**Cheshire Clay Studio**

**Health and Safety for classes, workshops and taster sessions**

Last updated 28/12/2022

**General terms**

Induction to the studio will be provided by a member of the Cheshire Clay Studio team who will talk through this health and safety document. The studio should not be used without used without having been inducted so that the relevant risks and precautions can be explained.

All working studios and their equipment are potentially hazardous if used incorrectly. Cheshire Cay Studio is not liable for injuries caused by incorrect use of equipment and materials. ………. So it is liable in some situations, what are they?

A member of the Cheshire Clay Studio team should be notified of any prior health conditions that would affect use of the studio and its equipment so that …..? What do we want to say about this?

Please keep yourself safe by wearing sensible clothes, footwear and tying back long hair especially using equipment with moving parts such as the pottery wheel.

All injuries and near misses should be logged in the accident book.

**Specific hazards:** slips trips and falls, inhaling dust, using tools and machinery with moving parts eg potters wheels, use of toxic glaze materials.

**Slips trips and falls**

Take care when moving round the studio and always leave coats and bags on the coat stand provided so they don’t create trip hazards for others.

**Basic studio hygiene**

Thoroughly clean all aprons, equipment, tables, wheels after use. Mop any spills, splatters or trimmings that land on the floor under your working area.

Food is not permitted during class when working with clay or glazes. Only drinks with a lid are permitted.

**Dust**

Clay and glaze contain silica which in its dry state creates a fine dust which is a potential health risk if breathed in.

Avoid making dust as much as reasonably possible.

Always wipe down surfaces and tools with a damp sponge after use.

Never sweep, always wet mop or scrape up and wipe spills with a damp sponge.

Never sand inside the studio; always sand outdoors and wear a dusk mask.

**Potters wheels, slab roller**

Do not use without training.

Keep water away from the foot pedal and switch

Take care with moving parts which can cause abrasions.

Keep power cords and plugs away from water. Unplug the wheel before cleaning.

Hand contact with wet clay can dry out the skin. Some people are more susceptible or more sensitive to dry skin conditions. Use a skin moisturiser or if necessary latex gloves to protect your hands.

Ensure you are comfortable seated at the wheel and adjust chair position as necessary. Take regular breaks when throwing on the wheel. Throwing for long periods of time can create aches and pains in wrists and back pain so make adjustments as required to suit your requirements.

**Electrical equipment**

The studio is equipped with a hairdryer and a heat gun for use during your making to speed up the drying process. Never use electrical items near water. Always move your work away from any water containers before use. The heat gun will burn skin, so be especially aware when using this piece of equipment.

**Glazes and Oxides**

Glazes contain silica and oxides contain metals such as copper and cobalt which are toxic if ingested in large quantities. Most glazes only contain small amounts but nevertheless it is still sensible to take basic precautions

-use gloves especially if you have broken skin and/or are prone to skin conditions such as eczema

-promptly wipe up any spills before they dry and become dust

**Kilns**

Kilns are dangerous and extremely hot when in use. Take care when moving around the kiln room when the kilns are in operation.

All loading and unloading of kilns is carried out by studio team only.

I have read and understood this health and safety policy

Signed

Date