



## **FIRE SAFETY POLICY**

**Approved at the FGB Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**Next review date: October 2024**

### **Contents:**

1. Introduction
2. Responsibilities
3. Policy Objectives
4. Managing Fire Safety
5. Monitoring
6. Fire Risk Assessment
7. Fire Safety Training
8. Evacuation Procedures

Appendix 1: General Evacuation Procedure

Appendix 2: Evacuation of Disabled Persons

### **OBJECTIVE**

This template is designed to help schools comply with their duties under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety Order) 2005.

If you are inspected by the Fire and Rescue Authority, the enforcing authorities of the Fire Safety Order, they will want to see your Fire Safety Policy template and what your management arrangements are. This document provides a generic template which should be adapted for your school.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Ashton West End Primary Academy will ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, that all staff, pupils, contractors and visitors are protected from the risks of fire whilst on the premises.

### **LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (commonly referred to as the FSO) came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006. The purpose of the legislation is to place a greater emphasis on fire prevention by ensuring that all persons responsible for premises comply with their statutory duties and implement the general fire precautions which are needed to protect all persons from death or injury in the case of fire.

This Policy explains how the school complies with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 to ensure that, where possible, fire is prevented and that any fire risks are adequately controlled.

## **2. RESPONSIBILITIES**

The School Fire Safety Policy forms part of the School's Health and Safety Policy and in common with that policy extends through the whole school, with specific responsibilities below:

- Governors ensure that an appropriate policy is in place in the school and that arrangements are made for its effective implementation;
- The Principal has the ultimate responsibility for the implementation and management of this policy
- The Principal is responsible for the effective implementation of this Policy and its role within the School's Health and Safety Policy:
- The FSO places duties on the '**Responsible Person**'. If the Local Authority is the employer they are therefore the '**Responsible Person**'. Certain day to day responsibilities can be delegated down to a 'duty holder'.
- All employees have the responsibility to cooperate and to ensure that the workplace is safe from fire and its effects and must not do anything that will place themselves or other people at risk.

## **3. POLICY OBJECTIVES**

- To safeguard all persons from death or injury in the event of fire by the effective management of fire safety;
- to minimise the risk of fire and to limit fire spread;
- to minimise the potential for fire to disrupt services, damage buildings and equipment, or harm the environment.

## **4. MANAGING FIRE SAFETY**

The school has delegated day to day responsibility for managing fire safety to the 'duty holder'.

The Principal and Site Manager will:

1. Ensure that all means of escape are properly maintained, kept free from obstruction and available for safe and effective use at all times; and that the means of escape have adequate emergency lighting;

2. Provide and maintain in working order all fire-fighting appliances and devices including:
  - a) fire detection and alarm systems;
  - b) emergency lighting systems;
  - c) fire fighting equipment;
  - d) notices and signage relating to fire procedures;
  - e) means of escape, taking into account the needs of any disabled users.
  
3. Carry out or arrange to have carried out a fire safety risk assessment on each of the school buildings to ensure that the school's facilities are compliant; and reduce the risk of fire incidences by carrying out appropriate task risk assessments;
  
4. Provide appropriate instruction and training for all school staff on the action to be taken to protect people and property including regular fire evacuation practices for all the school;
  
5. Ensure that all staff, students, contractors, visitors and third-party hirers are made aware of and comply with the school's fire procedures;
  
6. Identify any special risks, e.g. the storage of hazardous materials, and put in place appropriate procedures to minimise the risks;
  
7. Liaise with third parties; the emergency services, and the school's insurers to ensure that best practice for fire prevention and procedures is in place;
  
8. Monitor and review this policy on a regular basis so as to ensure that any new risk or alteration to regulations is addressed.

## **5. MONITORING**

The school utilises the services of various outside personnel to carry out effective monitoring of its duties.

**The school fire detection and alarm system** is maintained and checked by Roc Fire and Security of Oldham Bi-annually. The alarm sounders are tested on a weekly basis by the Site Manager;

**The school emergency lighting** is checked weekly by the site manager;

**Notices and Signage** are updated as and when required and checked annually by the site manager

**Firefighting equipment** is visually checked weekly by the site manager and extinguishers are replaced by the academy when required after the annual inspection by ROC.

**A Fire Log Book** which contains records of fire safety issues is maintained by Site Manager and located in the site manager's office in the fire folder, these issues include:

- fire drills;
- hot work permits, etc;
- the storing of hazardous materials;
- the inspection and testing of:
  - fire detection and alarm systems;
  - emergency lighting systems;
  - fire fighting equipment;
  - staff training records.

## **5. FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT**

The school has carried out a comprehensive fire risk assessment for each of its buildings. These assessments are kept in the site managers office in the fire folder

The fire risk assessment identifies who will be at risk if there is a fire, where people may be working and who else may be at risk, either in the premises or nearby, such as members of the public, visiting contractors, etc, and where these people are likely to be located.

The fire risk assessment will be reviewed and amended annually if it is either no longer valid or if any changes are planned, such as:

- Any structural changes (alterations to the layout of the premises, erection of partitions, refurbishment etc) which may affect the spread of fire;
- Any change to the use of the premises which may affect the risk rating;
- Any change to work processes or work equipment which may introduce new fire hazards;
- Any change to the numbers of people using the premises to ensure that escape routes can accommodate the numbers safely.

## **6. FIRE SAFETY TRAINING**

- All staff receive basic fire safety induction training from EduCare and attend refresher sessions annually.
- Key staff in the individual school buildings receive more detailed instruction and have completed the EduCare training on how to be an effective Fire Warden of Fire Marshal’.
- All staff received face to face fire safety training in school on 1st September 2023.

**Fire Marshals:** The Fire Marshal should go to the fire assembly point and manage the evacuation from outside the building.

- L Green (KS2 Playground)
- E Beswick (KS2 Playground)
- A Cooper (KS1 Playground)
- S Barnett (KS1 Playground)
- F Liddy (Staff)
- C Wright (EYFS - Nursery climbing area)
- H Parker (EYFS - Nursery climbing area)

**Fire Wardens:** The Fire Warden will need to make sure the premises is cleared and that they are the last person out of the building.

- N Akbar, A Imran, A Akhtar (Reception and Nursery, EYFS Kitchen, Learnasaurus)
  - Rehanna, Julie M, Siddika (Year 4, Year 6F Year 4 toilets and cloakroom plus corridor)
  - Y Jackson, G Smith (Year 3 classrooms and associated toilets, cloakroom and corridor)
  - D Higginson, R Perry, L Green, E Beswick (Year 5 and 6GB classrooms and 6GB and associated cloakrooms, toilets and internal quads)
  - D Merrington, S Barnett (1P, 2N, 2L, 1V including toilets)
  - K Pizuti - Adult toilets near Principal’s office and library area.
  - S Pomfret – Staff room, Toilets, Offices and PPA room
  - S White – Kitchen and associated areas
  - D Watson/ C Barnes- Fire Panel
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- Pupils are given instruction by their class teachers during the first week of the Autumn term on their actions to be taken in the event of a fire.
  - Fire drills are planned each half term to evaluate the effectiveness of the school’s evacuation procedures. The findings of the drill are reported to staff through staff meetings any conclusions and remedial actions are recorded and implemented.

## **8. EVACUATION PROCEDURES**

The evacuation procedures which are to be followed in the event of a fire alarm are annexed to this Policy. This document details the responsibilities of staff and individuals during an evacuation and subsequent roll call.

The document also includes specific Guidance on the Evacuation of Disabled Persons from the School Buildings.

## Appendix 1

### EVACUATION PROCEDURE

#### THE FIRE ALARM

**PERSON DISCOVERING FIRE** should press the nearest red manual call point button

- Upon hearing the alarm, the site manager or assistant will report to the main or repeater fire alarm panel to take instruction as to which sensor/MCP has triggered the alarm. They will then immediately report to this area to investigate further. Should a fire be discovered they will dial 999 immediately and inform the principal on the walkie talkie channel one. Should they be positive it is a false alarm then the fire panel will be reset with the permission of the principal.
- In classrooms, staff nearest windows will close them. Staff assemble pupils IN SILENCE and instruct them to proceed to the appropriate Assembly Point on either the KS1, KS2 or Nursery playground IN SILENCE, walking and NOT running. The classroom door should be closed behind the last person to leave.
- Use the directed route - the quickest fire escape route is displayed in each room - unless a blockage makes this impossible. Be prepared to find an alternative route if necessary. Should the alarm ring during Break or Lunchtime pupils should be instructed to leave the building by the nearest safe fire exit and proceed to the Assembly Point. Staff should assist this process where possible without putting themselves at risk. Under no circumstances should staff or pupils return to their form rooms. All double doors should be opened by those who are first to reach them and closed by the last person to pass through them.
- The fire wardens will check their appointed area where safe to do so, ensuring that as they do they close all windows, doors and check each toilet for the presence of pupils. Once completed they will report their findings to the principal on the walkie talkie channel one and evacuate to their designated assembly point.
- Mrs. Liddy will check members of staff against the Inventory system including any visitors. Fire Marshals will ensure that all children are accounted for on each of the playgrounds.
- The Kitchen manager will account for the catering staff and report her findings to the principal
- The Site Manager will report the safety and whereabouts of the caretaking staff to the Principal and will maintain contact throughout the procedure
- The fire marshal on duty will open the gates for the Fire Service and await their arrival and will discourage any casual visitor from entering the premises.

- Upon arrival the fire officer in charge will be presented with the academy emergency information file containing keys to the boiler room and electrical room, a copy of which will be taken by a member of staff on hearing the fire alarm from the kitchen, the office and KS1 area.
- In the event of a gas leak, when evacuation is likely to be as a result of verbal instructions via the academy intercom system rather than a fire alarm sounding no electrical switches should be used. **Note** there is no gas supply in school other than that to the boiler room.

Anyone who has a named responsibility should ensure that they have a deputy to take over if they are absent and that the deputy is aware of their role in the event of an emergency evacuation.



## **Appendix 2**

### **Guidance on the Evacuation of Disabled Persons from the School Buildings**

Students and employees with a disability should already have been identified and information held in the main school office. A copy is also kept in the SENDCO's office.

Having considered the risks, the Principal will propose specific procedures for assisting in the evacuation of persons with a known disability. A "buddy" will be appointed for any student or employee requiring assistance in an emergency evacuation. Where teachers have a student with a known disability, they must ensure that that student is aware that the alarm has been triggered and that they follow the evacuation procedure accordingly.

Disabled staff must have identified themselves to the Principal and any specific requirements must be addressed as soon as they are known.

#### **Specific Evacuation Requirements**

##### **Wheelchair users/Persons with Mobility Difficulty**

Wheelchair users or any person with difficulty walking (e.g. anyone temporarily using crutches) should wait until everyone else has left the room before making their way to the exit, assisted by their "buddy" or other third party if required.

##### **Visitors with disabilities**

On arrival, disabled visitors to the school should be asked to identify any special requirements in the case of an emergency evacuation. The person hosting the visitor should ensure the visitor's safety in the event of an emergency evacuation.

Wherever possible (i.e. when on ground floors) all persons, including wheelchair users, should make their own way out of the building by utilising the fire escape routes. Whenever the route is blocked or the person is above ground floor, wheelchair users must be either assisted by their "buddy" or other third party. When evacuating the upper floors of the buildings, anyone unable to leave without assistance should wait for assistance in the refuge areas.

The use of the term "Refuge" is intended to mean a place where people can safely wait for a period of time whilst the evacuation process is being undertaken. It is not a place to leave people for the duration of the alarm, but it has been selected for its additional protection from fire, meaning that it will remain a safe place to wait.

Lifts must not be used during an emergency evacuation.

