

FIRE SAFETY POLICY

AIMS

It is the overall aim of Tower Learning Centre Independent School to minimise the risks to staff, pupils, visitors and members of the public in the immediate vicinity of the school, which may arise from fire, and to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

This will be achieved by conducting, recording and acting upon regular fire risk assessments, ensuring suitable 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 in an emergency are in place.

OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIRE SAFETY MATTERS

A member of the office staff is appointed as the Business Manager for the school and has overall responsibility for fire safety matters. They shall coordinate the implementation of fire safety measures, ensure that staff and pupil training takes place and monitor the standard of fire precautions maintained.

The Business Manager shall also ensure that an emergency evacuation drill is undertaken early in each term, that fire action notices are kept up to date and that suitably qualified persons maintain fire safety equipment to the authorised schedule.

The named Business Manager at Tower Learning Centre Independent School is Mr David Ratcliff

RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL SCHOOL STAFF

All School staff are responsible for maintaining a high standard of fire precautions in areas under their control or influence. In particular, staff should ensure that they are fully aware of the emergency evacuation procedure (Appendix A). They shall ensure that fire windows and fire exits are kept clear and that fire doors are kept shut. They shall also ensure that pupils for whom they are responsible are informed of the school fire procedure.

APPOINTMENT & RESPONSIBILITIES OF FIRE WARDENS

The school shall appoint a number of employees as Fire Wardens, one of which will be appointed as Senior Fire Warden. In the event of an emergency evacuation, these employees have the responsibility for ensuring that all areas of the school have been evacuated and that this is reported to the Designated responsible person (or their deputy) (see Appendix B).

During an emergency evacuation, Fire Wardens shall wear hi-visibility tabards to enable them to be clearly identifiable.

FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

The Business Manager shall ensure that a fire risk assessment (Appendix F) is carried out every 12 months, or earlier if required (e.g. following significant changes to the premises, an incident or notification from an appropriate authority).

The fire risk assessment shall be conducted by a competent person, as detailed in the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, the findings acted upon by the Business Manager and a copy kept on file.

THE SCHOOL FIRE PROCEDURE

Notices displaying the School Fire Procedure (Appendix D) are displayed at each fire alarm call point and shall be of the approved format and the current issue.

FIRE TRAINING & EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILLS

Training will be provided at least every two years for all permanent School staff in fire safety and the school fire procedure, including training in the practical use of fire extinguishers.

All staff, whether temporary or permanent, will have the fire procedure explained to them, together with information on the location of fire alarm call points, the sound of the fire alarm and the location of the escape routes and alternatives, exits and assembly points.

It is the responsibility of the Business Manager is to ensure this instruction is given in accordance with the Checklist (Appendix C). The Business Manager shall also ensure that all fire safety and training records are maintained and are available for inspection by any enforcement authority or the Headteacher.

MAINTENANCE OF FIRE SAFETY EQUIPMENT & SYSTEMS

Fire extinguishers, fire alarm systems and emergency lighting are maintained under a central contract administered by professionally qualified consultants:

System	Frequency	Provider
Fire,Fighting Equipment	Annual	DJ Fire Safety Ltd (01254854455)
Fire Alarm System	6 Monthly	DJ Fire Safety Ltd (01254854455)

TESTING OF FIRE SAFETY EQUIPMENT & SYSTEMS

The School Business Manager shall carry out the following tests on the systems and precautions between maintenance visits, recording and acting upon the findings:

System	Frequency	Method of Test
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Corridors, Escape Routes and Fire Exit Doors	Daily	Check that fire exit doors are unlocked, escape routes are free of obstruction and that the padlock is removed from the double gates.
Fire Alarm	Daily	Visual check of panel for fault indications.
Fire Alarm Call Points	Weekly	Test key operation of different call point each week in rotation.
Fire Extinguishers, Hose Reels, Fire Blankets etc...	Weekly	Check that seals are intact, equipment has not been removed or tampered with and that the annual inspection and maintenance is in date.
Fire Doors	Weekly	Check that doors are closing fully and, where fitted, latches are operating.
Fire Exit Doors	Weekly	Check that the doors are opening freely and that emergency exit fittings are operating.
Emergency Lighting	Monthly	Operation of test switch or circuit breaker and check that lights illuminate.

RAISING THE ALARM

Upon discovering a fire, the alarm shall be raised by immediate activation of the closest fire alarm call point

CALLING THE FIRE BRIGADE

It is School policy that the fire brigade will be called upon any suspected outbreak of fire. The person discovering the fire is responsible for activating the nearest call point and calling the fire brigade. Where the alarm is raised by the School's automatic smoke detection system, the Business Manager (or their deputy) will call the fire brigade if a fire is suspected, or within 60 seconds of the alarm being raised if a false alarm is not confirmed.

MEETING THE FIRE BRIGADE

The office staff are responsible for meeting, or ensuring that a member of staff is available to meet, the fire brigade on arrival.

NOTICES

Clear signs, meeting relevant legislation, indicate all fire escape routes, fire exits, fire doors, fire fighting equipment and assembly points.

RECORDS

All service records to be stored safely online through the School's Office 365 secure portal. The Business Manager is responsible for maintaining the following records:

Record Type	Information to be Recorded
Fire Alarm Test	Date of test, number of call points tested and whether test was satisfactory, including whether automatic door releases operated.
Emergency Lights	Date of test, numbers or locations of lights tested and whether test was satisfactory.
Free operation of fire exit doors	Date of test, list of all fire exit doors checked and results of tests.
Emergency Evacuation Drill	Date of drill, time taken to evacuate and details of any lessons learnt / areas for improvement.
Fire Safety Training	Date of training, nature of training, duration of training, names of trainees and name of instructor.
Fire Risk Assessment	Date of assessment, name of assessor, reason for assessment, findings of assessment and details of any recommendations.

LAST UPDATED

July 2024

APPENDIX A –

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

Please Note:

- ALL EMERGENCY EVACUATIONS OF THE PREMISES MUST FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE (E.g., Fire, Gas Leak, Bomb Alert etc...)
- Up to date fire procedure notices are placed at every exit; designated exits are clearly marked.
- Only attempt to use fire extinguishers on small fires if you are trained / confident to do so.
- In the event of a missing person, report immediately to the Designated responsible person. DO NOT GO BACK INTO THE BUILDING until the Designated responsible person has given the all clear.

ACTION WHEN THE FIRE ALARM SOUNDS	
Role	Action / Responsibility
Class Teachers / Teaching Assistants	<p>Instruct pupils to remain calm, to leave all personal belongings and to line up at the nearest / most appropriate exit.</p> <p>Immediately evacuate the building taking all pupils in your charge through the nearest / most appropriate exit.</p> <p>Close the doors and windows on leaving.</p> <p>Lead all pupils to the designated assembly point via the quickest / safest route and line up.</p> <p>In the event of a Gas Leak or Bomb Alert the assembly point will be as discussed with the staff.</p> <p>Call the register, which the office staff will distribute. Conduct a headcount whilst registers are being distributed.</p> <p>Notify the Designated responsible person immediately of any missing pupils so a search can be initiated.</p> <p>Wait for further instruction.</p>
Office Staff	<p>Call the fire brigade (999) giving your name and the School's name and address: (Tower Learning Centre Independent School, 316 Church Street, Blackpool, FY13QE</p> <p>Pick up registers, visitors book, medical bag, mobile phone and address record cards.</p> <p>Leave the building through the nearest / most appropriate exit and go to the assembly point.</p> <p>Distribute registers to the lesson Teachers – ensure all classes are present.</p> <p>Check visitors present against visitors book.</p> <p>Notify the Designated responsible person immediately of any missing, pupils, staff or visitors so a search can be initiated.</p> <p>Wait for further instruction.</p>
Fire Wardens	<p>Whilst exiting the building, thoroughly check the areas you move through, ensuring all fire doors are closed.</p> <p>Checks on toilet areas should include a check on individual cubicles.</p>

	<p>If you encounter any persons present, they should be instructed to evacuate immediately. All persons should be ushered to an appropriate exit – not just pointed in the general direction of one.</p> <p>Never open a door if you suspect that there may be a fire beyond it.</p>
Evacuation/Business Manager	<p>Leave the building through the nearest / most appropriate exit and go to the assembly point.</p> <p>Check with Teachers for missing pupils.</p> <p>Check with Office Staff for missing visitors.</p> <p>If persons reported missing and fire brigade yet to arrive, conduct search for missing persons – if safe to do so.</p> <p>If persons reported missing and fire brigade have arrived, inform the fire brigade and follow their instructions.</p>
Visitors	<p>Leave the building through the nearest / most appropriate exit and go to the assembly point.</p>

DESIGNATED ASSEMBLY POINTS FOR ALL STAFF, PUPILS & VISITORS

1. Assembly Point – Main point of assembly for ALL – Outside Aspinals Electrical, Cambridge Road, Blackpool
2. In the event of a gas leak the evacuation point will be away from the school at Outside Aspinals Electrical, Cambridge Road, Blackpool

APPENDIX B –

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES IN AN EMERGENCY EVACUATION

Role / Responsibility	Person Responsible	In case of Absence	
<p>Designated responsible person</p> <p>Check with Teachers for missing pupils.</p> <p>Check with Office Staff for missing visitors.</p> <p>Conduct search for missing persons – if safe to do so and fire brigade yet to arrive.</p> <p>Inform fire brigade of any missing persons.</p>	<p>Kim McCormack (Head)</p>	<p>David Ratcliff (Business Manager)</p>	
<p>Fire Safety Warden</p>	<p>Jenna Bartley</p>	<p>Claire Haywood</p>	

Zone 1 – Ground Floor 316. Office, reception, lesson room 1 staff & pupil's toilets, Report to Designated responsible person.	(BSLA)	(Teacher)	
Fire Warden 2 Zone 2 – First Floor 316 lesson rooms 2 and 3 staff & pupil's toilets, Report to Designated responsible person.	Kim McCormack (Head)	Emily Jane Goodinson (Teacher)	
Fire Warden 3 Zone 3 – 2 Cambridge Road (annex) Kitchen, Lesson Rooms 4, and 5 . Report to Designated responsible person.	Natalie Partington (Teacher)	Kim McCormack (Head)	
Calling the fire brigade: fire discovered by individual	Person discovering the fire, after pressing the nearest alarm call point.		
Calling the fire brigade: automated fire detection alarm	David Ratcliff (Business Development)	Kim McCormack (Head)	
Holding and checking visitors book	Receptionist (Office Staff)	Jenna Bartley (Support Staff)	
Meeting the fire brigade	David Ratcliff (Business Manager)	Kim McCormack (Head)	

APPENDIX C –

STAFF FIRST DAY INDUCTION FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

To be followed during the first day induction for all new staff members.

To also be followed for all existing staff members following significant changes to the fire safety arrangements or when recommended following a fire risk assessment.

Take the new staff member through the fire safety procedure as displayed at the fire alarm call points, in particular:

- Show them the location of the fire alarm call points and describe the way they operate. Emphasise that the first action upon discovering a fire is to raise the alarm, even if the fire is considered small.
- Describe to them the sound of the fire alarm and the action to be taken when it sounds, in particular leaving the building with any pupils for which they are responsible and going to the assembly point.
- Describe and walk the escape routes and alternative escape routes that they are likely to need to use, and show the operation of any push bars or exit fittings.
- Show them the location of the fire extinguishers, but emphasise that they should only be used if they have been previously trained in their use, if they consider it safe to do so and if the alarm has already been raised and an evacuation started.

APPENDIX D

SCHOOL FIRE PROCEDURE NOTICE

UPON DISCOVERING A FIRE

- Raise the alarm by activating the closest fire alarm call point.
- Phone 999 and request the Fire Brigade attend Tower Learning Centre Independent School, Blackpool, FY1 3QE. Ensure operator repeats address back to you.
- Only attempt to fight small fires if you are trained/confident/feel safe to do so.

IN THE EVENT OF FIRE

FOLLOW EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

(As practised during Fire Drills)

WHEN THE FIRE BELL RINGS

(ONLY IF IT IS SAFE TO DO SO)

- Keep a calm composure.
- Responsible staff member to direct all pupils to line up at the door.
- Responsible staff member to lead pupils to the nearest fire exit and out to the assemble point in the rear playground. All other persons to exit via nearest fire exit door. Do not collect personal belongings.

- If the exit route to the assembly point in the rear yard is blocked then use an alternative safe route to the assembly point.
- Once at the assembly point carry out a head count.
- If any pupil is unaccounted for read down the register and call out names.
- Stay at the assembly point until the Business Manager or Head gives the all clear.

In the event of a fire preventing persons from exiting the classroom, the responsible staff member must keep a calm composure, ensure the classroom fire door is closed and await further instructions from the emergency services or a Fire Warden.