

[Enter school name & logo]

# Fire Safety Policy

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## Policy guidance

This policy template aims to assist those who are responsible for fire safety in schools. It is a generic template that must be adapted to your particular school premises and account for the staff, pupils, visitors and contractors on-site. It must also include the specific procedures, processes and equipment that are in place to control fire safety risks.

The legislation in the policy statement applies to England and Wales. If your school is in Scotland or Northern Ireland, different legislation will apply, and you will need to make these changes to this template.

Throughout the document, there are highlighted sections where you can add more detail or make changes to suit your needs. You can also add additional sections where required. The template should be used as a guide, and it will give you a good starting point for your school fire safety policy.

If you do not possess the competence to complete your fire safety policy, you must always seek professional advice from someone who has the necessary competence in fire safety.

**Please note that using this generic template without making it specific to your school will not comply with fire safety laws.**

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## Policy statement

[Enter school name] is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for its staff, pupils, parents, other visitors and contractors. Part of this commitment is protecting all of these relevant persons from fire risks, which is a potential hazard in all non-domestic premises, including schools.

Fire is a serious risk that can have a devastating impact on schools. It is a threat to life, property, equipment and the environment. It can also cause significant disruption to staff, pupils and parents if the fire causes extensive damage to the school premises. Therefore, [enter school name] takes fire safety extremely seriously and recognises that it has responsibilities to protect all relevant persons from harm so far as is reasonably practicable.

[Enter school name] will endeavour to control associated fire safety risks and will comply with relevant legislation, such as:

- The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order (RRFSO) 2005.
- Other health and safety legislation, such as the Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.
- The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework (safety and suitability of premises, environment and equipment) [delete if your pupils are older than five years old].
- UK Government Guidance – fire safety risk assessment: educational premises.

Staff and others working for [enter school name] also have duties under general health and safety legislation, specific fire safety legislation and this policy.

A copy of this policy and associated procedures will be issued to all staff during their induction and to other relevant persons where applicable. The policy will be regularly reviewed to ensure it remains current, and any revisions to it will be communicated.

**Name:** [Enter name]

**Signed:** [The policy must be signed by the most senior person in the school]

**Position:** [Enter the signatory's position]

**Date:** [Enter the date signed]

## Policy aims and scope

This Fire Safety Policy provides a framework for [enter school name] fire safety arrangements. It also underpins the school's approach to fire safety management.

The aim of [enter school name] is to ensure that fires are prevented, so far as is reasonably practicable, by ensuring that there are reasonable precautions in place in and around the school premises. If fires cannot be prevented, the aim is to minimise fire risks and preserve life by having robust fire safety protective measures and ensuring that all relevant persons know what actions to take in line with the emergency procedures. This is particularly important for those who have responsibilities for the safe evacuation of pupils and those who cannot evacuate the premises without assistance.

This policy applies to all [enter school name] premises, activities, equipment and all relevant persons (staff, including temporary and agency workers, pupils, parents, visitors, contractors, and others who may be at risk in the event of a fire).

[Add any additional aims, objectives and scope].

## Definitions

**The responsible person** – the employer is the responsible person if the workplace is, to any extent, under their control. For other types of premises, the responsible person is:

- The person who has control of the premises (as an occupier or otherwise) in connection with the carrying on by them of a trade, business or other undertaking (for profit or not); or
- The owner where the person in control of the premises does not have control in connection with the carrying on by them of a trade, business or other undertaking.

**Relevant persons** – any person who is or may be lawfully on the premises and any person in the immediate vicinity of the premises at risk from a fire (e.g. staff, pupils, parents, contractors, other visitors and anyone else who could be at risk). It does not include firefighters who are carrying out their duties in relation to a function of a fire and rescue authority.

**Competent persons** – any person who assists the responsible person in undertaking fire safety arrangements, e.g. fire preventive & protective measures. They are appointed by the responsible person, as per the requirements of Article 18 of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. They should have sufficient training, experience and knowledge to carry out their role.

[Add any additional definitions as appropriate].

## Responsibilities

[Organisation chart can be entered here if applicable, as well as details of specific fire safety responsibilities, e.g. governors, head teacher and deputy head teacher.]

### The responsible person

[Enter school name] has appointed a responsible person, as per the requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. The responsible person has overall responsibility for fire safety within the school. Their main duties under this legislation are to (this list is not exhaustive):

- Take general fire precautions as will ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety of all employees and other relevant persons.
- Make a suitable and sufficient assessment of the fire risks to which relevant persons are exposed.
- Ensure the principles of prevention are applied when implementing any preventive or protective measures to eliminate, reduce or control fire risks.
- Ensure there are appropriate fire safety arrangements in place.
- [Add any additional specific duties as appropriate].

The responsible person for [enter school name] is [enter role and/or name].

The day-to-day responsibilities for managing fire safety in the school have been delegated to [enter role].

### Fire wardens

[Enter school name] has appointed fire wardens to assist in the undertaking of fire preventive and protective measures. Fire wardens' duties include:

- **Preventive (proactive) duties**
  - Assisting the responsible person with fire risk assessments and emergency evacuation plans.
  - Conducting regular internal inspections and testing (where applicable) of firefighting equipment, fire detection and warning systems, fire doors, emergency lighting, and emergency routes and exits.
  - Organising the external inspection and servicing of fire safety equipment, fire doors and fire detection systems.
- **Protective (reactive) duties**
  - Assisting with emergency evacuations and fire drills.
  - Carrying out roll calls or sweeps.
  - Tackling small fires with local firefighting equipment (if trained and does not put their safety at risk).
  - Liaising with the fire rescue service in the event of a fire.

[Add or change any duties as appropriate]

The fire warden(s) for [enter school name] is/are [enter role(s) and/or name(s)].

## Employees

All employees have general fire safety duties, under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, whilst they are at work. To comply with the law, every member of staff must:

- Take reasonable care for the safety of themselves and of other relevant persons who may be affected by their acts or omissions at work.
- Cooperate with their employer, so far as is necessary, to enable them to comply with the requirements of the Order.
- Inform their employer, or other employees with specific fire safety responsibilities, of:
  - Any work situation that poses a serious and immediate danger to safety; and
  - Any shortcomings in their employer's fire safety protection arrangements.
- [Add any duties as appropriate].

Employees also have general duties under the Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.

Employees should report all fire-related dangers or shortcomings in fire safety arrangements to [enter role and/or name] [add contact details].

**[If your school premises are shared, detail in this section who has what responsibilities, and include how you will coordinate and cooperate with them].**

## Fire risk assessment (FRA)

A fire risk assessment (FRA) will be completed for the school premises, with the assistance of a competent person, as per the requirements of Article 9 of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

The [enter role] is responsible for carrying out the FRA, who will:

- Identify the fire hazards.
- Identify who is at risk.
- Evaluate, remove, reduce and protect relevant persons from the risks.
- Record the findings, prepare an emergency plan and provide training.
- Review the fire risk assessment.

The aim of the FRA is to identify the preventive and protective measures required to eliminate, reduce or control fire safety risks.

Where dangerous substances are present in or around the school premises, the FRA will include the considerations detailed in Schedule 1 (Part 1) of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

If young people (under 18 years old) are employed by [enter school name] at any time, the FRA will be reviewed to include the considerations detailed in Schedule 1 (Part 2) of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

The significant findings of the FRA, and details of any groups of persons identified as being especially at risk, will be recorded and brought to the attention of employees and other affected persons.

The responsible person will ensure that the findings of the FRA are acted upon as appropriate.

The FRA will be reviewed [enter the frequency]. Significant changes to the school premises, work processes, staff, pupils, equipment, substances, and the building layout will also trigger a review. If there is a fire incident in or around the school, the FRA will be reviewed immediately.

A hard copy of the FRA will be kept in a safe place [enter the location of the FRA].

## **Fire safety precautions**

### **Equipment maintenance, inspection and testing**

All fire protective measures in and around the school, including fire safety and electrical equipment, shall be selected, installed, modified, maintained, inspected and tested by competent persons in accordance with:

- Relevant standards, e.g. British Standards;
- The fire risk assessment; and
- The manufacturer's instructions.

### **Fixed and portable electrical equipment**

All electrical equipment will be on a planned preventive maintenance programme, and the frequency will be determined by risk assessment.

All portable electrical equipment in the school will be subject to a PAT test. It will be inspected and tested [enter the frequency] by [enter who is responsible].

The fixed electrical installation and associated systems will be maintained and tested by an external competent contractor [enter the frequency]. The company contracted to maintain and test the fixed electrical installation is [enter the company name], and their contact details are [enter their contact details].

All inspections and tests will be recorded in the [enter the details].

### **Firefighting equipment**

Firefighting equipment is used to extinguish fires. The types of firefighting equipment in the school include [enter the types of firefighting equipment, e.g. sprinklers, hoses, fire extinguishers or fire blankets, and locations].



Firefighting equipment will be inspected internally [enter the frequency] by [enter who is responsible]. Inspections will include the following checks:

- It is in good condition and not damaged.
- It is in the correct location and position.
- It has not been discharged, and the safety pin and plastic tags are in place (fire extinguishers).
- It has been serviced.
- The signage is in place and correct.
- [Add any additional checks].

Firefighting equipment will be maintained and serviced by an external competent contractor [enter the frequency]. The company contracted to maintain and service firefighting equipment is [enter the company name], and their contact details are [enter their contact details].

All inspections and tests will be recorded in the [enter the details].

Only those who have been trained to use firefighting equipment will be permitted to tackle small manageable fires (i.e. the size of a small waste paper bin). They should never endanger themselves and others to extinguish a fire. The priority should always be to evacuate the building quickly and safely.

### **Fire detection systems**

Fire detection systems detect fire and warn occupants of the danger. The types of fire detection systems around the school are [enter the types of fire detection equipment, e.g. fire alarms, smoke detectors, call points or a manual system, and locations. Also, include any systems in place for staff or pupils with impairments and disabilities].

Fire detection systems will be tested internally [enter the frequency and test method for the system in place].

Fire detection systems will be inspected internally [enter the frequency] by [enter who is responsible]. Inspections will include the following checks:

- It is clear, visible and unobstructed.
- It is not damaged.
- The signage is in place and correct.
- It has been serviced.
- [Add any additional checks].

Fire detection systems will be maintained and serviced by an external competent contractor [enter the frequency]. The company contracted to maintain and service the fire detection system is [enter the company name], and their contact details are [enter their contact details].

All inspections and tests will be recorded in the [enter the details].

## Fire doors

Fire doors prevent the spread of fire and smoke. The types of fire doors around the school are [enter the types of fire doors, e.g. manual or automatic].

Fire doors will be tested internally [enter the frequency and test method for the doors in place].

Fire doors will be inspected internally [enter the frequency] by [enter who is responsible]. Inspections will include the following checks:

- They are clear, visible and unobstructed.
- They have appropriate signage/labelling.
- They close properly.
- They are kept closed at all times (unless they are doors that automatically close when the alarm is sounded).
- There is no damage or defects that could encourage the spread of fire, smoke and toxic fumes.
- [Add any additional checks].

Fire doors will be maintained and serviced by an external competent contractor [enter the frequency]. The company contracted to maintain and service the fire doors is [enter the company name], and their contact details are [enter their contact details].

All inspections and tests will be recorded in the [enter the details].

## Emergency lighting

Emergency lighting guides relevant persons to their nearest exit. The emergency lighting around the school is [enter the types of emergency lighting and locations].

Emergency lighting will be tested internally [enter the frequency and test method for the system you have in place].

Emergency lighting will be inspected internally [enter the frequency] by [enter who is responsible]. Inspections will include the following checks:

- It is clear, visible and unobstructed.
- It has appropriate signage/labelling.
- It is not damaged.
- The indicator lights are on.
- [Add any additional checks].

Emergency lighting will be serviced by an external competent contractor [enter the frequency]. The company contracted to maintain and service the emergency lighting is [enter the company name], and their contact details are [enter their contact details].

All inspections and tests will be recorded in the [enter the details].

## Fire safety signage

Fire safety signage provides instructions to relevant persons on preventing fires or the actions to take if there is a fire. The fire safety signage around the school includes [enter the types of signage, e.g. fire action notices, fire exit signs, escape route signs and fire equipment signs, and locations].

Fire signage will be inspected [enter the frequency] by [enter who is responsible]. Inspections will include the following checks:

- It is clear, visible and unobstructed.
- There is no damage or defects.
- It is in the correct location and position.
- It has appropriate symbols and not just writing to account for those with limited English skills.
- [Add any additional checks].

All inspections will be recorded in the [enter details].

## Means of escape

If there is a fire in the school, relevant persons need to use their nearest route and exit to escape the building. Young children and pupils with disabilities or impairments will also need help to evacuate.

All escape routes, such as corridors, landings and stairways, and fire exits will be checked [enter the frequency] by [enter who is responsible] to ensure that they are kept clear of any obstructions and combustibles. Checks will also be completed externally to ensure that there is nothing blocking fire exit doors from the other side.

All inspections will be recorded in the [enter the details].

## Smoking policy

[Enter school name] operates a strict no smoking policy.

[Enter further details about your smoking policy or refer to your separate policy where applicable].

**[Add additional relevant fire safety precautions here, e.g. dangerous substances, housekeeping, and isolation of processes and power supplies].**

## Emergency procedures

Fire emergency evacuation procedures and escape plans will be established and will be based on the findings of the fire risk assessment. Emergency procedures will be reviewed [enter the frequency] and if there are any significant changes.

Emergency evacuation procedures will be regularly tested by carrying out fire drills and practice exercises.

### **Personal emergency evacuation plans (PEEPs)**

All staff and pupils who would need assistance in an emergency will have a PEEP, which will include:

- Their safest escape route, nearest emergency exits and closest refuges.
- Who would assist the relevant person in evacuating.
- The step-by-step method of how they would be evacuated.
- Any additional aids, equipment or support required to alert the relevant person of a fire and assist them in evacuating.
- [Add any additional detail].

A PEEP will also be completed if there are any parents, other visitors, or contractors who would need assistance in an emergency.

Reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act 2010 will be considered where a disabled person requires a PEEP.

### **Fire drills**

Fire drills will be carried out by [enter who is responsible] at least [enter frequency]. The frequency of fire drills will be based on the findings of the fire risk assessment.

The outcome of the fire drill exercise will be recorded in the [enter the details]. If there are any issues, the responsible person will ensure that appropriate action is taken.

### **Assembly points**

Clearly marked assembly points will be established, which will be detailed on the escape plan, along with the locations of fire protective equipment.

Fire action notices, evacuation procedures and escape plans will be displayed so that staff, pupils and visitors can familiarise themselves with the school emergency procedures.

**[Add additional emergency arrangements here, e.g. liaising with the fire and rescue service].**

### **Staff training**

Article 21 of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 requires the responsible person to provide their staff with adequate fire safety training.

[Enter role here] is responsible for organising and coordinating training.

All staff will undertake fire safety training as soon as is practicable after the commencement of employment, which will include:

- The fire safety policy and any relevant procedures.
- The significant findings of the fire risk assessment.
- Who the fire wardens are and others with fire safety responsibilities.
- The actions to take on discovering a fire or hearing the alarm.
- The locations of the emergency routes, fire exits and assembly points.
- Where the fire alarm activation points are and how to activate them.
- The locations of fire safety equipment.
- Emergency evacuation procedures.
- [Add or change any topics as appropriate].

Refresher training will be carried out on an [enter frequency] basis. If there are any significant changes to fire safety risks, procedures or systems, refresher training will be provided before the specified frequency.

Staff who will assist in an evacuation where a person has a PEEP will undergo further training, including practical exercises.

Fire wardens will undertake additional training relating to their responsibilities and duties.

All fire safety training (including fire drills and practice exercises) will take place during normal working hours, and a written record of attendance will be kept in the [enter the details].

## **Information for visitors and contractors**

Visitors, including parents, and contractors will be notified of any particular fire risks and precautions on their arrival, including what to do if there is a fire [enter how instruction will be given, e.g. an induction]. They will be expected to follow all relevant fire safety procedures.

Contractors carrying out any work in or around the school must include fire safety in their risk assessment and method statement before being permitted to proceed. If any 'hot work' is carried out, additional precautions will be required.

All visitors and contractors will sign in and out in the [enter the details], so staff know who is on the premises.

## **Procedures**

[Enter school name] has fire safety procedures in place, which includes the following:

[List relevant fire safety procedures].

The procedures should be read in conjunction with this policy.

## Records

Records will be kept of:

- Fire risk assessments.
- Fire detection equipment internal inspections and tests.
- Fire detection equipment external services and repairs.
- Firefighting equipment internal inspections and tests.
- Firefighting equipment external services and repairs.
- Fire door internal inspections and tests.
- Fire door external services and repairs.
- Any visits from the fire inspector.
- Fire evacuation procedures.
- Fire drills and practice evacuations.
- Fire safety training and instructions given.
- [Add any additional records that will be kept].

Records will be kept [enter location, e.g. log book].

## Monitoring and review

Fire safety performance will be monitored by [enter monitoring procedures, e.g. inspections, audits, logging of fire incidents/near misses. Include the frequency of monitoring].

This fire safety policy will be reviewed [enter the frequency]. A review will also be required if there are any:

- Significant changes within the school premises.
- Fire-related incidents or near misses.
- Changes to fire safety legislation, standards or guidelines.

Any changes to the policy will be communicated to staff and other relevant persons (where appropriate).

**[Add any additional relevant sections to your fire safety policy].**

## Appendices

[You can use your appendices for your emergency procedures (on hearing the fire alarm or discovering a fire), evacuation plans, fire inspections forms, check sheets etc.].