



FIRE SAFETY & ANTI ARSON POLICY

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Date Published | November 2020 |
| Version | 5 |
| Approved Date | November 2024 |
| Review Cycle | 1 year |
| Review Date | November 2025 |

An academy within:





Background:

No school is immune from the threat of Arson.

Reducing the arson risk will also reduce the risk of other crimes such as burglary, theft and vandalism

Statistics from the Fire Protection Association show that large fires i.e. those over £250,000, shows that schools are top of the list of building types vulnerable to arson attacks.

The majority of school fires are at night or when the school is closed during holiday periods and therefore casualties are rare. Sadly, this cannot be taken for granted. In 1990 3 boys were killed in a school shed fire in Essex.

Fires in schools are most likely to be started by pupils, ex pupils or their friends or others with knowledge of the school.

Many fires are started outside school buildings often with material found easy to hand (such as bins or skips)

Purpose of Policy:

To include an action plan to be used in conjunction with the Fire Risk Assessment to minimise the risk of Arson by addressing any weaknesses identified in the 'significant findings' section and ensuring all staff and governors support the policy.

Responsible Person(s):

The Headteacher is the responsible person, supported by the Deputy Headteacher, School Resource Manager, Governing Body and all School Personnel.

Advice and Support:

Advice and support has been provided and/or available from the following sources:

- Building Manager
- Children and Young People's Services Health and Safety Officer
- Proaktive
- Crime Prevention Officer



- Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

5 point Action Plan:

To be prioritised within available budgets based on need through past incidents as programmed within the Fire Risk Assessment Significant Findings.

- **Deter unauthorised entry onto site** (fencing, lighting, CCTV, onsite caretaker, random security patrols).
- **Prevent unauthorised entry into the building** (eliminate alcoves or light well, keep number of external doors to minimum required, approved window and door locks, effective intruder alarms, good relationships with neighbours, be part of a neighbourhood or school watch scheme, check all doors and windows are locked at end of each day)
- **Reduce the opportunity for the offender to start a fire** (secured waste bins away from building including any recycling bins, sheds or outdoor storage at least 8m from building, skirting under mobile units, waste bins not attached to buildings but secured in the grounds)
- **Reduce the scope for potential fire damage** (consider additional fire breaks during alteration work, close all internal doors at the end of each day, protect high value equipment in out of site secure room, installing automatic fire detection systems, sprinkler systems)
- **Reduce subsequent losses and disruption resulting from a fire by preparing a disaster recovery plan** (suitably located and appropriate fire extinguishers, adequately trained staff, salvage plan to recover high value equipment and school records which may be irreplaceable).

Site Recovery Plan:

- Details of people who can help in an emergency contained in Emergency Plan
- Information on suppliers to be provided as required by the Business Manager.
- Inventory information to be completed by School with a copy kept off site



Site Inspections:

The 'Premises Health and Safety Checklist' is completed monthly by the Deputy Headteacher to be actioned by the Headteacher. See Appendix A

Policy Review and Updates:

Fire and Security to be included on agenda's for Governing Body and Staff meetings to ensure regular updates and identify any training requirements.

Equipment

- School will ensure that all equipment relating to fire safety will be well maintained and inspected on a an annual or bi annual basis in line with guidelines.

Training

- School will ensure that there are staff trained as fire marshall and also in the use of using firefighting equipment in line with good practise.



Appendix A

Premises Health and Safety Checklist for School Caretakers.

Monthly Report to Headteacher.

Name of School Site:

Month..... 20.....

Date Checked

Perimeter Fencing and Gates

.....

(Damage caused by inclement weather / vandalism etc)

Car Park

.....

(Surface damage eg. potholes)

Footpaths

.....

(Raised paving, damage etc)

Play Ground / Yard Areas

.....

(Damage to floor surface / equipment)

Playing Field

.....

(Damage caused by inclement weather / Vandalism,
litter etc)

School Safety and Security systems

(alarms, shutters, other safety / Security equipment)

.....

Doors and Windows

.....

(Signs of damage to doors, windows, restrictors etc)

Corridors and Stairs

.....

(Trip, slip and fall hazards, articles blocking walkways)

Classrooms

.....

(trip and slip hazards, faulty equipment)



Storage Areas
(Articles and substances stored safely)
Staff Room
(Trip and slip hazards, faulty equipment)
Electrical equipment
(Portable and fixed appliance testing up to date)
Other (Please State)

Deputy Headteacher's Comments:

Action taken by Deputy Headteacher:

Name of Deputy Headteacher:

Signature:

Date: