



Welcome to the Shropshire Council's Health and Safety Bulletin for

Winter 2026

Any queries / feedback should be sent to

health.safety@shropshire.gov.uk

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Fire Risk Assessment



Are your fire risk assessments up to date?

Name	Contractor	Address	Telephone	Mobile	Email
Mike Ablitt	Unicorn Fire & Safety Solutions	6 Salendine, Shrewsbury SY1	0845 519 9039	07828 190 515	info@unicornsafety.co.uk
Dave Watkiss	AtkinsRealis PPS Ltd	Woodcote Grove, Ashley Road, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5BW	0121 221 2914	07812 318162	dave.watkiss@atkinsrealis.com
Jordon Gore	Hydrock Consultants Ltd	Over Court Barns, Over Lane, Almondsbury, Bristol BS32 4DF	01454 619533		Jordon.Gore@stantec.com
Adele Partridge	Adele Partridge (Health & Safety in Care)	25 Aldersley Way, Ruyton-Xi-Towns, Shrewsbury SY4 1NE	07894 860292		adele@hsincare.co.uk

Depending on the age, construction methods & local hazards, your school **must** have a Fire Risk Assessment carried out by a competent person every 3 to 5 years.

Actions identified are to be signed off and dated when completed.

Your annual review should include reviewing the consultant FRA to check all actions have been completed and the other sections remain true with all hazards controlled.

If necessary, a new action plan can be developed for that year.



For all Fire Safety training requirements, please contact

emma.j.cushing@shropshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01743 257906

or book directly via ERP / Course Catalogue / Fire Safety



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Health & Safety Training



- Fire Awareness, Fire Warden & Extinguisher
- Fire Awareness & Extinguisher
- Manual Handling including Slips, Trips & Falls
- Risk Assessment Workshop
- Legionella
- Asbestos
- Working at Height
- COSHH

The training team are available to visit your school to deliver our training courses.

Face to Face Training is also being delivered at the following venues throughout 2026

- The Lantern Meadow Farm Drive SHREWSBURY SY1 4NG
- Bridgnorth Library 67 Listley Street BRIDGNORTH WV16 4AW
- Raven House Prospect Road MARKET DRAYTON TF9 3AP
- Castle View Arthur Street OSWESTRY SY11 1JR
- Helena Lane Community Centre 20 Hamlet Rd LUDLOW SY8 2NP

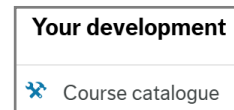
Contact Emma Cushing for further information emma.j.cushing@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257906

Courses can be booked directly via ERP [Course catalogue - Unit4 ERP](#)

Click on the dotted lines next to your home button



Under Your Development, click on Course Catalogue



Click on the Zoom Icon for course information, click the tick to sign up!

Scheduled courses					
Zoom	Sign up	Wait list	Prereq.	Availability	Course
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0	Emergency First Aid at Work with Paediatric Element
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0	First Aid at Work Course

You will receive a notification at the top of the screen



eLearning course are available on **Leap into Learning**, providing convenient learning to help protect staff and help meet H&S compliance. Maintained schools have access to all the courses, if you require any support with setting up staff on to Leap into Learning, please contact kevin.jenkins@shropshire.gov.uk and I will be happy to assist.

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Cold Weather Advice



There's lots of advice available about the **Cold Weather** and what to do on the HSE Website: [Temperature - HSE](#)

Temperature in the workplace



1. [Is it too cold or hot to work?](#)
2. [What the law says](#)
3. [Managing workplace temperature](#)
4. [How workers can help keep temperatures comfortable](#)
5. [Outdoor working](#)
6. [Dehydration](#)
7. [Heat stress](#)
8. [Cold stress](#)

Don't forget:

- Review your snow/ gritting plan to ensure its effectiveness and review your risk assessment.
- Turn off all valves serving outside taps.
- Know where your stop taps and valves are located – ensure they are not seized up.
- Inspect your buildings daily after a period of freezing weather to look for any damage.
- Check all outdoor lighting is working and check summer growth of trees/shrubs does not obscure lighting.
- Check gutters/downpipes are clear and in sound condition, so melting snow/ice can efficiently drain away from the buildings.
- Check roofs for missing/damaged tiles and replace/repair.

Follow the links to Shropshire Learning Gateway for advice and further useful links and resources;

[Cold Weather Advice for Schools](#) (25/26)

[Salt Supply Information](#) (2025 /2026)

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Useful Checklist Templates



Records of your **Site Safety Checks** will evidence best practice and compliance in the event of any potential claims or enforcement action by the HSE, if it's not recorded, it's not done, or very difficult to prove it was done.

School Premise Checklist identifies typical hazards present, the frequency of checks will be up to you to decide and may depend on various local factors that affect the school and should be identified within your Premise Risk Assessment (Weekly, Half Termly, Termly).

The below template identifies key areas for consideration;

[School Premise Checklist record](#)

Finger Door Guards are there to prevent serious crush injury to young children, the below linked documents assist with identifying the 'at risk doors' and the ongoing monitoring of their condition. This should be identified within your Premise Risk Assessment .

[Door Finger Guard Guidance](#)

[Finger Door guard Check Record](#)

Outdoor Play Equipment Safety Checks are vital to ensure the equipment remains in a safe condition complying with BSEN 1176 (Playground Equipment & Surfacing), recommendations are;

1. Routine visual inspections: identification of hazards from vandalism, use or weather conditions (recommend a recorded weekly inspection according to your risk assessment)
2. Operational inspection: Termly Checks, stability, wear, sealed for life parts etc.
3. Annual main inspection: checks long-term levels of safety

Your Play Equipment Risk Assessment should identify the frequency of checks, this may consider the age and condition of the equipment, level of potential injury resulting from the equipment failing, potential of vandalism or unauthorised use etc.

[Playground Weekly Inspection Record](#)

[Playground Termly Inspection Record](#)

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Managing Contractors



Managing Building Reactive Maintenance Contractors in School – Contractor's on site risk assessment

PSG have started a new process for contractors carrying out *reactive maintenance* at schools and other council buildings.

Reactive maintenance is unplanned and could include tasks like fixing damaged flooring, a leaking tap/ roof, a damaged electrical socket/light etc.

Under construction legislation, contractors must make a written and proportionate assessment of relevant hazards and how they will be managed for any construction task.

Consequently, construction contractors will be required to complete an initial Point of Work Risk and Hazard Identification (POWRHI) form prior to starting reactive maintenance work. PSG have issued these forms to their framework construction contractors.

PSG will expect contractors to send a copy of this completed form to them before they are paid for the work carried out.

What does this new process mean for Schools?

The requirement for contractors should have little impact on schools and other buildings.

- The contractor should be signed in as normal, presented with relevant site information, including the site Asbestos Survey etc.
- The contractor should then discuss the reactive maintenance task with the appropriate person at the school. The school should share relevant information relating to the location, timings, access, etc.
- The contractor should then document their POWRHI form after discussing/agreeing relevant controls.
- A representative from the school should sign the form to confirm that the contractor has agreed a safe system of work with the school before work commences.

More information is available on Shropshire Learning Gateway in this document - **Contractors A Guide for Premise Managers 2025** - [contractors-a-guide-for-premise-managers-2025.pdf](#)



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Asbestos Awareness



Recent HSE Notices & Prosecutions

- An Improvement notice was issued to a School in Bromyard, on August 25, and it was given until the end of October to make improvements. The improvement notice concerned the "Asbestos documentation and communication of this Information", specifically ensuring that an Asbestos management plan and communications to staff and contractors were fully up to date.
- 13th June 25 A construction site supervisor has been fined after he exposed primary school pupils and staff to asbestos during renovation work. He was working as a site supervisor during the refurbishment of kitchen facilities at a Primary School in Bristol.
- During the works in May 2023, he cut through asbestos insulating board using a circular saw. His actions resulted in asbestos fibres spreading throughout the school hall, which was subsequently used for two days by pupils and staff.

HSE Monitoring Visits

Each year the HSE run a campaign visiting schools to ensure that asbestos is being safely managed, if they need to intervene, they will make a charge for their costs (Fee For Intervention) currently £183/Hr.

Is your filed Annual Asbestos Report up to date?

Is your Asbestos Management Plan up to date?

Is your Training up to date?

Do you and your staff know if and where there is asbestos in your school?

Are you safely managing contractors and following procedures at all times?

For schools having known ACM's (Asbestos Containing Materials), it is strongly advised that those managing the ACM's or who may disturb them, receive face to face training—Please take your Asbestos folder with you. Annual refresher training can be via Leap into Learning.

Please contact emma.j.cushing@shropshire.gov.uk / Tel: 01743 257906 or book directly via ERP

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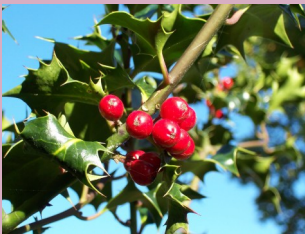
Dangerous Plants - What to look out for?



There are many poisonous berries in the UK which can be harmful or even deadly when ingested. Do you have any of these around your school grounds or forest school?



- Yew Tree - The berries are soft, with a red cup-like structure known as an aril, which encases a dark seed. While the aril is not toxic, the seed inside is highly poisonous, containing toxic alkaloids.



- Holly - All parts of the holly plant contain several toxic substances. The berries contain ilicin, which can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, and drowsiness if eaten.



- Ivy - Common Ivy's small, blackish-blue berries might look unassuming, but they are in fact highly toxic. They contain triterpenoid saponins, which can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, and convulsions if ingested. The plant is also an irritant upon touch.

Plants can not only be dangerous to eat, but also to touch—watch the video about the [Giant Hogweed](#), some say the most dangerous plant in the UK and it can be found in here in Shropshire. Thankfully plant poisoning are very rare, it is usually the attraction or curiosity of brightly coloured juicy berries which cause children to be tempted to eat poisonous plants. The below link will help you identify any hazardous plants with first aid advice. Useful for Forest School or Outdoor Learning staff for either checking the school grounds or planning outdoor walks. This can also be included within your Premise Risk Assessment.



[Poisonous Plants](#)

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Palisade Spiked Top Security Fence Risk



Real scenario (not in Shropshire)

A child throws over another child's coat or bag which lands on the fence, the child tries to retrieve their belonging and stands on the lower cross rail to reach up, their foot slips off and they are suspended with their finger caught in the spike resulting in a horrific injury.

If your school has this type of fencing, this must be considered in your Premise Risk Assessment. Factors to consider include:

- Fitting Safety Warning Signage—Danger Do Not Climb.
- Location of fencing—Frequented use area.
- If it is protected by established vegetation, a natural barrier, making access difficult.
- Provide instruction & supervision as appropriate.
- Ensure that all supervising staff are aware of the hazard and report any incidents of students behaving inappropriately on the fence—near miss
- Seek the advice of a fencing contractor or PSG to remove the risk (grind off the spikes and make good) if the risk cannot otherwise be suitably controlled.



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Training for Governors & New Headteachers



Health and Safety Training for Maintained Schools

Governors Health and Safety Course

We are running 2 courses in February/March for school governors in relation to their Health & Safety responsibilities.

The course is free of charge, 1 hour long and is delivered via Microsoft Teams.

The next dates are:

Tuesday 24th Feb 10.30—11.30am

Tuesday 3rd March 5.30—6.30pm

To book please email: kevin.jenkins@shropshire.gov.uk

New Headteachers Health and Safety Course

We are running 2 courses in February/March for new Headteachers in relation to their Health & Safety responsibilities.

The course is free of charge, 1 hour long and is delivered via Microsoft Teams.

The next dates are:

Thursday 10th Feb 16:00—17:00pm

Thursday 5th March 16:00—17:00pm

To book please email: kevin.jenkins@shropshire.gov.uk

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How To Get In Touch?



How to contact us?

Kevin Jenkins

Health and Safety Officer – Schools

Radiation Protection Officer
Health & Safety Team
Property & Development
Enabling Services
Shropshire Council
01743 253736

Kevin.jenkins@shropshire.gov.uk

Training Courses;

Emma J Cushing

Lead Health & Safety and First Aid Trainer

Health & Safety Team - Property & Development

emma.j.cushing@shropshire.gov.uk

01743 257906

A health and safety duty officer from the team is available to assist you on:

01743 252819

health.safety@shropshire.gov.uk

Where can I find help?

Health & Safety Arrangements—[Shropshire Learning Gateway](#)



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