

Slaithwaite CE J & I School



Fire Policy

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Introduction

Fire is considered to be a potential and serious hazard to all staff, building occupiers and service users. The consequences can be especially serious because of the difficulties and dangers associated with emergency evacuation, damage to buildings and disruption to the core service delivery.

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 was introduced to consolidate previous fire safety legislation with one clear Order. The Order specifies the requirement on a person in control of premises to adopt reasonable steps to reduce the risk from fire.

This Fire Safety Policy describes how Kirklees Council manages the fire safety risk in school buildings. It sets out the council's policy and procedures and is intended to effectively manage and minimise the risks associated with fire safety to all employees and other persons using school premises.

Policy Statement

Kirklees Council are committed to ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of all its employees and other persons who may be affected by its activities, this includes fire safety.

We fully accept the duties that are required of us under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and Kirklees Council's Health and Safety at Work Policy and have put into place appropriate organisational arrangements to ensure the delivery of high standards in fire safety performance.

Senior Management Teams, Managers, Governors and Head Teachers are responsible for implementing the requirements of the Fire Safety Policy and are accountable for the management of fire safety within their areas of responsibility. All employees also have key roles and responsibilities to ensure the highest levels of fire safety performance are achieved and maintained.

We will:

- Maintain a fire safe and healthy environment in all school premises.
- Comply as far as is reasonably practicable with the principles and guidance available and identified in recognised guidance documents relating to fire safety in schools.
- Manage the fire safety risks in school buildings to ensure that they are reduced as far as is reasonably practicable.

This policy applies to all school buildings but can only be delivered through the successful cooperation and partnership between the council and those managing the day to day activities and operation of schools.

Policy Objectives

- To ensure everyone is aware of their responsibilities in terms of managing fire safety in schools.
- To safeguard all persons from death or injury in the event of fire by effective management of fire safety.
- To minimise the risk of fire and limit the spread of fire.
- To minimise the potential for fire to disrupt services, damage buildings and equipment, or harm the environment.
- To provide adequate resources to implement the policy.
- To monitor and report on the council's fire safety performance in relation to schools.
- To provide access to competent fire safety advice from fire safety advisors based in the council's fire safety team.
- To ensure all contractors' partners etc. appointed to deliver council services achieve the standards set out in this policy.
- To ensure effective co-ordination and co-operation with others where there are shared facilities/multi occupied buildings.
- This policy should be read in conjunction with the council's corporate health and safety policy.
- To regularly review the schools fire safety policy.

Organisation

The following persons have responsibility for enacting this policy:

COUNCIL:

Assistant Director Place
Assistant Director Learning and Skills
Fire Safety Team
Corporate Landlord
School's Asset Management

SCHOOLS:

Head Teacher
Governors
Competent Person(s) - Fire Safety
School Staff
Other Building Users

Responsibilities

The Council will:

- Ensure a suitable and sufficient fire safety policy is in place.
- Ensure appropriate resources, organisation and arrangements for fire safety management activities are in place to undertake the Council's responsibilities.
- Maintain regular liaison with West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- Provide relevant training for schools to partake in to support them to meet their responsibilities.
- Work with schools to identify issues arising from action plans and identify income streams and priorities.
- Undertake fire safety audits to ensure that the fire safety policy is complied with.
- Ensure annual returns are undertaken confirming suitable fire safety arrangements are in place within school premises.
- Maintain a concordat with West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- Act as competent person where engaged to do so.

School Governors and Head Teacher will:

- Be responsible for fire safety matters within the building.
- Appoint one or more competent persons, depending on the size and use of the school, to assist in undertaking any of the preventive and protective measures required by the Order.
- Ensure a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment is in place and that any measures or issues identified in action plans are implemented and resolved in a timely manner appropriate to the risk highlighted.
***Note:** The Fire Safety Team will assist schools to ensure they have an up to date fire risk assessment in place which will be undertaken by September 2016 on a programmed basis.*
- Ensure that fire risk assessments and action plans are regularly reviewed and updated to reflect changes in the school building and operation of the school.
- Provide employees with clear and relevant information on the risks to them as identified by the fire risk assessment, about the measures to be taken to prevent fires and how the measures will protect them if a fire breaks out.
- Consult employees (or their elected representatives) about nominating people to carry out particular roles in connection with fire safety and about proposals for improving the fire precautions e.g. Fire Wardens, Marshals etc. ensuring that suitable numbers of wardens, marshals etc. are in place and receive suitable training.

- Inform non-employees, such as students and temporary or contract workers, of the relevant risks to them, and provide them with information about the nominated competent persons, and about the fire safety procedures for the premises.
- Co-operate and co-ordinate with other responsible persons who also have premises in the building or use the building, inform them of any significant risks found, and how you will seek to reduce/control those risks which might affect the safety of their employees.
- Provide the employer of any person from an outside organisation who is working in your premises e.g. contractors, with clear and relevant information on the risks to those employees and the preventive and protective measures taken. You must also provide those employees with appropriate instructions and relevant information about the risks to them.
- Where appropriate ensure that Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEP's) are in place and those involved in providing any assistance have sufficient knowledge and training in the role that they play in any evacuation or support.
- Consider the presence of any dangerous substances and the risk this presents to relevant persons from fire.
- Establish a suitable means of contacting the emergency services and provide them with any relevant information about dangerous substances.
- Provide appropriate information, instruction and training to all your employees, during their normal working hours, about the fire precautions in your workplace, when they start working for you, and from time to time throughout the period they work for you, this includes out of hours and night workers where appropriate.
- Ensure that the premises and any equipment provided in connection with fire-fighting, fire detection and warning, or emergency routes and exits are covered by a suitable system of maintenance, and are maintained by a competent person in an efficient state, in efficient working order and in good repair. All systems must be supported by a regular testing and inspection regime in line with the appropriate standard.
- Ensure that employees co-operate to ensure the workplace is safe from fire and its effects, and do not do anything that will place themselves or other people at risk.
- Put in place suitable and sufficient measures for dealing with false alarms and unwanted fire signals.
- Ensure that all the items stated above are in place and ensure that a formal record is kept of events. A Kirklees Fire Safety Log Book is provided to all premises to assist.

Monitoring & Review

To ensure compliance with the intentions of the Policy, the Council will seek returns from schools on an annual basis to confirm that the requirements of this policy have been met and an annual report will be provided to corporate management to advise on performance, areas for improvement and highlight any schools not meeting the requirements.

Audit

Schools are responsible for their own self audit which should be undertaken on an annual basis.

Formal monitoring of compliance by independent assessment is essential to ensure that the Fire Safety Policy of both the Council and the individual premises/department is being followed as intended.

The Fire Safety Team will audit fire safety processes at least every 3 years. The frequency of audits will be based on an assessment of risk to the building users.

Formal intervention or audit by West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service may be undertaken at any time without prior warning. As the enforcing authority for any noncompliance under the order the action or intervention by the Fire Service should be reported back to the Schools Asset Management Team.

Policy Reviewed: June 2021

Next Review: September 2022