



Lone Worker Procedure

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Audience:	All Crofty staff
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Statement of intent

Crofty Education Trust (CET) recognises that some staff are required to work by themselves, without close or direct supervision and sometimes in isolated work areas or outside of office hours.

Under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, the Trust, as the employer, has a duty of care to advise and assess risks for lone workers. Lone workers also have a responsibility to take reasonable care of themselves, and other people affected by their work.

This procedure applies to all situations involving lone working arising in connection with the duties and activities of staff. The document outlines lone working procedures and what is expected of employees who undertake lone working.

1. Legal framework

1.1 This procedure has due regard to legislation, including, but not limited to, the following:

1.1.1 Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974

1.1.2 The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

2. Definitions

2.1 For the purpose of this procedure, '**lone working**' refers to situations where staff, in the course of their duties, work alone either on or off the school premises and are physically isolated from colleagues, possibly without immediate access to assistance.

2.2 Due to the possibility of buildings creating isolated areas, it is possible for a staff member to be 'lone working' with other staff members in the building.

3. Aims of the procedure

3.1 This procedure aims to:

3.1.1 Increase staff awareness of safety issues relating to lone working.

3.1.2 Ensure that the risk of lone working is assessed in a systematic and ongoing way, and that safe systems and methods of work are put in place to reduce that risk so far as is reasonably practicable.

3.1.3 Ensure that appropriate support and training is available to all staff that equips them to recognise risk and provides practical advice on staying safe when working alone.

3.1.4 Encourage full reporting and recording of all adverse incidents relating to lone working.

3.1.5 Reduce the number of incidents and injuries to staff related to lone working.

4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1 The headteacher is responsible for:

4.1.1 Ensuring that there are arrangements for identifying, evaluating and managing the risks associated with lone working.

4.1.2 Providing resources for putting the procedure into practice.

4.1.3 Ensuring that there are arrangements for monitoring incidents linked to lone working.

4.1.4 Reviewing this procedure regularly or in the light of changes

4.2 Line managers are responsible for:

4.2.1 Ensuring that all staff are aware of this procedure.

4.2.2 Taking all possible steps to ensure that lone workers are at no greater risk than other employees.

4.2.3 Identifying situations where staff work alone and deciding whether systems can be adopted to avoid workers carrying out tasks on their own.

4.2.4 Ensuring that the relevant risk assessments are carried out and reviewed regularly.

4.2.5 Putting procedures and safe systems of work into practice which are designed to eliminate or reduce the risks associated with lone working.

4.2.6 Ensuring that staff identified as lone workers are given appropriate information, instruction and training that is updated as necessary.

4.2.7 Managing the effectiveness of preventative measures through a robust system of reporting, investigating and recording incidents.

4.2.8 Ensuring that appropriate support is given to staff involved in any incident.

4.2.9 Providing lone workers with personal safety equipment, e.g. a mobile phone, where necessary.

- 4.3 Lone workers are responsible for:
 - 4.3.1 Taking reasonable care of themselves and others affected by their working.
 - 4.3.2 Following the school's policies and procedures for safe working.
 - 4.3.3 Reporting all incidents that may affect the health and safety of themselves or others and asking for advice as appropriate.
 - 4.3.4 Taking part in training related to lone working as required.
 - 4.3.5 Reporting any dangers or potential dangers they identify or any concerns they might have in respect of working alone.
 - 4.3.6 Seeking the permission of the headteacher before working alone.

5. Risk assessment

5.1 Prior to a member of staff undertaking lone working, a risk assessment will be conducted by the headteacher.

5.2 The risk assessment will cover all work proposed to be undertaken alone and where risk may be increased by the work activity itself or by the lack of available assistance should something go wrong.

5.3 Depending on the tasks the lone worker is proposing to undertake, the risk assessment will cover the following as appropriate:

- 5.3.1 The staff member's medical fitness and suitability to work alone
- 5.3.2 Channels of communication
- 5.3.3 Any specific risks related to the lone working activity
- 5.3.4 The risk of violence
- 5.3.5 Access and egress
- 5.3.6 Reporting and recording arrangements
- 5.3.7 The ability to trace the staff member's whereabouts
- 5.3.8 Situational hazards

5.4 A log of known risks, including locations, individuals and tasks, will be kept, updated and regularly reviewed. This log will be kept securely in the headteacher's office and lone workers can request to see parts of the log relevant to their lone working.

5.5 It is the responsibility of the lone worker to ensure all necessary precautions and procedures are adhered to at all times.

5.6 Any person who becomes aware of circumstances involving lone working, where the existing control measures may not be fully effective, will inform the headteacher as soon as possible.

6. Procedures for lone workers

6.1 A record will be kept in the school office containing details of all staff members that undertake lone working, including the tasks they undertake, where they undertake them and when.

6.2 During working hours, all loner workers leaving their workplace will leave written details with the school office of where they are going and their estimated time of arrival back at the school.

6.3 If, in the course of a trip away from the school, a lone worker's plans change significantly, they will contact the school office to inform the school of changes to their schedule.

6.4 All lone workers will be provided with a mobile phone and other personal safety equipment where necessary.

6.5 Lone workers will ensure they have any of their provided personal safety equipment with them prior to lone working and that the equipment is working.

6.6 Lone workers will avoid organising meetings where they will be alone with an individual or group. Where this is unavoidable, the lone worker will obtain prior approval from their line manager who will make any arrangements to ensure the staff member's safety. Any appointments of this nature will be recorded.

6.7 If a staff member is required to work alone with a child or vulnerable adult, they will follow the procedures outlined in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

6.8 Lone workers will have access to adequate first aid facilities and mobile workers will carry a first aid kit suitable for treating minor injuries.

6.9 Under no circumstances should a lone worker compromise their personal safety. If a lone worker feels in danger, they will remove themselves from the situation immediately.

6.10 The school operates a 'buddy' system, whereby lone workers have a designated member of staff that will:

6.10.1 Be aware of the schedule and movements of the lone worker.

6.10.2 Have all necessary contact details of the lone worker.

6.10.3 Attempt to contact the lone worker if contact is not made as agreed.

6.10.4 Follow agreed escalation procedures and notify the headteacher of any incidents.

6.11 Contingency arrangements will be in place for a member of staff to take over the 'buddy' role in case the nominated person becomes unavailable.

6.12 Where there is a genuine concern about the whereabouts or safety of a lone worker, the headteacher will use the information held on record to try and ascertain the whereabouts of the worker. If contact cannot be made, the headteacher will decide on the best course of action depending on the circumstances, which could include contacting the emergency services.

7. Safeguarding

7.1 Where a lone worker is required to work with pupils, physical intervention will only ever be used as a last resort and will be conducted in line with the Positive Handling Policy.

If a lone worker is required to conduct one-to-one sessions with pupils, the following guidelines will be adhered to:

7.1.1 Full and ongoing training regarding child protection, physical restraint and the use of reasonable force will be provided to the worker.

7.1.2 Meetings or sessions will never be held in remote or secluded areas.

7.1.3 At least one other member of staff will be informed of when and where a one-to-one session is taking place.

7.1.4 The lone worker will not use 'engaged' or equivalent signs on rooms used for one-to-one sessions.

7.1.5 Doors will be kept open during sessions – where this is not possible, the worker will ensure both parties are visible through a window.

7.1.6 When holding the session, the worker will talk to the pupil with a desk between them, or otherwise arrange the room or environment to avoid unnecessary physical contact.

7.1.7 Both parties will sit near the door during sessions.

7.1.8 If a pupil becomes emotionally distressed or angry, the worker will seek assistance and a record will be kept of the incident.

7.2 Any allegations against a lone worker will be dealt with in line with the Allegations of Abuse Against Staff Policy.

8. Training

8.1 All lone workers will be fully trained in safe working practices.

8.2 Lone workers will undertake additional training that is relevant to their lone working, e.g. first aid.

9. Monitoring safety issues

Lone workers will report incidents such as accidents, near misses and threatening situations to the headteacher who will make a record.

Lone workers should raise any safety concerns with their line manager, who will arrange for additional precautionary measures to be put in place.

10. Monitoring and review

10.1 This procedure will be reviewed in the light of changes.