

While on assignment through Absolute Education at any school you have the same responsibilities as permanent members of the school's faculty. Please read the following carefully, as it outlines your legal responsibilities for yourself and the pupils in your care.

Child protection

The 1996 Education Act (Section 530) that any form of physical contact with a child in the form of corporal punishment is prohibited. Contact with a child is not unlawful however and the use of reasonable force to restrain a pupil is provisioned under the Children Act 1989. However, physical restraint should be used only as a very last resort and avoided wherever possible.

The 1989 Children Act recognises 4 categories of abuse:

- physical abuse
- sexual abuse
- emotional abuse
- neglect

Teachers and Supply Teachers have a responsibility to report suspected or alleged abuse to the nominated person within the school in which they are teaching.

Equal Opportunities

Whilst Equal Opportunity policies vary across schools and local education authorities, it is Absolute Education's policy to support programmes which guarantee:

- That racial and cultural differences are respected,
- the rights of all groups are protected,
- equal opportunity for all regardless of race, sex, disability, age, marital status, colour, ethnic or national origin, creed or sexual orientation,
- the elimination of discriminatory practices which operate against the interests any section of society.

Health and Safety

Under the provisions of The Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), it is the responsibility of any person within the workplace to safeguard against activities that endanger the health and / or safety of others.

The provisions of the act are particularly important in schools, where the safety and wellbeing of children is a real issue.

Absolute Education insist that candidates make themselves fully aware of the extent of the regulations. Please note that practical lessons and subjects such as PE, Design Technology, Food Technology and Laboratory Science (amongst others) require supervision from fully qualified teachers who hold relevant safety certificates.

Fires, First Aid, Accidents and Emergency Procedures

Whilst on assignment through Absolute Education, it is your responsibility to report any accidents or injuries to the relevant authority within the school in which you are working.

Ensure that you are familiar with the school's specific emergency procedures and that you are aware of all Emergency Exits.

Identify nominated First Aiders, and ensure you know where to find them. Familiarise yourself with the location of First Aid equipment.