**Piggott School Procedure**

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**The Piggott School**

**Procedure: Noise**

**Aim:**

To protect employees, students and other members of the public from hearing damage through exposure to loud noise

**Reference documents:**

* Wokingham Schools “Noise at Work” document
* HSE “The control of noise at work Regulations 2005”

**Method:**

Piggott School has a duty to protect its staff, pupils and other visitors to the site from noise that may cause damage to hearing. Piggott’s staff also have a responsibility to protect themselves and report anything they may be a source of risk.

Noise levels should assessed when there is an intrusive noise such as:

* Where people have to raise their voices to be heard by someone 2 meters away for extended parts of the day
* Use power tools for more than 30 minutes
* Use high level noise tools such as breakers or angle grinder for any length of time
* Where there is an extremely loud noise for any amount of time

In situations where noise of this level is likely a sound test can be undertaken and PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) should be provided if the sound level cannot be reduced or otherwise managed. As part of this test the decibels dB (loudness) in that area are recorded.

Maximum levels of noise should not exceed 87dB averaged out over a working day. Noise levels should never peak over 140dB for any length of time.

Managing high level noise.

Employees should make their line manager aware of any issues or concerns they have about noise.

The school will conduct assessments on equipment or processes where there is a concern about noise levels.

An individual risk assessment will be arranged by the school to assess the risk and identify measures needed.

PPE will be provided for any task that requires hearing defenders and for anyone who asks for them.

High level noise work such as demolition work or large building work, should as far as is practicable be conducted outside school hours and access to that area restricted. If this is for an extended period appropriate signage should also be displayed.

**Issued by:**

David Corringham

**Reviewed without change:**

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