

8.5 Fire safety and emergency evacuation

Policy statement

We ensure our premises present no risk of fire by ensuring the highest possible standard of fire precautions. 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.

*The Village Hall Committee have overall responsibility for the building including the Preschool room. They share copies of all documentation and these are held in the Preschool Health and Safety folder.

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 be written where there are more than five staff and 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.
- We rent premises from the Village Hall and we will ensure that we have a copy of the fire safety risk assessment that applies to the building and that we contribute to regular reviews.

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.

*Any items used by the Preschool are owned by the Village Hall and PAT testing responsibility is held by the Village Hall Committee.

- 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.
- Fire alarms are checked weekly by our Health and Safety Officer.

Emergency evacuation procedure

Every setting is different and the evacuation procedure will be suitable for each setting. It must cover procedures for practice drills including:

- How children are familiar with the sound of the fire alarm.
- How the children, staff and parents know where the fire exits are.
- How children are led from the building to the assembly point.
- How children will be accounted for and who by.
- How long it takes to get the children out safely.
- Who calls the emergency services, and when, in the event of a real fire.
- How parents are contacted.

Fire drills

We hold fire drills half 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)

Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications

- Fire Safety Record (2015)

This policy was adopted by	Ashton Keynes Pre School	(name of provider)
On	January 2025	(date)
Date to be reviewed	January 2026	(date)
Signed on behalf of the provider		
Name of signatory	Kate Gardiner	
Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)	Chair	