



## Fire Policy

### Aims

It is the overall aim of The Beeches Independent Special School to minimise the risks to staff and employees, which may arise from fire. This will be achieved by ensuring precautions are taken to avoid fires occurring and by ensuring that procedures for minimising the effects of an outbreak of fire and evacuating the premises are in place.

### Fire safety management

*Main duties are:*

- To minimise risk from fire through thorough risk assessments
- To ensure adequate staff/ fire manager training has taken place
- To produce an emergency plan and put up fire notices
- To conduct fire drills
- To check adequacy of fire fighting apparatus and its maintenance
- To implement recommendations from the Fire Risk Assessment
- To consult with the LA Fire Risk Assessment officer on matters of fire safety
- To conduct regular fire safety inspections and record the findings
- To make frequent informal checks
- To ensure fire escape routes and fire exit doors/ passageways are unobstructed and doors operate correctly
- To check fire detection and protection systems are maintained and tested and records kept
- To ensure Fire Safety Log Book is kept up to date and accessible

### Fire procedures

Notices displaying the fire procedures are displayed at each fire alarm call point. See Fire Procedures (dated) for most up to date procedures.

Persons responsible for fire safety; Emma Sutters and Barry Hopkins.

The identified responsible person (Most Senior person on site or person with responsibility for the people &/or building)

All staff will have internal training annually.

*This will include:*

- Understanding the emergency plan/ fire procedure
- The importance of fire doors

- The significant findings of the Fire Risk Assessment
- Guidance on the use of relevant fire fighting equipment e.g. fire extinguishers, fire blankets – to protect escape route
- Reporting to the assembly area
- Exit routes including alternatives
- General matters of fire safety e.g. keeping combustibles away from possible ignition sources
- Assisting visitors and any disabled persons from the building

*In addition:*

- New staff to be taken through annual training schedule as part of induction package

All records of training & induction to be recorded in staff or certification files located in the office.

## **Fire Risk Assessment appraisal**

This will be carried out on an annual basis by the Nominated persons. Future risk assessment reviews may be carried out by Local Authority Fire Risk Assessment Officer as decided by the school/ business.

All issues that present a fire risk will be actioned as per the priority rating. Where this is not possible a mitigating statement will be written into the assessment according to premise health and safety procedures.

The main alarm indicator panel is situated in the office. Fire drills are executed by the nominated person/competent person via this panel.

Evacuation drills will be carried out a minimum monthly.

Different times and days of the week are used, some drills are spontaneous and unplanned whilst others are planned with staff being given notice ensuring all staff are aware of the procedures.

## **Staff roles and responsibility in the event of an evacuation alarm:**

In general all staff and students will assemble at the agreed assembly point (rear garden of school), unless the source of the fire makes this impossible. Nominated person will immediately do a head count and if appropriate call the register. Absentees will immediately be reported to the nominated person.

## **Fire Doors and exits**

All doors should be closed after the last person has exited. This will prevent fire spreading and so minimise damage.

All fire exit routes are signed clearly with directional arrows.

## **Follow up to evacuation drills**

Drills must be recorded in the Premises Information Folder in the office. Timing of each evacuation must be recorded accurately. All persons will receive immediate feedback on the success of the evacuation at their assembly point.

## Disabled pupils/ members of staff

All persons that require assistance to evacuate the building should have a written Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP). Staff should be aware that they must endeavour to evacuate them in the event of an emergency (without putting themselves at risk), and not wholly rely on the fire and rescue service.

## Fire Plan

### *Action on discovering a fire:*

- Raise the attention of others by sounding the fire alarm.
- Evacuate all occupants according to fire procedure.
- On hearing the unscheduled alarm, Head person or next in charge to call 999, ask for Fire service stating fire at INSERT Name & full address of premise.
- Notify a senior manager as soon as possible and give precise details about fire.
- Use fire-fighting equipment only if necessary to make your escape. What to do if the fire alarm sounds
- Follow fire procedure and evacuate all occupants to the assembly point.
- Admin staff to collect registers, signing in book and mobile phone
- Ensure all windows and doors are closed.
- All areas to be checked for occupants.
- Keep silent to ensure instructions from Fire Warden can be heard Liaison with Emergency Services
- On arrival the emergency services will require the following information:
- Where is the fire located? – give site map
- What does the fire involve?
- Are all persons evacuated from the building?
- Escape routes and fire exit use
- Means for escape routes are checked daily.
- Doors currently without thumb screws or quick release handles must be unlocked while in use
- Staff must be aware of alternative routes.

## Fire-fighting equipment use

Fire-fighting equipment is provided to assist in securing your means of escape. No person should put themselves and others at risk when fire-fighting.

### *Responsibilities and duties to assist in case of fire:*

- All persons have a responsibility to ensure the building is evacuated immediately, safety of all occupants is our priority at all times
- Once evacuation complete fire procedure to be put into place