



The Willows School

Anti-Arson Policy

Ratified Date: September 2022

Review Date: September 2024

Anti-Arson Policy Background:

No school is immune from the threat of arson.

Reducing the arson risk will also reduce the risk of other crimes such as burglary, theft and vandalism.

According to the Fire Protection Association, schools are top of the list of building types vulnerable to arson attacks for large fires, i.e. those over £250,000.

The majority of school fires are at night or when the school is closed during holiday periods and therefore casualties are rare. Sadly this cannot be taken for granted. In 1990 3 boys were killed in a school shed fire in Essex.

Fires in schools are most likely to be started by pupils, ex-pupils or their friends, or others with knowledge of the school.

Many fires are started outside school buildings often with materials found easy to hand (such as bins or skips).

Purpose of Policy:

To include an action plan to be used in conjunction with the Fire Risk Assessment to minimise the risk of arson by addressing any weaknesses identified in the 'significant findings' section and ensuring that all staff and governors support the policy.

Responsible Person(s):

The Head Teacher is the responsible person, supported by the Site Manager, Governing Body and School Personnel.

Advice and Support:

Advice and support has been provided and/or available from the following sources:

- Building Manager/Lynn Newby
- Children and Young People's Services Health and Safety Officer
- RMBC Insurance
- Crime Prevention Office

5 Point Action Plan:

To be prioritised within available budgets based on need through past incidents as programmed within the Fire Risk Assessment Significant Findings.

1. Deter unauthorised entry onto site (fencing; secure gates with key code access; lighting; CCTV; caretaker)
2. Prevent unauthorised entry into the building (lit well; keep a number of external doors to a minimum required, all key code activated; effective intruder alarms; good

relationships with neighbours; be part of a neighbourhood community scheme; check all doors and windows are locked at the end of the day)

3. Reduce the opportunity for the offender to start a fire (secured waste bins away from building; skirting under mobile units; waste bins not attached to buildings but secured in the grounds)
4. Reduce the scope for potential fire damage (consider adding additional fire breaks during alteration work; close all internal doors at the end of each day; protect high value equipment in an out-of-sight secure room; installing automatic fire detection systems; sprinkler systems).
5. Reduce subsequent losses and disruption resulting from a fire by preparing a disaster recovery plan (suitably located and appropriate fire extinguishers; adequately trained staff; salvage plan to recover high value equipment and school record which may be irreplaceable).

Site Recovery Plan:

- Details of people who can help in an emergency contained in Emergency Plan
- Information of suppliers to be provided as required by the Building Manager
- Inventory information to be completed by School with a copy kept offsite.

Site Inspections:

The 'Premises Health and Safety Checklist' is completed monthly by the Caretaker / Site Manager to be actioned by the Head Teacher.

Policy Review and Updates:

Fire and Security is to be included on agendas for Governing Body and Staff meetings to ensure regular updates and identify any training requirements.