

BROCKWOOD PARK SCHOOL & INWOODS SMALL SCHOOL
FIRE SAFETY, FIRE PROCEDURE AND FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT POLICY

Last Review Date	August 2023
Policy endorsed by	The Trustees & School Management Committee
Policy is maintained by	Estate and Facilities Manager
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Review body	Estate and Facilities Manager & School Management Committee

Introduction

Brockwood Park School and Inwoods Small School acknowledge their duty under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 to take all necessary steps, as far as is reasonably practicable, to ensure the safety of students, all staff, volunteers and visitors and any other persons in the School from the dangers of fire. The Procedures apply to all staff and students of the School, all visitors, guests, lettings and contractors – there are no exceptions. All the foregoing must take part in evacuations, whether drill, real incident or false alarm. The Procedures are the same for all evacuations, whether a real incident or a false alarm.

Responsible Person

In accordance with the requirements of article 3 of the above Order the “Responsible Person” is the Fire and Safety Officer; he is a boarding member of staff and it is his responsibility to ensure the requirements are implemented. This person is Robert Beddow.

In accordance with Article 9 of the Order the Responsible Person will ensure a “suitable and sufficient” Fire Risk Assessment has been undertaken and will be reviewed at least annually. The Fire Risk Assessment will be reviewed whenever a building is altered, extended or a new building acquired or built.

The responsible person will ensure that:

- The fire safety policy is kept under regular review by Trustees and School Management Committee
- The fire safety policy is promulgated to the entire school community;

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- Everyone in the school (including visitors and contractors) are given instructions on where they should go in the event of fire;
- Records are kept of the fire induction training given to new staff and students;
- Procedures and arrangements for emergency evacuation are regularly tested;
- Fire risk assessments are reviewed and updated;
- Fire prevention measures are meticulously followed;
- Fire procedures and risk assessments are reviewed on each occasion that a building is altered, extended or rebuilt, or when new buildings are acquired;
- Records are kept of all fire practices, including night practice evacuations from boarding accommodation; and
- Certificates for the installation and maintenance of fire-fighting systems and equipment are kept.

Most of the above are captured as part of the monthly Health and Safety Inspection.

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Fire Alarm System

- All buildings have a fully installed fire alarm system with a series of fire alarm call points which is supplemented by automatic fire detection (AFD) within most of the rooms of the buildings. The fire alarm system has undergone significant upgrades in recent years and is continuing to be improved. Areas completed include the control panels and associated wiring between buildings; and the water tower. The cloisters, garden rooms and the main house were upgraded in 2017/18. The detection in these areas is to a grade L1 standard in accordance with British Standard 5839: Part1.
- There are four control panels throughout the school site, each of which controls the entire system. The locations of these panels are:
 - Main House (in reception corridor);
 - Cloisters (in entranceway);
 - Pavilions (in western entrance to Magnolia pavilion); and
 - Art Barn (in entrance lobby).
- At each fire alarm panel there is a combination safe that contains the master keys for that area, at least one radio pre-set to the correct channel, and a torch.
- The fire alarm system is regularly tested by staff members and is maintained by contractors.

Instructions for Fire Marshals

- Upon the activation of the fire alarm system, all trained fire marshals will make their way to their nearest fire alarm panel.
- The first fire marshal to arrive at the Main House panel takes overall charge of the situation and coordinates the response. This person is referred to as Control throughout this section.
- On identifying the location(s) of the fire from the panel, Control determines who to send to this area to perform search and rescue tasks. This will include identifying via the radio whether there are any fire marshals already close to the fire location.
- For search and rescue, a minimum of two people will be sent into an area to ensure that there is support in case of an accident.
- Control will also send at least one marshal to organise the assembly point (the North Lawn opposite the main house) who will perform a roll-call.

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Specific duties for each role

- **Control:**
 - Identify which marshals take which roles and ensure they are adequately equipped to do their job (e.g. they have radios, torches, fire lists etc.);
 - Remain at the main panel to observe if any additional fires are detected;
 - Obtain regular reports from search and rescue team(s) and from the assembly point;
 - Determine whether and when to call the fire brigade and/or the all clear;
 - Is the main contact for the fire brigade should they be called, including providing information about any missing persons which will have been identified by the roll-call.

- **Search & Rescue:**
 - Search the area/zone where the fire has been detected in an organised, systematic and safe manner (for example check each and every door with back of hand before opening);
 - Ensure any able bodied people left in the area immediately leave and report to the assembly point;
 - Ensure anyone in the area who has a specific evacuation procedure in place receives the evacuation support they require as part of their plan.
 - Close all fire doors found open during search.
 - Search for both the fire and any casualties with equal emphasis on each;
 - Maintain regular contact with Control, updating her/him on progress;
 - Maintain at least audio contact with at least one other marshal throughout the search;
 - On discovering a fire, if it is small enough to tackle, do so with a single fire extinguisher if safe to do so. If it is not possible to tackle it, immediately clear the area and shut the door;
 - On discovering a casualty in immediate danger from fire, remove them as quickly as possible behind a fire door, calling for assistance if needed;
 - On discovering a casualty not in immediate danger from fire, identify cause of injuries and arrange for appropriate medical intervention;
 - Only report back to Control that there is no fire if the entire area has been searched completely and the detector/call point that triggered the system has been identified.

- **Assembly Point:**
 - Take the fire list and all 'sign out' books to the assembly point;
 - Perform the roll-call in a calm and efficient manner;
 - Report to Control if anyone who is not a fire marshal is missing;
 - Prevent anyone returning to buildings until the all clear is given;
 - Once Control has given the all clear, communicate this to the assembled persons.

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Instructions for all staff who are not trained marshals, students, volunteers and visitors

- If you discover a fire, do not attempt to tackle the fire, activate the alarm by means of the nearest alarm call point and leave the building following the procedure below;
- When you hear the fire alarm, follow the exit signs and leave the building by the nearest exit and assemble at assembly point located on the North Lawn in front of the main entrance;
- Do not delay in leaving the building;
- Stay at the assembly point - do not move around the site unless instructed;
- Remain silent at the assembly point;
- Await further instruction; and
- Do not return to a building until told it is safe to do so. The alarm stopping sounding is not the all clear.

Provision of Fire Marshal Cover

- When the school is in session a roster of fire marshals ensures that no fewer than four are on site and on-call at any time. The exception is when the whole school moves elsewhere (for example for an activity or trip) when there will be two fire marshals who remain behind.
- When the school is not in session there will be at least two fire marshals on site at all times.

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INWOODS SMALL SCHOOL

Instructions for Staff (Fire Crew)

When the fire alarm sounds, the teacher at the site rings the hand bell continuously while evacuating children in that building. On sending them to the Assembly Point, they take up their fire crew role.

If fire is discovered before the detector activates, the teacher at site rings the hand bell continuously while evacuating children from that building. On sending them to the Assembly Point, they take up their fire crew role.

Role	Staff	Responsibility
Role 1: Raising Alarm and Facilitating Evacuation	Melanie Bacon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Get nearest hand bell and ring continuously across site;● Facilitate evacuation starting from where alarm was raised;● Close doors as moving through buildings;● Report to role 2.● Retrieve anyone unaccounted for.● Ensure no one goes back into the building.
Role 2: Assembly Coordination and Evaluating of fire situation	Lauren White	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Get register and perform roll call at assembly point;● Call the fire brigade if necessary.● Maintain calm and order at assembly point;● Organise transport to Brockwood Park School, contact parents;● Assess the fire and tackle with an extinguisher if safe to do so.● Report on fault to prevent future false alarms.

Calling Fire Brigade

- Dial 999 from a school mobile.
- Your call will be answered by a telephone exchange operator who will ask which emergency service you require and the telephone number that you are dialling from.
- Stay on the line and you will then be connected to the Fire and Rescue Control Room in the area you are calling from, not the local fire station.
- As you are being connected to the Fire and Rescue Service you will hear the telephone exchange operator passing your telephone number to the fire brigade control operator.
- Answer the following questions clearly
 - Where are you calling from, what is the address there and the nearest main road?

Inwoods Small School, Brockwood Park, Bramdean, Hampshire. SO24 0LQ

Direct the vehicle from the Lodge

Telephone:(0) 1962 771 065 Mobile: 07708 409 567

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- What is on fire?
- Has evacuation been successful?
- And any other relevant questions that are asked

- It is not necessary to memorise the procedure, however, it is important that you:
 - Stay calm;
 - Listen carefully to the operator;
 - Speak slowly and clearly; and
 - Only finish the call when the operator tells you.

- It may seem as though you are being asked too many questions and your call is taking too long. Don't worry, the Fire and Rescue Service will already be on the way whilst you are still talking to the Operator.

- Emergency calls to the Fire and Rescue Control Room are handled, from receipt of the call to mobilising the Fire Appliance, in less than 60 seconds.

Fire Fighting

- Attempt to attack a fire only if it is small and you feel confident enough to do so
 - **Assess the fire quickly:** Find out what is burning and its progress
 - **Identify the correct extinguisher:** Are flammable liquids or electricity involved?
 - **Test the extinguisher at the location you find it:** To check if it works and to test the range of the jet
 - **Attack the fire with assurance but know when to stop:**
 - Make sure you have a way of escaping;
 - If the fire has gathered enough momentum and no extinguishers can stop it.
 - Do not return to the site of fire if you have left it unattended for more than a minute.

Evacuation Procedure (*Inwoods only*)

- Alarm is raised with hand bell on kitchen shelves in each barn;
- All go to assembly point in front of double gates;
- Check premises for children, closing doors when leaving. Take register
- Read out children's and adult's names from register;
- Call emergencies
- Call parents for a collection of children.
- Everyone waits for the all clear before entering buildings.

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POLICY ELEMENTS COMMON TO BOTH SCHOOLS

Visitors and Contractors

All visitors and contractors are required to sign in at the Reception/Office, where they are issued with a visitor's badge, which should be worn at all times that they are on school property. They are made aware of the emergency evacuation notice by their host upon their arrival and are shown the way to the assembly point.

When large numbers of visitors are at the school for open days, plays, concerts, exhibitions etc. a brief announcement is made advising them of the location of the emergency exits that they should use in the event of the alarms sounding.

Means of escape for disabled persons

There are currently no staff, students or volunteers who appear to be disabled or who have reduced mobility. However, disabled members of the public may be in the building particularly for public events such as concerts within the main assembly. The responsible person(s) should prepare individual Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEP's). These plans should be tailored to meet the specific needs of the individual and are an essential communication tool for those required to provide assistance.

Any information relating to visitors with disabilities or who may have reduced mobility will subsequently be known to members of the fire crew.

Fire Drills

Regular fire drills are carried out to confirm that facilities and procedures are effective and that everyone understands what they need to do in the case of evacuation.

School holds at least one fire practice every term. We also practise a night-time evacuation of the boarding houses every term.

All findings are recorded. Should there be any misunderstanding or the fire drill was not to the recommended standard another unannounced drill is carried out in quick time after.

System Testing

The fire system is tested weekly to ensure its proper functioning.

Training

No one should attempt to fight a fire at the expense of their own, or anyone else's safety. Fire marshal training is provided to all new staff and refresher training is available to all staff at the beginning of the academic year.

Staff Fire Safety Training

The Health and Safety Officer performs the training. Training is carried out for all staff and includes:

- Action to take on discovering a fire;

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- How to raise the alarm and how to react when it is raised;
- Procedures for alerting and assisting members of the public and visitors;
- Arrangements for calling the fire brigade;
- The evacuation procedure;
- Location and use of fire-fighting equipment;
- Location of escape routes;
- Operation of escape doors;
- Fire door discipline;
- Procedures for isolation and machine and process shut-down;
- The importance of general fire safety and good housekeeping; and
- Fire warden training. Training is given as part of induction and on-going refresher programmes.

Training for Students

All our students are given a briefing on the schools emergency evacuation procedures on their first day at the Schools either by their Tutor or by another staff member. We show them where the emergency exits, escape routes and assembly points are located. Fire action notice is displayed on the school notice board. All students are shown how to activate the fire alarms if they see or smell a fire. No one should attempt to use a fire extinguisher before he or she has been trained in its use.

Good Housekeeping

We know the importance of good housekeeping, including not obstructing fire routes, fire doors and general tidiness. The risk of fire can be greatly reduced by a regime of good housekeeping within the workplace. The need for good housekeeping cannot be overemphasised and students are also aware of the importance of this. If good housekeeping is not maintained the risk of fire spreading is vastly increased.

Our housekeeping rules include:

- No smoking anywhere within any of the buildings, including the boarding accommodation;
- All spills are cleaned away as soon as possible;
- All rubbish is cleared away and not left in fire routes or against the building fabric;
- Flammable waste and contaminated rags are kept in separate metal bins with close fitting metal lids; and
- All flammable materials, liquids and gases are stored properly in suitable containers/cages.

Provision and Maintenance of Emergency Routes and Exits

As part of the monthly Health and Safety Inspection, the Responsible person ensures that:

- All fire escape routes are clear of obstruction (this is also part of the school's daily routine of morning jobs at Brockwood Park School and part of teachers responsibilities when unlocking the school at Inwoods Small School)
- Emergency routes and exits lead as directly as possible to a place of safety and are identified by suitable fire signs;

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- Emergency fire doors open in the direction of escape wherever possible and are unobstructed;
- Emergency fire doors are not locked so that they can be easily and immediately opened by any person who may need to use them in an emergency;
- Emergency fire escape routes and exits are provided with emergency lighting, of adequate intensity in case of failure of their normal lighting; and
- No items are stored under stairways.

Emergency Lighting

Within the Schools, escape routes, including external routes, are provided with sufficient lighting for people to clearly see their way out to safety. Typical areas requiring emergency escape lighting are those without natural light or those occupied at night.

Emergency lighting should both indicate the escape routes clearly and provide illumination along escape routes to allow safe movement towards the final exits.

Emergency lighting units are sited to cover specific areas, including:

- Intersections of corridors;
- At each exit door;
- Near each staircase ensuring direct light to each flight;
- Close to a change in floor level;
- Outside each final exit; and
- Near each fire alarm call point.

Sources of Ignition

- **SMOKING** – The persons at work and students and other persons visiting this property appear to adhere to the government's no smoking law within the work areas of the property and there appears no sign of smoking materials to internal areas at the time of the fire risk assessment. In addition, there is a no smoking policy within the internal areas of each private room. Smoking is not normally approved within this estate. Further information can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/contact/faqs/smoking.htm
- **ELECTRICAL** – All portable electrical equipment which is brought in for use by any staff member, student or visitor within the areas of the building which is used as a workplace or any contractor at work within the common area must be regularly serviced in accordance with the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974, the Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999, the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 and The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1992.

The responsible person for the property is to ensure that all portable electrical appliances are tested (PAT tested) regularly according to the type of equipment and the environment it is used in and on the advice of an approved electrical contractor. The responsible person is also to ensure that a safe system of managing trailing wires across floors is in place, including the neglect and misuse of electrical wiring. Further information can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/electricity/maintenance/safety.htm

- **COOKING** – There is a main kitchen area located within the ground floor level of the building. This kitchen area is provided with a gas hob and oven, warming ovens and electrical white goods. From information received during the survey, the filters and

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extractor equipment is subjected to a regular cleaning regime. A gas shut off switch is located near the door to the kitchen.

- Staff apartments located on the upper floors of this building are provided with small kitchen areas which include an electrical cooking hob, oven and fridges.
- All portable electrical equipment which is situated within any kitchen and currently used by members of staff of the building, should form part of the electrical PAT testing regime
- **HEATING APPLIANCES** – Where portable heaters are in use, particular care should be taken to ensure that they are used safely, particularly those which are kept for emergency purposes, such as during a power cut or as supplementary heating during severe weather. The greatest risks arise from lack of maintenance and staff unfamiliarity with them. Heaters should be secured in a position when in use and fitted with a guard if appropriate. As a general rule, oil filled radiators should be preferred to radiant heaters because they present a lower risk of fire. The following advice should be observed:-
 - All heaters should be kept well clear of combustible materials and where they do not cause an obstruction;
 - Heaters which burn fuel should be sited away from draughts;
 - Portable fuel burning heaters (including bottled gas (LPG) should only be used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions;
 - In general, staff should be discouraged from bringing into the workplace their own portable heaters.
- **RUBBISH AND WASTE MATERIALS** – Rubbish and waste should not be allowed to accumulate within common areas, particularly within staircase enclosures. Combustible materials are to be removed on a regular basis and placed in suitable containers in a safe place prior to collection. Care should be taken that wheelie bins containing rubbish are locked away to prevent them being moved near to the building and set on fire.
- **ARSON** – The responsible person representing Brockwood Park School is to ensure processes are in place to reduce the threat of a fire being started maliciously. The occurrence of arson can be reduced and its effect controlled if consideration is given to identify potential threats and effective protection measures are undertaken at an early stage. Cached
- **CONTRACTORS** – Where contractors are likely to be undertaking work within the building, they are to receive a brief from the responsible person regarding the appropriate means of escape from the areas where they are at work and also the method of raising the alarm in the event of a fire. Contractors should not be left alone to work within the building unless they have a means of reporting to the responsible person(s) outlined above on a regular basis. In addition, regular checks are to be made by the responsible person(s) to ascertain their work is being carried out safely and that their work does not obstruct designated escape routes or passages.

Should any hot work be required by an individual contractor, a hot work permit is to be issued by the contractor undertaking the work. Prior to a hot work permit being issued,

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the contractor would have to submit method statements and risk assessments (RAMS) for approval by the responsible person for Brockwood Park School. However, the responsible person or a duty member of staff must ensure that contractors engaged to carry out any form of hot work with the potential to cause a fire, such as cutting, welding, or brazing, are fully conversant with suitable precautions to minimise the risks. This may require the provision of additional portable fire fighting equipment.

General Fire Precautions

- MEANS OF RAISING THE ALARM – The responsible person(s) for this building is responsible for ensuring the fire detection system provided within this property and fire alarm sounders are tested. A competent contract company is to be engaged who would inspect and maintain the equipment at regular periods. All tests on the fire alarm system are to be recorded within the log book or folders provided in order to display proof of testing to the enforcing authority should it be required.
- EMERGENCY POWER AND LIGHTING – The responsible person(s) for this building is responsible for ensuring the emergency lighting system provided within this property is routinely tested on a monthly basis in accordance with the relevant current British Standard 5266: Part1. A competent contract company is to be engaged who would inspect and maintain the equipment at regular periods. All tests on this system are to be recorded within the log book or folders provided in order to display proof of testing to the enforcing authority should it be required.
- ESCAPE ROUTES – The responsible person(s) for this building is to carry out routine checks to ensure the internal/external escape routes are available for use at all times and are not obstructed. It is advisable that the responsible person(s) or his/her representative checks all final fire exit doors from this building to ensure that they can be easily openable from the inside without the use of a key.
- PORTABLE FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT – The responsible person(s) for this building is to carry out routine checks to ensure that the portable firefighting equipment which includes fire extinguishers are routinely serviced on an annual basis in accordance with the relevant British Standard. In addition, regular checks are to be undertaken to ensure that this equipment is not obstructed with the fire extinguishers correctly sited. The annual risk assessment would highlight issues of positioning and age of extinguishers. The servicing of the above equipment is to be recorded within the log book or folders provided in order to display proof of testing to the enforcing authority should it be required.
- FLAMMABLE MATERIALS – At the time of the fire risk assessment, only small amounts of flammable aerosol canisters were being used for cleaning purposes. However, should flammable liquids or flammable aerosol canisters be used, they are to be locked away in an appropriate flammable storage facility and locked in a fire resisting store cupboard.
- COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS – The policy for this building will be to bring in the minimum amount of combustible materials on a day to day basis. Any combustible storage will be kept within a room which has a minimum 30 minutes fire resistance (and has a similar rated door provided). Where possible, combustible packaging will be

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removed following delivery into the building. Regular housekeeping issues are to be addressed and access to storage areas will be restricted

Means of Fighting Fires

All students and volunteers are advised never to fight fire and simply sound the alarm and exit the nearest route out to a safe area.

There are six recognised classes of fire as follows:

- Class A -Fires involving solid materials e.g. wood, paper or textiles.
- Class B -Fires involving flammable liquids e.g. petrol, diesel or oil.
- Class C - Fires involving gases.
- Class D - Fires involving metals.
- Class E- Fires involving electricity
- Class F - Fires involving cooking oils e.g. deep fat fryers.

The type of fire extinguisher provided is suitable for the risks involved around the premises, they are adequately maintained and appropriate records kept of all inspections and tests.

Fire Extinguisher Information

Fire extinguishers are checked by the Maintenance team on an annual basis in compliance with current legislation and best practice.

Record Keeping

The existing fire log book or folders is to be maintained on a regular basis to enable it to be assessed and is to include the following records tests/drills: -

- A record of the fire alarm tests currently recorded as weekly tests:
- Firefighting equipment:
- Emergency lighting:
- Staff fire safety training;
- Servicing of the heating boilers:
- Electrical PAT testing:
- Any inspections of the electrical circuits and installations.
- Visits by the local fire authority

Fire Risk Assessment

All fire risk assessments follow a standard grid procedure for evaluating risk, and we are progressively updating them to follow the format of PAS 79: 2012.

A Fire risk assessment for this building has been undertaken as required by Article 9 of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. A single fire risk assessment has been undertaken and takes into account the means of escape, fire protection measures and other fire safety issues within the building.

The above fire risk assessment is to be constantly monitored to assess how effectively the fire risk within this building is being controlled. If there is any reason to suspect that the above fire risk assessment is no longer valid or there has been a significant change to the building then

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the fire risk assessment will need to be reviewed and if necessary revised. The reasons for review could include: -

- Alterations to the building, including the internal layout;
- Changes to work processes or the way that they are organised, including the introduction of new equipment;
- Substantial changes to the furniture and fixings;
- Introduction, change of use or increase in the storage of flammable or hazardous materials;
- The failure of fire precautions, e.g. fire – detection and fire alarm systems or ventilation systems;
- Significant changes to displays or quantities of stock;
- The presence of persons with some form of disability.

Any actions that are identified within any of the fire risk assessments should be dealt with within the timeframes as outlined by the assessor.