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| Committee(s) | Dated: |
| Finance and Estates Committee of the City of London School for Girls | 10 November 2021 |
| Subject: CLSG Health, Safety and Compliance Update | Public |
| Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly? | 1d; 1e; 2a |
| Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending? | No |
| If so, how much? | N/A |
| What is the source of Funding? | N/A |
| Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department? | N/A |
| Report of: Jenny Brown, Headmistress | For Information |
| Report author: Jane Elliott-Waine, Compliance Manager (CM) | |

Summary

This report provides members of the Finance and Estates Committee with an update on compliance at City of London School for Girls.

Outlined in the report is the continuing scope of work to ensure that levels of compliance are well co-ordinated across key areas of the schools function including meeting the requirements of health and safety, fire safety, Independent Schools Standards Regulations and our approach to manage the risks of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee is asked to note the current position.

Main Report

COVID

1. Background

The DfE Operational Guidance remains largely unchanged since the summer. We continue to meet our duty by ensuring risk mitigation measures are in place and followed.

2. Current state of play

The whole school risk assessment was last updated on 14 Oct 21 to reflect the temporary additional measures, including the use of face coverings and restrictions to in-school gatherings, introduced following a rise in cases within year 11. We continue to monitor cases in school and are working within the scope of measures set out in the contingency framework, where necessary. As we move into winter thermal comfort will be reviewed on an ongoing basis, but we will need to ensure occupied spaces remain well ventilated.

CO2 monitoring will continue into 2022. To note, in a recent report from the Education Group of the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, who are collating CO2 data from schools across England, there were no reported readings above the threshold limits for concern.

3. Anything we are asking for guidance/approval on?

To not the current position.

General Health, Safety and Compliance update

1. Current State of play

Following notice of a possible ISI material change remote review we have been working on collating evidence of compliance, including areas related to Part 3 – Welfare, health and safety of pupils, Part 4 – Suitability of staff, supply, and proprietors and Part 5 – Premises and accommodation at schools. Good evidence is in place for Part 3 and Part 5; however, HR continue to work through gaps identified in the SCR and additional staffing resources have been provided to assist in this work.

Audits of the SCR has taken priority over health and safety inspections and audits, but these will be rescheduled for later this term. Outstanding summer works have continued into half term and are ongoing, including the fire alarm upgrade to an L3 system and the electrical distribution boards.

Best practice continues to flow across CLSG / CLS and the recent experience from the ISI EQI with focused compliance inspection at CLS has been discussed with relevant managers.

We failed to recruit a Health and Safety Apprentice, and this position has been readvertised. This stretches the resilience to provide a more proactive service but the Compliance Manager being on site everyday this term has given greater accessibility to advice and guidance to staff, where needed.

2. Current State of play
To note the current position.

Implications

Failure to maintain compliance could have implications of not meeting the standards required during an ISI inspection, which could lead to reputation damage to the school and corporation. The risks associated with not meeting health, safety and fire legislation include legal, financial and property damage implications to the Corporation and school communities.

Conclusion

There have been significant improvements in compliance over the last 12 months, although challenges remain, but as we continue the transition to develop a culture of responsibility and accountability we will be better placed to demonstrate our commitment to continual improvement.

Appendices

None.

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