

Millfield Schools Fire Risk Prevention Policy

This policy refers to the Senior School, Preparatory School, Pre-Preparatory School and EYFS

1. Introduction

This policy sets out the approach that the school has to securing fire safety and is based on the following legislation and guidance.

- The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1999
- Department of Communities and Local Government “Fire Safety Risk Assessment- Educational Premises.”

The school’s priority is to minimise risk to life and to ensure that there are adequate fire prevention methods in place and clear organisational arrangements in case of fire.

The school produces Fire Risk assessments covering the whole school which are formally recorded and regularly reviewed so as to keep them up to date. Independent Schools Standards Regulations, and the above legislation and guidance, place on the governing body additional duties to:

- Develop a fire risk (prevention) policy which includes the elimination, substitution or reduction of risks from dangerous substances
- Ensure the safety of staff, pupils and visitors
- Develop fire procedures and provide staff with training
- Carry out fire drills and contact emergency services when necessary
- Appoint competent persons (with sufficient training, experience and knowledge) to assist in taking preventive and protective measures (including firefighting and evacuation)
- Have a suitable system for the maintenance of clear emergency routes and exits (with doors opening in the direction of escape), signs, notices, emergency lighting where required, fire detectors, alarms and extinguishers
- Provide staff and any others working on the school site with fire safety information

2. Responsibilities

The Governing Body is the designated “responsible person” for fire safety as outlined in legislation. Responsibilities throughout the school for fire safety are outlined below:

Overall management

Board of Governors

- Consider and agree financial resources for any fire precautionary measures outlined in legislation and British Standards.
- Approve the fire risk prevention policy and any reviews.
- Ensure a Fire Risk Assessment has been undertaken and is regularly reviewed.

Bursar/Executive Group (through the Health and Safety Advisor)

- Provide an update to the Governors on a regular basis regarding the fire risk assessment of the school and annually review the fire risk (prevention) policy
- Ensure that fire prevention and fire precautions are implemented.
- Ensure that all staff receive adequate training and instruction in fire safety and retain training records.
- Ensure that the fire risk assessment is reviewed when there are any material changes to the school.
- Arrange for regular fire practice drills to be undertaken and document the findings of the drill.

Houseparents

- Induct new boarding staff and pupils in the fire procedures.
- Arrange for a termly fire drill to be undertaken during boarding time and document and action any findings of the drill. These include occasional drills during the time when (most) boarders are asleep.
- Instruct matrons on the use of the fire panel and the grab sheet system
- Complete fire risk assessment and fire logbook
- Inspect fire appliances, fire doors and fire call point system

All Staff

- Attend fire training sessions as required by the school.
- Ensure that the means of escape within their classroom / office / workshops are kept clear of any obstructions.
- Report any issue which may affect the fire safety of the building to the Estates department or Health and Safety Advisor.
- Ensure they have received a Fire Safety brief regarding their place of work.

During an evacuation:

A cascade system of building evacuation will be employed to facilitate orderly and swift evacuation. A decision will be made by the Fire Officer / Fire Warden as whether to evacuate any other buildings in close proximity. This process should take into account the use of the building, what is stored within the building and its location in regards to the fire.

Fire Officer

- Accounts for all personnel within their building.
- Takes overall control of an evacuation with support from Fire Wardens
- Liaises with the Fire Brigade with the support of the Fire Wardens in the event of an evacuation and arranges for all information regarding missing persons to be relayed to them.
- Provides the all clear to staff upon consultation with the Fire Brigade
- Controls the perimeter around the building through the use of fire wardens
- Ensures that regular testing of the call points are undertaken and recorded.
- Ensures that regular inspection of fire doors and fire appliances are undertaken and carried out.

Head of Departments

- Co-operate with Fire Officer and Health and Safety Advisor to assist in fire prevention
- Highlight any areas of concern to the H&S Advisor

Estates Manager

- Ensure that regular testing of the emergency lights are undertaken and recorded
- Ensure that all recommendations arising from fire risk assessments regarding the fabrication of the building are implemented
- Organise the maintenance and testing of the fire alarm system and emergency lights by a competent person and maintain the certificates for the installation and maintenance of fire-fighting systems and equipment

Fire Wardens

- The school has appointed and trained a number of Fire Wardens and a list of these can be located on the xtranet - [Fire safety](#). These competent persons assist in taking preventive and protective measures (including firefighting and evacuation)
- Where feasible fire wardens will:
 - Check their building/floor to ensure everyone has left and close doors where necessary
 - Assist other staff in evacuating the premises by ensuring that they use the best available fire exit.
 - Use fire fighting equipment where it is safe to do so.

3. Management Arrangements for Fire Safety

Fire Risk Assessment

The school ensures that a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment is undertaken on the school premises and that the findings of the assessment are implemented. This risk assessment is reviewed if there are any structural or process changes to the premises.

4. Fire Precautions

Prevention of Arson

The school takes all reasonable precautions to minimise the likelihood of arson. This includes:

- Supervision of pupils
- Security lighting on all entrances; footpaths and building facades.
- Close down procedures for the school site
- School entrance doors being on key pad.
- Ensuring that internal waste bins are emptied on a daily basis.
- Ensuring the Bin Compound areas are free from combustible items.
- Maintaining the Security Gates.

Electrical Safety

Millfield utilises qualified in house electricians to maintain electrical services..

Portable electrical equipment is subject to an annual portable appliance test. Visual inspection of portable electrical appliances is carried out termly in boarding houses by houseparents. Qualified electricians are used for any remedial works required.

Only school authorised adaptors are allowed in the boarding houses. These are checked every term by the matrons and houseparents . All other adaptors that are on site should be of a recognisable quality (ie BS rated); further detail can be found under [Electrical Safety](#)

Gas Safety

All gas equipment is subjected to an annual inspection by Gas Safe registered engineer. All boilers are inspected by external contractors.

Hazardous substances

All flammable substances such as science chemicals, fuel and maintenance products are stored in 30 minute fire resistant cabinets or lockable cages.

All departments with hazardous substances must try to eliminate, substitute or reduce their chemicals that they hold within their areas wherever possible.

5. Means of Escape

All buildings in the school are provided with a secondary means of escape.

The school aims to ensure that all staircases and doors opening onto the protected routes are so designed that they prevent the spread of fire for 30 minutes. This includes the provision of door closures and automatic door guards where necessary.

The school aims to ensure that all fire escape routes are provided with adequate emergency lighting as identified by the fire risk assessment.

6. Fire Fighting Equipment

The school provides a suitable number of fire extinguishers and fire blankets as determined by the school's fire risk assessment. All fire extinguishers are checked by a specialist contractor on an annual basis. Fire extinguishers are checked monthly by the building Fire Wardens to ensure they are operational.

7. Fire Detection

The school recognises that early detection of fire enhances the time available for evacuation and reduces the damage caused to buildings. The school is committed to continuing to review and upgrade its fire detection system in relation to recognised standards. There is currently a programme in place to upgrade to all current fire alarms to addressable systems.

There is at present a combination of addressable and zone systems within the boarding houses. The majority of houses have L1 systems. Smoke detectors are linked to an addressable fire panel which is located in the front reception where those systems are present call points, smoke detectors, combined heat detectors and sounders are located within the majority of buildings.

The category of school alarm systems is dependent on the type and function of the building this is assessed on a case by case basis.

8. Arrangements for action to be taken in the event of fire

The school provides an action plan (grab sheet) in the event of fire for staff, pupils, visitors and contractors whilst on the estate. The Grab Sheets are located at every entry point of the buildings. All personnel should make themselves familiar with its contents.

These fire procedures and action plans are tested regularly (typically termly) in the form of a fire drill. The drills are organised by the Fire Officer for the building.

The outcomes of all fire drills are logged by the Fire Officer who will also follow up any action as appropriate.

9. Maintenance and Testing

The school makes arrangements for the fire alarm system to be maintained and tested every six months in line with the current British standard by a specialist contractor. The service schedule includes the following:

- Service of fire alarm system
- Emergency lighting is inspected 4 x a year and comprises of the following
 - a. 2 x 1 hour discharge test
 - b. 2 x functional test

Records of maintenance and testing are retained by the Electrical Supervisor.

In addition the school undertakes regular weekly testing of call points, and sounders as per the fire policy. The school is rolling out a computer based software program for all buildings with terminal access. As such this will give a real time picture of compliance across both estates. Training gaps will be identified on the induction of new staff.

10. Training

Information on fire procedures is provided to all staff. Information is reviewed to ensure that it is suitable and sufficient by means of feedback from fire drills and via the health and safety committee.

All staff are provided with fire awareness training at induction and during employment.

At the start of the academic year all boarders are shown the fire routes from their dormitory, the importance of ensuring their route is kept clear, how to activate a call point and how to operate the fire exit doors.

All Fire wardens are given training in regards to operation of fire panels and the use of fire extinguishers.

11. Safety of staff or anyone else on the school premises (including others working on the school site)

All visitors/ contractors, other than parents/guardians collecting pupils, arriving in the school in term time, are requested to sign in the visitor's book. They are given information outlining the procedures to follow in the event of the alarm being raised and the location of the relevant assembly points. Both schools have a public right of way running through its grounds and as such the school maybe unaware of personnel on their grounds; however the location of the public right of way is perceived as low risk.

All Estates contractors on site are informed that they should book in at the Estates office daily before they can commence work. On larger scale projects the contractor will have to sign in at the site office.

12. Use of School Premises outside school hours/ letting of premises

Millfield School Enterprises uses the facilities at both sites to run holiday courses for external adults and children, some of which are residential.

Enterprises staff receive a full induction onto the campus and carry out training to ensure they fully understand their responsibilities as Fire wardens / house parents. Fire drills are conducted on arrival for all students.

Person Responsible for this policy: H&S Advisor

Reviewed: Aug 2015

Next Review: Aug 2016