004
- CIBSE TM13 – Minimising the risk of Legionnaires' Disease
- UK HSE document L8 – Legionnaires ' disease, The control of Legionella bacteria in water systems: Approved Code of Practice (ACoP) and Guidance (Version 4) and HSG274 Parts 1, 2 & 3
- BS8558 +A1:2009 – Design, Installation, Testing & Maintenance of services supplying water for domestic use within buildings and their curtilages
- HSG220 – Health & Safety in Care Homes (June 2014)
- HTM 04-01 – The control of Legionella, hygiene, "safe" hot water, cold water and drinking water systems
- BS 7592 – Sampling for Legionella Bacteria in water systems. Code of Practice BSI

Linton School understands its responsibility to assess, prevent and control any risks from harmful bacteria, like legionella, and to implement suitable precautions to ensure the health and safety of our staff, pupils and school communities. To meet this duty, we have developed this policy, which outlines how the schools will keep their school communities safe from legionella.

3. Control measures.

- Taps and toilets are to be tested and recorded at a minimum of every month.
- To achieve ongoing control of legionella, thorough flushing of the water system is required alongside any engineering controls.
- Monitor any water outlets that are not in regular use.
- Record the temperature of hot and cold water outlets.
- No showers or air conditioning units are on site.

- BrodexTrident test the site on a 6 monthly contract.

4. Handling and exposure to compost.

Legionella is often found in compost and legionnaire's disease has resulted in a small number of cases from inhalation of dust or moisture droplets.
All staff who come into physical contact with compost must ensure the following:

- Staff must ensure that themselves and any children wash their hands as soon as is possible after contact, gloves are to be worn
- Compost bags should not be stored in direct sunlight
- Compost bags should be opened carefully as not to disturb contents
- Compost bags ideally should not be opened in enclosed spaces such as sheds or green houses

5. Legionella competent person.

Paul Barton is the nominated competent person for Legionella on the premises and acts on behalf of the Linton school to provide the necessary competence to enable Legionella to be managed safely. In his absence the role reverts to Sean Di Sora.
In addition to this advice will be sought from the appointed external monitoring company – BrodexTrident.- **01704 834477** or **0808 129 2008.**

- Both staff members have completed the Legionella awareness training.
- The Legionella Competent Person will ensure that all periodic and exceptional recording, flushing, cleaning and general Legionella management tasks are correctly completed and recorded.
- He will advise the school leaders/head office of any condition or situation relating to Legionella which may affect the safety of any premises users.
- He is to work within their level of competence and seek appropriate guidance and direction from professional if unsure.

6. Temperature testing.

- 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 spread check list.
- The cold water outlet temperature should be below 20ºC after two minutes running.

- The hot water outlet temperature should be above 50ºC after one minute running,
- If these temperatures cannot be achieved then the Head teacher or a member of SLT is to be informed and professional advice sourced.
- 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.
- Where a tap or toilet has not been used or flushed for a period of seven days then the tap shall be run for a minimum period of two minutes – avoiding splashing to prevent the formation of an aerosol. Toilets should be flushed before use.
- This written scheme will be subject to review every year, or as necessary in line with any risk assessment findings.

7. Linked policies.

Certain points discussed in this policy may be investigated in greater detail through referring to the following policies and documents listed below:

- Health and Safety policy.