

## **Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment**

Providers must take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children, staff and others on the premises in the case of fire or any other emergency, and must have an emergency evacuation procedure.

### **8.5 Fire safety and emergency evacuation**

#### **Policy statement**

We ensure the highest possible standard of fire precautions are in place. The person in charge and our staff are familiar with the current legal requirements. Where necessary we seek the advice of a competent person, such as our Fire Officer or Fire Safety Consultant. A Fire Safety Log Book is used to record the findings of risk assessment, any actions taken or incidents that have occurred and our fire drills. Downloadable Fire Safety Log Books are widely available free of charge on line. We ensure our policy is in line with the procedures specific to our building, making reasonable adjustments as required.

#### **Procedures**

##### *Fire safety risk assessment*

- The basis of fire safety is risk assessment, carried out by a 'competent person'.
- The manager has received training in fire safety sufficient to be competent to carry out the risk assessment; this will follow the Government guidance Fire Safety Risk Assessment - Educational Premises (HMG 2006).
  - Our fire safety risk assessment focuses on the following for each area of the setting:
  - Electrical plugs, wires and sockets.
  - Electrical items.
  - Gas boilers.
  - Cookers.
  - Matches.
  - Flammable materials – including furniture, furnishings, paper etc.
  - Flammable chemicals.
  - Means of escape.
  - Anything else identified.

##### *Fire safety precautions taken*

- We ensure that fire doors are clearly marked, never obstructed and easily opened from the inside.
- We ensure that smoke detectors/alarms and fire fighting appliances conform to BS EN standards, are fitted in appropriate high risk areas of the building and are checked as specified by the manufacturer.
- We have all electrical equipment checked annually by a qualified electrician. Any faulty electrical equipment is taken out of use and either repaired or replaced.
- Our emergency evacuation procedures are approved by the Fire Safety Officer and are:

- clearly displayed in the premises;
  - explained to new members of staff, volunteers and parents; and
  - practised regularly, at least once every six weeks.
- Records are kept of fire drills and of the servicing of fire safety equipment.

*Emergency evacuation procedure*

It must cover procedures for practice drills including:

- How children are familiar with the sound of the fire alarm. *Regular drills allow children to recognise sound of the alarm and a member of staff shouts fire.*
- How the children, staff and parents know where the fire exits are. *Practice drills using different exits, new staff are shown the exits during induction process*
- How children are led from the building to the assembly point. *Children walk from the building to the assembly point unless help is required.*
- How children will be accounted for and who by. *Designated person*
- How long it takes to get the children out safely. *Drills are timed*
- Who calls the emergency services, and when, in the event of a real fire. *Designated person*
- How parents are contacted. *Mobile phone and emergency contact form is collected by designated person*

*Fire drills*

We hold fire drills termly and record the following information about each fire drill in the Fire Safety Log Book:

- The date and time of the drill.
- Number of adults and children involved.
- How long it took to evacuate.
- Whether there were any problems that delayed evacuation.
- Any further action taken to improve the drill procedure.

**Legal framework**

- Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

**Further guidance**

- Fire Safety Risk Assessment - Educational Premises (HMG 2006)

This policy was adopted by \_\_\_\_\_ *(name of provider)*

On \_\_\_\_\_ *(date)*

Date to be reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ *(date)*

Signed on behalf of the provider \_\_\_\_\_

Name of signatory \_\_\_\_\_

Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner) \_\_\_\_\_

**Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications**

- Fire Safety Record (2015)