



Gosfield School

Fire Safety and Fire Risk Assessment Policy

Whole School, including EYFS

Gosfield School will ensure, as 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 1st 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 that are needed to protect all persons from death or injury in the event 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 controlled.

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 as 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 Head of Operations is responsible for the effective implementation of this Policy and its role within the School's Health and Safety Policy.
- All employees have the responsibility to cooperate, to follow the guidance in this policy and not do anything that will place themselves or other people at risk.

All staff must:

- familiarise themselves with the fire procedures relevant to their role and normal place of work;
- know the location of the nearest fire alarm call point and available escape routes;
- keep fire exits, escape routes and access to firefighting equipment clear;

- report damaged fire doors, blocked escape routes, defective alarms, emergency lighting or other fire safety concerns promptly;
- follow instructions given during fire drills and actual emergencies;
- ensure that activities under their control do not introduce unnecessary fire risks;
- cooperate with fire wardens, fire marshals, the Estates Team, the Incident Control Officer and Emergency Services where required.

Policy Responsibility and Review

The Governing Body has overall responsibility for ensuring that appropriate fire safety arrangements are in place across the School.

The Principal has overall responsibility for ensuring that the School's fire safety arrangements are implemented effectively.

The Head of Operations has day-to-day responsibility for coordinating fire safety arrangements, maintaining appropriate records and ensuring that identified actions are addressed.

The School will use suitably competent persons and specialist contractors where specialist knowledge, inspection, testing or maintenance is required.

This policy will be reviewed at least annually and sooner where there has been a significant fire, fire-related incident, change to the premises, change in use, significant alteration to fire safety arrangements or relevant change to legislation or guidance.

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.

MANAGING FIRE SAFETY

The school has delegated day to day responsibility for managing fire safety to the 'duty holder' that is, the Head of Operations. The Head of Operations will:

- Ensure that all means of escape are properly maintained, always kept free from obstruction and available for safe and effective use.
- Ensure that the means of escape have adequate emergency lighting.
- Provide and maintain in working order all firefighting appliances and devices including fire detection and alarm systems; emergency lighting systems; firefighting equipment; notices and signage relating to fire procedures; means of escape, considering the needs of any disabled users.
- 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.
- 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.
- Ensure that all staff, pupils, contractors, visitors and third-party hirers are made aware of and comply with the school's fire procedures.

- Identify any special risks, for example the storage of hazardous materials, and put in place appropriate procedures to minimise the risks.
- Liaise with third parties; the emergency services, and the school's insurers to ensure that best practice for fire prevention and procedures are in place.
- Monitor and review this policy on a regular basis to ensure that any new risk or alteration to regulations is addressed.

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 are maintained and checked by Chubb annually.

The alarm sounders are tested on a weekly basis by a member of the Site team.

The school emergency lighting is checked monthly by a member of the Site team, and annually by Chubb.

Notices and Signage are updated as and when required and checked annually by a member of the Site team.

Firefighting equipment is visually checked weekly by a member of the Site team and extinguishers are replenished or replaced annually by Chubb.

A Fire Log Book which contains records of fire safety issues is maintained by the Head of Operations and is stored in the Operations office, it is also located electronically on the school compliance system, backed up in case of fire or destruction. These issues include:

- fire drills
- the storing of hazardous materials
- the inspection and testing of fire detection and alarm systems; emergency lighting systems; firefighting equipment; staff training records

FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

The school has carried out a comprehensive fire risk assessment for each of its buildings. These assessments are kept by the Head of Operations in the Operations office.

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.

- where there are changes to occupancy levels or the types of people using the premises;
- where new equipment, substances or processes introduce additional fire hazards;
- following significant changes to fire protection systems or means of escape;
- where a significant deficiency is identified through inspection, testing or a fire drill;
- where relevant legislation, guidance or professional advice changes.

People Requiring Additional Assistance

Fire safety arrangements will take account of people who may require additional assistance to evacuate safely. This may include young children, pupils with additional needs, people with mobility difficulties, people with hearing or visual impairments, visitors or contractors who may be unfamiliar with the premises, and anyone who may otherwise require assistance during an evacuation.

Where an individual requires specific assistance, appropriate arrangements will be identified through the relevant risk assessment or individual emergency evacuation plan.

Staff responsible for providing assistance will be made aware of the arrangements relevant to their role. Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs), where required, will be reviewed when circumstances change and at appropriate intervals.

Causes of Fire

To minimise the risk of an outbreak of fire occurring, and to minimise the damage should an outbreak occur, it is necessary to establish an awareness on the part of both staff and pupils of the potential causes of fire and of the conditions which can contribute to the development and spread of fire.

The main causes of fire on school premises are:

- Malicious causes
- Defective electrical wiring and equipment
- Carelessness in the use of flammable substances
- Hot works: using flame or spark generating equipment

Fire Prevention

It is vital that staff always remain vigilant to the dangers of fire. All members of staff must be familiar with:

- Action to take on discovering a fire
- Location of the nearest Fire Alarm Call Point
- Nearest exit
- Locations of fire extinguishers on each floor
- Locations of evacuation assembly point outside the building

By staff carrying out effective housekeeping policies within their own work area the risks of a fire can be reduced.

- Always maintain a neat and tidy workplace
- Ensure paper/boxes/filing etc do not accumulate
- Ensure that electrical cables are kept tidy and not left to trail across the floor and are in a good serviceable condition

- Electrical equipment must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and must be maintained in a safe condition.
- Damaged electrical equipment, plugs, sockets or cables must be reported and, where appropriate, taken out of use until inspected or repaired.
- Charging of batteries and electrical equipment must be undertaken in accordance with the relevant risk assessment and manufacturer's instructions. Charging equipment must not be positioned where it could obstruct an escape route or create an avoidable fire risk.
- Staff should avoid unnecessary use or storage of combustible materials in areas where they could contribute to fire development or obstruct evacuation.

Flammable Substances

The greatest care should be taken in the handling and use of flammable substances, particularly those which produce flammable vapours. Many serious fires and accidents have been caused by flammable vapours drifting considerable distances to a source of ignition. All flammable substances must be locked away in suitable metal cupboards or boxes whenever they are not being used.

Flammable substances must be stored, handled and disposed of in accordance with the relevant COSHH assessment, manufacturer's instructions and School procedures.

Quantities of flammable substances stored on site should be kept to the minimum reasonably required for the activity.

Sources of ignition must be appropriately controlled and flammable substances must be kept away from heat sources and other ignition sources.

Staff must not introduce flammable substances into the School without appropriate authorisation and assessment.

Housekeeping

Many small outbreaks of fire have developed and spread because of doors being left open. It is therefore most important to ensure that, as far as possible, doors are kept closed. This is particularly important when the premises are unoccupied. Self-closing doors are provided to protect escape routes and in no circumstances should they be wedged in the open position.

Security

Because of the rapidly increasing incidence in Britain of malicious fires on school premises it is important to pay particular attention to fire security. It is therefore necessary to ensure that doors and windows are never left open when the premises are unoccupied and alarm systems are in operation.

Fire Drills

Fire drills are conducted at least once per school term. Notices giving evacuation routes in the event of fire are posted in every classroom. (See 'Actions on hearing the alarm'). Predetermined points at which both staff and pupils can assemble are established in the school grounds. A roll call is taken of pupils, staff and visitors. Fire drills will be recorded, including the date, time, evacuation time where appropriate, significant observations and any actions identified. Any actions arising from a fire drill will be allocated to an appropriate person and monitored to completion.

Visitors, Contractors and Hirers

Visitors, contractors and third-party hirers must be provided with appropriate information regarding the School's fire procedures and evacuation arrangements. Staff responsible for visitors or contractors should ensure that they are directed to the assembly point during an evacuation and that appropriate arrangements are in place to account for them. External hirers will be informed of the relevant fire and emergency procedures applicable to their use of the premises.

Training

All staff receive fire safety induction training by the Head of Operations during INSET Days and also online interactive training, followed by annual refresher training.

The Head of operations sends out online fire marshall training to the fire marshals in the Prep and Senior Schools, and sends out the evacuation procedure giving them more detailed instruction.

Pupils are given instruction by their class teachers/form tutors during the first week of the Autumn term on the actions to be taken in the event of a fire and are reminded of the instructions periodically.

Fire drills are planned each term to evaluate the effectiveness of the school's evacuation procedures. The findings of the drill are reported to staff at the weekly staff briefing and through the Minutes of the Health and Safety Committee meetings. Any conclusions and remedial actions are recorded and implemented.

Staff with responsibilities during an evacuation

Staff with responsibilities should ensure as far as is reasonably practicable, but not putting themselves in any danger, that all rooms in their area of responsibility are vacated, the doors and windows are closed. They should be the last person to evacuate their area. On reaching the Assembly point, they report to the nominated member of SLT (or in their absence to another member of SLT) and confirm that their area is clear.

Staff undertaking evacuation duties must never place themselves at risk or delay their own evacuation in order to complete a sweep. A person should not re-enter an area that may contain fire or smoke to confirm that it is clear.

First Aiders

First Aiders should report to the designated assembly point with the appropriate emergency first aid equipment where it is safe and practicable to do so. First Aiders must not delay their own evacuation or place themselves at risk in order to retrieve equipment. They should report to the ICO. A first aid kit is in the Fire box which will be taken to the assembly point.

Fire Extinguishers

It is important that the correct type of extinguisher is used for right type of fire. There are 4 kinds:

Class A	fires involving solid materials where combustion normally takes place with the formation of glowing embers
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Class B fires involving liquids or liquefiable solids

Class C fires involving gases

Class D fires involving metals

REMEMBER: Water based extinguishers must not be used on or near electrical items.

Fire Fighting

Members of staff should be aware of the location and the method of operation of fire extinguishers.

Firefighting should only be carried out when it is obvious that there is no risk involved. It should never take precedence over the activation of the alarm or the evacuation of the premises. You may be able to deal with a small fire such as material alight in a waste bin by using a fire extinguisher, but before fighting any fire ensure that you are using the correct type of extinguisher. All fire extinguishers are clearly labelled.

ACTION ON DISCOVERING A FIRE

In the event of a fire the alarm system should be activated by any individual without delay.

The fire service must be called to all outbreaks of fire, no matter how small. This will be actioned by the Estates team immediately on hearing the alarm and discovering a fire. If in doubt call the Fire Brigade yourself when in a safe area.

Action on Hearing the Alarm

- Evacuate immediately in a quiet and orderly manner. Any pupil not in their own class should be instructed to go with the teacher they are with and report to the assembly point and re-join their registration class
- Leave by the nearest safe exit, closing any doors behind you that you can do safely
- Follow any specific instructions given
- Staff must assist pupils or other persons requiring additional assistance in accordance with the relevant emergency evacuation arrangements or individual evacuation plan.
- Do not attempt to retrieve personal belongings
- Once outside move directly to your evacuation assembly point for roll call
- Do not attempt to re-enter the building until the Incident Control Officer or Principal, who will be instructed by the Fire Brigade, gives the 'all clear'

ON NO ACCOUNT SHOULD ANYONE RETURN TO A BURNING BUILDING.

The Principal or ICO must be informed immediately of the source of any fire or the cause of any accidental alarm signal.

Staff and pupils must be familiar with the escape routes for all rooms they use.

Location of the Fire Assembly Point:

The Plot (Main Car Park) for all areas

In the event that the Main Car Park is unavailable, the Principal will indicate an alternative Assembly Point, Usually the Field next to the Main Car Park.

Pupils should line up at the points marked by a sign for their class or follow instructions from their tutor where an alternative Assembly Point is in use. Assigned staff will check that pupils, staff and visitors are accounted for and report to the ICO, in accordance with the Fire and Emergency Evacuation Procedure, which is updated on a termly basis.

These procedures are valid during the normal working day. However, an incident can happen before registration has closed at 9.30am and during activities.

Before registers have closed: We assume that a pupil could be in school until we have confirmation that they are absent. Office staff must attempt to contact parents to confirm that a pupil is not in school.

During activities: The activity leader must take his/her register to the assembly point and is responsible for confirming that everyone is accounted for.

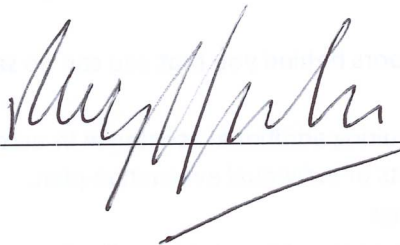
NO ONE WILL LEAVE THE ASSEMBLY POINTS UNTIL GIVEN THE ALL CLEAR BY THE PRINCIPAL

Ratified by the Governing Council of Gosfield School

Signed K. Makara
Chair of Governors

Date: 14.9.26.

Signed _____
Principal



Date _____

14/9/26

Date of next review – September 2027