



ST. MARY'S
ACADEMY TRUST

St Mary's Academy Trust

Fire Safety Policy

Date agreed by Finance Committee4th July 2016.....

Date to be reviewed.....July 2018.....

1. General Statement

St Mary's Academy Trust is a responsible employer that takes our fire safety duties seriously. For this reason we have formulated this policy to help us comply with our legal obligations to staff and visitors under the **Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (The Order)**

This policy addresses our obligation under the order that requires the company to:

- Develop a policy to minimize the risks associated with fire
- Reduce the risk of an outbreak of fire
- Reduce the risk of the spread of fire
- Provide a means of escape
- Demonstrate preventive action

Due to its importance, this fire policy also forms part of our overall health and safety policy.

2. The Responsible Person

The company has appointed a 'responsible person(s)' who is charged with the responsibility to ensure the safety of our employees, any person who may legally come into our premises and anyone not on the premises but who may be affected. The person appointed is: Headteacher and Finance and Operations Director.

N.B Where responsibility is shared with other responsible persons (e.g. adjacent premises, Landlord / Tennant or multiple tenancy building) we are required to co-operate by sharing information and collaborating in provision of measures.

3. Competent Persons

The company will appoint competent persons to carry out the following duties:

- Fire Warden(s) (nominated competent person)
- To carry out fire-fighting duties
- Make contact with the emergency services
- Assist in evacuations.

The names and duties of all competent persons will be displayed on the safety notice board(s) within the premises.

NB. A competent person can only be regarded as competent if they have the appropriate level of training, experience, and knowledge.

4. Documentation & Records

The keeping of good records allows the company to prove that we have acted responsibly. The lack of records could leave the matter open to doubt. Inspectors will require you to inspect your records during any enforcement visit and the following records will be kept (together, in the same file) at all company premises:

- The fire safety policy
- Fire evacuation procedures
- Detailed records of all fire training.
- A record of all fire drills (at least one per year) listing all attendees, evacuation times and any comments.
- Records of weekly tests of fire alarms, fire exits.
- Records of weekly flow tests of sprinkler systems (where fitted)
- Records of wet and dry tests of dry rising mains (where fitted)
- Record of annual inspection and test of all fire fighting equipment
- Records of periodic tests of emergency lighting (where fitted)
- Records of all scheduled and unscheduled maintenance of fire detection and alarm systems

5. Employee's Duties

All employees have a duty to take reasonable steps to ensure that they do not place themselves or others at risk of harm. They are also expected to co-operate fully with us in complying with any procedures that we may introduce as a measure to protect the safety and well-being of our staff and visitors.

6. Communication

We will ensure that any person we employ (directly or indirectly) is provided with all information related to fire safety and consult with our employees on all matters of fire safety policy and arrangements. We will keep staff informed of any changes that are made to our fire safety procedures and fire risk assessment. We will also ensure that all visitors to our premises are briefed in the evacuation procedures and not left alone unless they are aware of, and familiar with, all available escape routes.

7. Procedures

The company has introduced the following procedures in order to maintain high standards of fire safety

- A fire risk assessment has been undertaken by a competent person, which will be reviewed annually. However, more frequent reviews will occur if there are changes that

will impact on its effectiveness. These may include alterations to the premises or new work processes.

- The fire evacuation procedures will be practiced at least annually.
- All employees will be given training, including 'the action to be taken' when they commence employment and will receive refresher training as appropriate. Further training would be required if there were any change that may affect fire safety. All training will be provided during normal working hours.
- It is company policy that all staff will be trained in the use of fire extinguishers whether or not they have been given specific fire fighting duties.
- All escape routes will be established, kept in good working order and free from obstruction at all times. Operation of fire exit doors will be tested and recorded in the fire log on a weekly basis.
- Fire fighting equipment will be provided. In general this means fire extinguishers but additional provision of fire blankets, hoses or sprinklers may be made where deemed appropriate by the findings of the risk assessment.
- All fire related equipment will be regularly serviced and maintained by a competent person. If any employee notices defective or missing equipment, they must report it to a manager.
- An appropriate fire detection and alarm system will be provided. The type and extent of the alarm system provided will be based on the findings of the risk assessment. Alarm systems will be tested regularly. Staff will be told when a test is scheduled.
- Emergency lighting will be provided for escape routes where applicable. The need for and the extent of the system will be determined by the findings of the risk assessment.
- The risk of fire spread will be controlled by the provision of fire resisting construction, and or fire/smoke resisting doors. These provisions will be kept in good order as part of our regular maintenance schedule. All employees are required to ensure that any fire door provided remains closed at all times.
- Any other safety systems provided will be checked regularly to ensure correct operation, where necessary e.g. emergency lighting, fire doors etc.
- Appropriate signs and notices will be displayed, giving appropriate instructions to employees and others in the event of a fire. In addition signs will be provided to indicate the position of fire extinguishers, fire alarm call points and, to indicate the emergency exit routes.
- This policy forms part of employee's terms and conditions of employment. Failure to comply may be treated as a disciplinary matter.

1. On discovering a fire

- If you discover a fire, raise the alarm immediately
- If you have been trained and feel it is safe to do so, attempt to fight the fire using the equipment provided.
- If this fails, evacuate immediately. Ensure that no one is left in the room and close the door behind you.
- Ensure that you or the designated person has called the fire service.
- Play your part in the role call so you are safely accounted for.

2. If you hear the fire alarm

- Operate any essential shutdown devices, e.g. machinery.
- Immediately leave using the nearest available fire exit.
- Report to the assembly point for a roll call.
- If you are with a visitor, ensure they accompany you.

3. Fire marshals

- Encourage staff around you to evacuate and proceed to the assembly point.
- Report to the person in charge and advise of any absentees or persons unable to be evacuated.

4. Person in charge

- Gather all information regarding the evacuation.
- Establish if it is a genuine fire or a false alarm.
- Ensure that the fire service has been called.
- Liaise with the fire service on its arrival.