



# **WILLOWCROFT ACADEMY TRUST**

## **Premises Management Policy**

**2025/26**

## **Aims**

This document has been adopted by the Trustees as the basis for the maintenance and upkeep of Willowcroft Community School. The aim of this policy is to provide a framework within which individual members of staff, school Governors and all other interested parties can maintain and improve the buildings and site of the school for the benefit of pupils, staff and visitors.

## **Relationship to other policies**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

CCTV Policy  
Health and Safety Policy  
Cleaning and Caretaking Policy  
Critical Incident Management Plan  
First Aid Policy  
No Smoking Policy  
Lettings Policy  
Accessibility Plan  
Contractors on Site

These documents are cross-referenced in the text where appropriate.

## **1. Principles of Premises Management**

- 1.1 To ensure that the site and buildings are clean, safe, and secure
- 1.2 To ensure that the school and its staff are able to fulfil their core purpose of educating children
- 1.3 To ensure that the facilities and resources are in a good state of repair and decoration
- 1.4 To make sure the school complies with Health and Safety rules, and other relevant legislation (i.e. the Education (School Premises) Regulations of 1999 and the Building Regulations of 2000).

## **2. Maintenance of the buildings**

- 2.1 **Redecoration**  
The school plans, within budget constraints, to run a rolling programme of redecoration, during which all classrooms, offices and communal areas will be redecorated once every five years. The initial prioritisation will take account of health and safety, length of time since last decoration, appearance and cost.
- 2.2 **Cleaning**  
Cleaning staff will be employed to conduct daily cleaning of the premises, and ensure deep cleans and other activities (e.g. window cleans) are undertaken during school holidays, to ensure that the environment is fit for purpose
- 2.3 **Repairs and Maintenance**
  - 2.3.1 All repairs and maintenance are conducted in a timely fashion without impacting on the running of the school. The Health & Safety Team will maintain a list of planned works and supervise the Site Manager and the management of these activities. Work will be prioritised according to health and safety, impact on day-to-day school life and cost.

- 2.3.2 Cyclical maintenance: The school ensures that systems and equipment are maintained and checked in accordance with legislative requirements. This includes water testing, fire system and extinguisher testing etc
- 2.3.3 Electrical testing: By law, the school's electrics should be tested every five years. The school will ensure that money to pay for the testing is set aside in the budget for this.
- 2.3.4 Fire testing: The school is required to maintain fully working fire alarm and fire-fighting systems, as well as making sure that all possible and practical preventions are in place. Each room has an evacuation plan, and drills are held at least half termly to practise quick and safe evacuations. Fire extinguishers and fire alarms are serviced regularly, and the fire risk-assessment is reviewed annually, or when changes occur to the buildings.

### **3 Maintenance of the External Site**

- 3.1 Grounds Upkeep  
It is important that the school site is clean, tidy and safe. Playgrounds are checked on a daily basis for obstructions, mess and damage. Lawns should be mown regularly during the growing season, and nettles etc must be regularly removed to reduce the likelihood of accidents. The allotment also needs to be well maintained – grass cut and free from nettles and brambles.
- 3.2 Cleaning  
The school external site is cleaned and tidied by the site manager on a regular basis in a planned rolling programme. In addition, a 'deep clean' of the outdoor areas is organised during the school holidays. Playground rubbish should be cleared on a daily basis as this can give a bad impression to parents and visitors alike
- 3.3 Repairs and Maintenance  
All repairs and maintenance are conducted in a timely fashion with impacting on the running of the school. The Health & Safety Team will maintain a list of planned works and supervise the Site Manager and the management of these activities. Work will be prioritised according to health and safety, impact on day-to-day school life and cost.

### **4 Repairs and Maintenance**

- 4.1 Budget: The Headteacher delegates a budget for repairs, maintenance, fixtures and fittings, which is held by the Site Manager. It is the Business Manager's responsibility to control this budget, and to ensure that it is not exceeded without the permission of the Headteacher.
- 4.2 Tools: The school provides tools for the repair and maintenance of the buildings and grounds. The tools should be stored and supervised securely, and kept out of the reach of unauthorised users, including children. The tools remain the property of the school at all times.

### **5 Security**

- 5.1 The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that the school is a safe environment for children to learn, staff to work and visitors to participate. All visitors must report to the school office on arrival to the school, having been buzzed through the gate.

- 5.2 All visitors are required to sign in in the Visitor File, held in the school foyer, and to wear a visitor badge throughout their stay at the school.

## **6 Asset Management Plan**

- 6.1 The Asset Management Plan sets out the capital and asset management framework within which all other Academy strategic plans operate.
- 6.2 The Plan assesses school premises in terms of three main aspects:
- Condition
  - Suitability
  - Sufficiency
- 6.2.1 Condition assessments address the physical state of the buildings and provide a basis for preparation of planned maintenance programmes. They also cover some aspects of health and safety matters
- 6.2.2 Suitability assessments address how well premises meet the needs of teachers, pupils and other users, and their implications in raising educational achievement. These assessments are concerned with the numbers and characteristics of each type of internal or external space. They also cover aspects of physical accessibility and some health and safety issues.
- 6.2.3 Sufficiency assessments focus on total areas and on the quality and organisation of pupil places within the school, in relation to demand
- 6.3 The school uses the information gathered in these assessments as a basis for its Premises Improvement Plan, which is reviewed annually.

## **7 Capital Projects**

- 7.1 The Trustees will ensure that capital projects and expenditure is planned and undertaken according to health and safety, the impact of day-to-day school life and cost.
- 7.2 Priorities for capital spending are decided by the Headteacher in consultation with the Premises Committee. Decisions are made based on the school's condition survey, the premises development plan and emergency or unforeseen occurrences.

## **8 Roles and Responsibilities**

- 8.1 The role of the Trustees is:
- To be responsible for the overall management of the premises of the school
  - To meet in full at least once a term
  - To plan the budget and delegate responsibility to budget holders.
  - To ensure the requirements of Government Statutory Instruments and other associated guidance are met
  - To ratify policies drawn up by the relevant committees
  - To approve expenditure on major capital projects and to seek LEA approval before proceeding (this duty has been delegated to the Premises Committee)
  - To maintain minutes of meetings that may be open to a full Governing Body meeting
  - To maintain confidential minutes (denoted as "Part 2") that will have limited access
- 8.2 The Role of the Finance & Resources Committee is:

- To provide support and guidance for the Head Teacher on all matters relating to the premises and grounds to ensure that the school premises are fit for purpose
- To approve expenditure on major capital projects and to seek LA approval before proceeding (this duty has been delegated by the Full Governing Body)
- To inspect the premises and grounds regularly and prepare a statement of priorities for maintenance and development for the approval of the governing body.
- To approve the costs and arrangements for maintenance, repairs and redecoration within the budget allocations.
- To oversee the preparation and implementation of service contracts.
- To ensure that the governing body's responsibilities regarding litter are discharged according to the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- To prepare a Letting and Charges Policy for the approval of the governing body, and to monitor its implementation.
- To ensure that the premises are being used to their best potential.
- To ensure any necessary liaison with the Local Authority regarding premises issues.

8.3 The role of the Headteacher is: To prepare budget estimates in conjunction with the School Business Manager and members of the Finance Committee with regard to premises improvement

- To advise the Premises Committee on spending priorities
- To ensure that school expenditure reflects priorities in the Premises Improvement Plan including plans for money held in reserve for future projects.
- To authorise expenditure on a day to day basis in line with the budget to ensure that any statutory improvements and repairs are implemented
- To ensure that Local Authority and State regulations and instructions are adhered to
- To maintain appropriate documentation and records of transactions to specified standards

8.4 The role of the Teaching and Non-Teaching staff is:

- To inform the Site Manager at the earliest opportunity of any risks or dangers presented by the school's premises. This is done through the I Am Compliant portal where a ticket is raised and banded to its urgency.
- To ensure, to the best of their ability, that any danger or risk is managed effectively until the Site Manager can assess it. This may include informing a member of the office staff, contacting a member of the Senior Management Team, restricting pupil access to common areas and/or supervising an area until the risk is reduced (e.g. by the children returning to class), or has been passed on to the Site Manager.
- To identify other premises issues which may provide barriers to learning, and bring them to the notice of the Site Manager or Headteacher at the earliest opportunity. These should also be recorded in the Site Manager's file.

8.5 The role of the Site Manager is:

- To ensure that the site and buildings are clean, safe and secure, and to ensure that the school can fulfil its core purpose of educating children
- To ensure that facilities and resources are in a good state of repair
- To organise for repairs and maintenance to take place quickly and effectively, and with due regard to budget implications and limitations, and in liaison with the SBM and the Headteacher.
- To manage the repairs and maintenance budget effectively, following, where necessary, principles of Best Value
- To advise the Governing Body, through the Premises Committee, on the condition, suitability and sufficiency of the premises within the scope of the Premises Improvement Plan.

## **9 Best Value**

- 9.1 The Trustees will apply the four principles of best value to all financial and school dealings, to ensure the most effective, economic and efficient means available, namely:

**Challenge** – regularly reviewing how and why the services of the school are provided and setting targets and performance indicators for improvement

**Comparison** – monitoring outcomes and performance of similar services with other schools and within the school

**Consultation** – with appropriate stakeholders before major decisions are made

**Competition** – through quotations and tenders to ensure that the school are secured in the most efficient and effective way (i.e. to ensure Best Value)

## **10 Monitoring**

- 10.1 It is the responsibility of the Trustees to monitor the effective deployment of this policy. This responsibility has been delegated to the Premises Committee.
- 10.2 This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.