



## **Fire Safety Policy**

### **Walton Oak Primary School**

**Status: School Based**

**Date Approved: October 2025**

**To be reviewed: October 2026 (unless major changes to premises are made)**

## **Introduction**

The prevention of fire is of vital importance. Most fires are caused by carelessness and ignorance. It is the responsibility of all personnel to become conversant with these instructions.

Upon outbreak of a fire the saving and preservation of life takes precedence over the salvaging of property. A member of staff's first duty is to look after the children and this will mean the evacuation of the building. No attempt should be made to fight the fire until their safety is ensured, and then without exposing any person to risk.

## **Fire Risk Assessments**

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that Fire Risk Assessments are carried out regularly, at least every three years. The Risk Assessments can be carried out either by a Health and Safety sub-committee, likely to be made up of 1 governor, a designated fire warden, a member of Senior Leadership team and the Site Manager or this duty can be outsourced to an accredited Fire Risk Assessment company.

If any material changes are made to the structure or layout of the buildings a new Risk Assessment should be carried out immediately.

## **Staff Training**

All staff are given information and instruction, all staff are expected to complete the annual online fire safety training as well as familiarising themselves with the evacuation procedures for the area of the building they are in at the time.

All office staff, out of class SLT (Headteacher, Deputy Head Teacher, Inclusion Leader) and Caretaker are designated fire wardens and will receive appropriate training.

## **Visitors**

Visitors & contractors will be instructed as to the evacuation procedure as they sign in, details of evacuation procedures are also on the reverse of the visitor's badge.

## **Disabled Evacuation**

All fire exits are wide enough to enable wheelchair users to leave the building easily and safely. Risk assessments will be carried out on anyone with a disability to ensure safe evacuation and a Personal Evacuation Plan will be drawn up.

## **Fire Drills**

Fire drills will be carried out once a term at different times of the day. This will include a simulated evacuation drill. When a fire drill is held it will be recorded in the fire logbook. These will take place at different times of the day and also will include 'blocked routes' which will need staff to consider alternative routes.

### **Testing of Fire Alarm System**

The fire alarm system will be tested weekly by the Caretaker. Each alarm point will be numbered and at least one will be tested each week and recorded in the logbook.

The Fire Alarm system is inspected annually by an accredited external company and clear records kept. All Fire Extinguishers will also be inspected annually and details noted on the Fire Extinguishers.

Fire call points are located in all classrooms, corridors and shared areas in both buildings. These are checked as part of the Risk Assessment process detailed above.

### **Emergency Exits**

All emergency exits are to be kept clear and free from obstruction at all times.

### **Fire Evacuation assembly point**

The assembly point is located in KS1 playground. Should the playground become unsafe due to the location of any suspected fire, the assembly point will be moved up the field further away from the school buildings.

### **General Fire Safety**

All staff will make it their responsibility to ensure:

- Their exit doors are unlocked when the first person arrives. Generally, the Caretaker unlocks all doors before staff arrive. Fire doors will not be propped open
- Anything hanging over doors will not impede its closure in the case of fire and that there is nothing on the floor that will do so either
- There is 1 metre clearance to the routes of all exit doors
- Combustible materials (paper, card, fabrics etc) are not stored near to sockets or lights
- Unnecessary lights or electrical appliances (computers, printers, TVs, fans, laminators, toasters, etc) are to be switched off and if practical unplugged
- All electrical items, plugs and cables are checked each year in PAT testing
- Notify the Caretaker of any electrical items bought in from home e.g., mobile phone charger, to be PAT tested before using
- Fully aware of exit routes as this may differ from class to class
- Sign in or out whenever entering or leaving the building
- Displays, where possible will not be above heaters. If this is unavoidable they will be securely fixed.

### **Smoking**

Smoking and vaping is prohibited in or around the school.

## ADVICE ON THE PROCEDURE IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE

### Key Roles

The first priority of all staff is to ensure that all pupils and staff leave the building safely.

Action	Person Responsible	In case of absence
Evacuation of all staff, visitors and children	Headteacher (or designated lead in absence of Headteacher). To wear high visibility jacket	Deputy Headteacher or most senior member of SLT
Check class area is clear of children, staff and visitors	Class Teachers	TA/HLTA
Collection of registers and staff/visitor signing in sheets Collection of first aid and grab bags	School Office staff	Nominated SLT Fire Warden
Checking the fire panel for location of activation  Call the Fire Service (999)  Open KS1/Nursery playground gate	Caretaker (Nominated Fire Warden)	Nominated SLT Fire Warden 1. LLT Facilities Manager 2. Deputy Headteacher 3. Inclusion Leader 4. Early Years Leader 5. KS2 Phase Leader 6. KS1 Phase Leader
Meeting the Fire Service Emergency plan made available to Fire Service	Designated Lead (Headteacher) – to wear high visibility jacket	In absence of Headteacher Deputy Headteacher or most senior member of SLT

A **nominated fire warden** will check the fire panel for location (as above) of activated call point/smoke head, call 999 to report the fire and open KS1/Nursery playground gate.

The **school office staff** are responsible for ensuring that all documentation is collected that identifies who is currently in the building at the time of the fire, essential medication, first aid bag and the Emergency Plan. Take staff/visitor register to ensure everyone has evacuated from the buildings. Alert staff who are due to return from trips/events not to enter the building.

**Class teachers** must check that their class area is clear (in the teacher's absence this duty will fall to the TA/HLTA) of children. They must ensure they retrieve all essential medication for children held in the classroom and take the register when lined up at assembly point.

**Teaching Assistants/Higher Level Teaching Assistants** will check the nearest toilets, vacated classrooms, PPA rooms, offices and communal areas for any children.

**Kitchen staff** – turn off cooking appliances before leaving the kitchen.

**SLT (out of class)/ HSLW/or other out of class staff** will check the areas they are in to ensure that all spaces are vacated.

### Discovering a fire

In the event of discovering a fire, smoke or hearing reports of a fire from a third party e.g. children operate the nearest fire alarm call point by pushing the glass firmly.

### **On hearing fire alarm**

1. The nominated Fire Warden will check the fire panel and if possible, establish how and why the fire alarm has been raised e.g., activated call point or heat/smoke detector. They will contact the Fire Service (999) if they discover a fire and evacuate the building.
2. Irrespective of which call point/smoke head has been activated, the alarm will sound in all school buildings. On hearing the alarm all staff, children and visitors should evacuate their respective building using the nearest available fire exit and proceed to the assembly point. Refer to the diagrams at the end of this policy. Evacuation instructions are displayed at the entrances to rooms and at fire exits.

**Classrooms / library/ dining hall / offices** - All classrooms and wings have final exit doors. All children and visitors will be escorted via the closest fire exit to the Assembly Point in the KS1 playground.

**Little Oaks building** – All children and visitors will be escorted via the closest fire exit to the Assembly Point in the KS1 playground.

**Dining Hall** – All children and visitors will be escorted to exit via the external fire exit door. Turn right and follow the path around the front of the building. Turn right to access the Nursery/KS1 playground gate and proceed to the Assembly Point in the KS1 playground.

**KS1 Learning Support room** – Staff will take responsibility for any children or visitors present. Turn left out of room door, turn left at double doors, leaving the building via external door. Go around outside of the building to the Assembly Point in KS1 playground.

**KS2 Learning Support room** – Staff will take responsibility for any children or visitors present. Turn right out of room door, turn right at double doors, leaving the building via external door. Go around outside of the building to the Assembly Point in KS1 playground.

**Kitchen** - Staff will turn right out of the external fire exit door and follow the path around the front of the building. Turn right to access the Nursery/KS1 playground gate and proceed to the Assembly point in the KS1 playground. In the event the external fire exit door cannot safely be accessed turn out the kitchen into the hall and exit via the external fire door (see Dining hall procedure).

3. Fire doors on the corridors will automatically close (this is why it is vital that there is nothing to impede this). Close all other doors once the room has been checked (if possible)
4. Office staff will hand out class registers at assembly. Teachers to ask children to repeat their name back and ensure they have seen the child too. To verify all children are in attendance do a head count. No child to be marked present unless seen by that teacher. The office staff will also take the late book to account for any children that were late to school. Once agreed hold the Register in the air to signify all adults and children are accounted for.
5. A member of office staff will check the visitor book and ensure all visitors are accounted for.
6. A member of office staff will hand the floor plans of the school to emergency services. This includes emergency exits, location of fire hydrants, fire extinguishers & blankets and evacuation routes.
7. Class Teachers to ensure any medication held in class e.g., inhalers, epi pens are taken. All urgent medication held in the office should also be taken by the office staff.

### **Lunchtime and Playtime Evacuation**

The children on the KS2 playground / field will be led by the staff on duty to the Assembly point in the KS1 playground.

Senior member/s of staff and office staff will ensure that all inside areas are evacuated before leaving the building. They will be met by the class teachers and TA/HLTAs and assembled in classes.

Procedures will then follow as above.

### **Breakfast Club and After School Club Evacuation**

Children will potentially be on the playground or in the ASC/BSC club. If the Fire alarm staff sounds staff to escort children via nearest fire exit point to assembly point in KS1 playground.

Senior member of staff and office staff will ensure that all inside areas are evacuated before leaving the building.

Wraparound Care staff will ensure paper register is taken to Assembly point.

Procedures will then follow as above.

### **Parents' Evening**

It will be responsibility of the class teacher to direct parents they may have in their classroom or school hall to the nearest fire exit and to the assembly point.

### **Performances / Special Events**

A fire risk assessment should be completed by the senior leadership team for any special event. The findings of the risk assessment will be discussed with all members of staff and if necessary, children prior to the event taking place. Ensure compliance with the limits of occupancy figures on the school main hall.

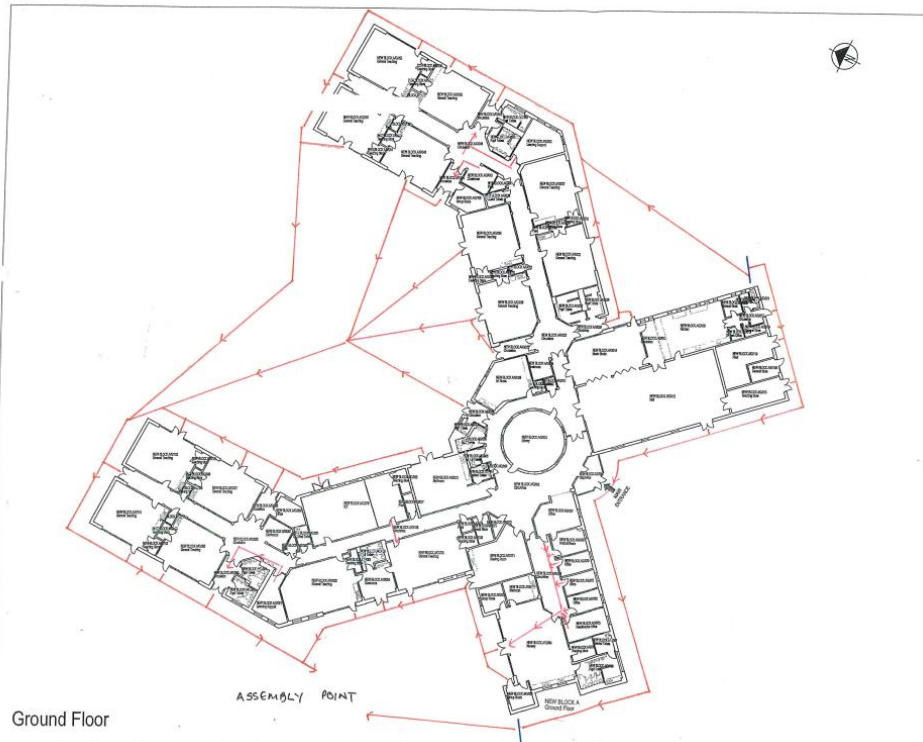
### **ADVICE ON EVACUATION PROCEDURE FOR OUT OF NORMAL HOURS**

On hearing the alarm all staff, children, and visitors should leave the premises without delay to the nearest fire exit and proceed to the normal assembly points.

If there are office staff on site, they should leave the building and take the staff & visitor signing in sheets and grab bag with them to assembly point. Once in the playground, the club organisers and teachers responsible for after school activities/clubs should check their groups against their registers and report to nominated Fire Warden. They should confirm whether the children they are responsible for are all present, if they are not, they should pass on the names of those missing and their last known location.

## **After the event**

- Do not re-enter the building until advised to do so by the senior fire service officer or by the senior member of staff on base. Once the nominated Fire Warden has confirmed that everyone has evacuated the building, it may be possible for some people to go back inside depending on what call point triggered the alarm. For instance, if the call point was in the Little Oaks building, the decision may be made to allow everyone back inside the main building. This decision will be made the Headteacher's (or nominated deputy in the Headteacher's absence) sole discretion.
- If the fire has been extinguished by staff, do not disturb any evidence, which could indicate the cause of the fire.
- Ensure that the premises are in safe working order before reoccupying.
- Take all class children back into their rooms for a final head count and explanation of what has happened before they return to normal activities.

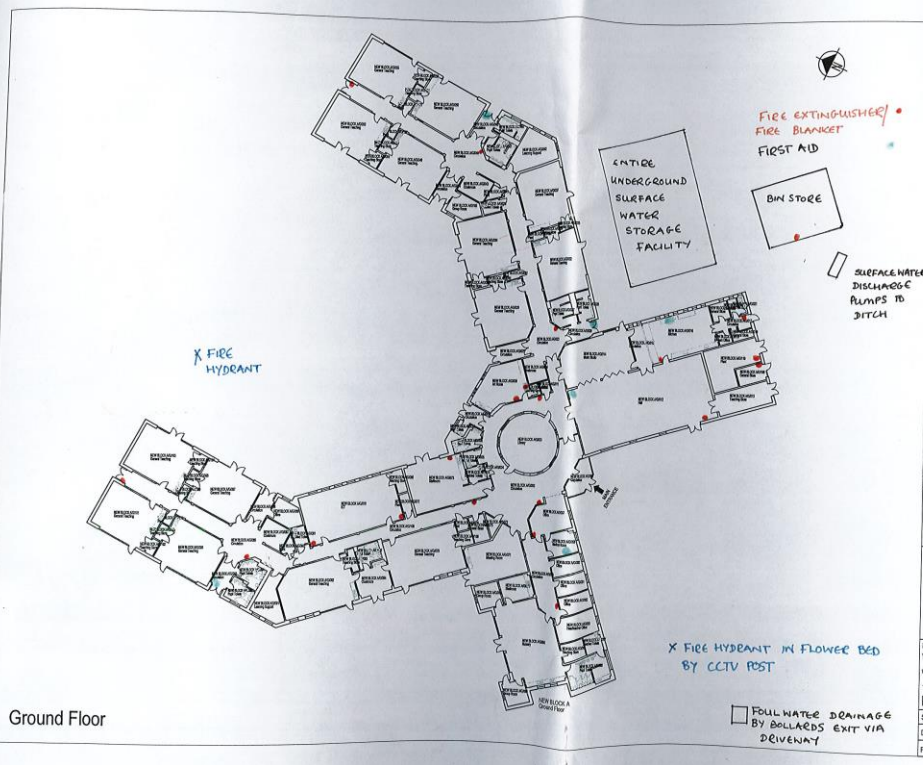


Ground Floor

ASSEMBLY POINT

Emergency Routes and Assembly Point

B	Updated	22/02/2008
REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE
XYZ LAND SURVEYS		
Customer		
Property: Walton Oak Primary		
Title: Property Plan		
Scale: NTS	Drawn: SF	DWG No: 99/2005
Date: 22/02/2008	Checked: CW	
Filename: 00107_01.dwg		



Ground Floor

Location of Fire Extinguishers/ Blankets; Fire Hydrants; First Aid boxes; Main Drains

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XYZ LAND SURVEYS		
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FIRE EXTINGUISHER / FIRE BLANKET FIRST AID

BIN STORE

SURFACE WATER DISCHARGE PUMPS TO DITCH

X FIRE HYDRANT

ENTIRE UNDERGROUND SURFACE WATER STORAGE FACILITY

X FIRE HYDRANT IN FLOWER BED BY CCTV POST

□ FULL WATER DRAINAGE BY BOLLARDS EXIT VIA DEVENANT

Appendix