



# KING WILLIAM'S COLLEGE

---

**King William's College, The Buchan School  
and The Buchan Nursery**

## **Fire Safety Policy**

Issue Date: 01/23

Review Date: 01/24

Chief Operating Officer Moira Mackie

**King William's College and The Buchan School**  
**("the School")**

**Fire Safety Policy**

**1 Scope**

This guidance is applicable to all premises under the control of the School and details the approach to the control of risk from fire. (This should be read in conjunction with the School's 'Fire Procedures' document).

**2 Objectives**

To ensure that risks from fire are identified and that arrangements are in place to control those risks. To enable the School to comply with its duties under the Fire Precautions Act 1975, the Fire Precautions (Amendment) Act 1992 and other education specific guidance.

**3 Guidance**

3.1 The School has in place procedures for:-

- carrying out fire risk assessments;
- preventing fires;
- evacuation in the event of a fire;
- maintaining and checking all fire detection, alarm and fighting systems.

3.2 The Chief Operating Officer has responsibility for maintaining and ensuring the local implementation of the School Fire Procedures; and this includes:

- posting a copy of the Fire Procedures on notice boards;
- bringing the Fire Procedures to the attention of all employees, pupils, contractors and visitors, specifically during all training and site induction sessions, and on 'signing in' for visitors;

- identifying specific staff as Fire Wardens in key areas of the school. All Fire Wardens are trained to provide "safety assistance" in the event of a fire. Fire Wardens receive regular refresher training.

#### **4 Fire Risk Assessment**

4.1 All of the School premises will be subject to a fire risk assessment. This may be conducted either by an external consultant or other competent person, such as a suitably trained member of the Chief Operating Officer Team. The person undertaking the assessment should liaise closely with Heads of Department.

4.2 The fire risk assessment will be reviewed and / or updated every year or in the event of significant changes to the buildings or their usage.

4.3 A copy of the fire risk assessment report will be available on site (from the Chief Operating Officer) and employees' attention brought to any hazards found in the assessment.

4.4 Fire hazards will be eliminated or the risk reduced to the minimum level practicable by implementing control measures and safe systems of work.

4.5 Regular assessments will be made by staff, including the Estates Manager, the Fire Wardens and the Porters to ensure that the walkways are kept clear of obstruction and tripping hazards.

#### **5 Fire Detection**

Each of the School premises must have adequate means of fire detection. The detection equipment will be maintained and regularly checked by competent persons.

#### **6 Fire Alarm**

6.1 Each of the School premises has an adequate means of raising the alarm in the event of fire.

6.2 The fire alarm system in each location is to be tested weekly with the date and time recorded. This will be managed by the Estates Manager. The alarm will be activated using a different activator point each week, where this is practicable.

6.3 The fire alarm system will be serviced regularly by a competent contractor. This will include weekly checks of each fire alarm panel and one detector or 'break glass' unit, quarterly checks of 25% of the system relating to each panel, and an annual check of the whole system for each panel.

6.4 Records of these tests and servicing are maintained in a fire log book held by the Estates Manager.

## 7 Fire Fighting Equipment

7.1 The fire risk assessment will determine the minimum level of fire fighting equipment which must be present in the School premises.

## 8 Emergency Lighting

8.1 Emergency lighting must be installed in the school where lighting would continue to be required in the event of a mains power failure, e.g. stairs, passageways and emergency exits.

8.2 Battery operated emergency lighting will be tested monthly (charge & illumination) and an annual full discharge test by a competent contractor

8.3 Records of testing and servicing of emergency lights will be maintained by the Estates Manager.

## 9 Emergency Fire Procedures

9.1 Written emergency procedures will be provided. These written instructions will include procedures in the event of a fire.

9.2 Notices will be displayed in each building of the School premises detailing the action to take in the event of a fire, and highlight the assembly point to evacuate to in an emergency. The Fire evacuation point may be different depending on location.

9.3 There must be adequate means of escape for all occupants of the school premises. These means of escape will be clearly signposted.

9.4 The means of escape will be regularly inspected by the Estates Manager to ensure they are kept clear of obstructions and tripping hazards.

9.5 Where disabled persons use the premises, specific arrangements will be made to ensure they can escape in an emergency. For staff and pupils there will be a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP) in place, taking account of any special measures required.

9.6 Teaching staff are responsible for escorting their pupils safely out of the building in silence and in an orderly fashion. They are responsible for conducting a head count on arrival at the assembly point, and for ensuring that the name of anyone who cannot be accounted for (and, if possible, their likely location) is passed immediately to the Senior Member of Staff taking the roll call. It is the responsibility of the Senior Member of Staff on duty [e.g. the Deputy Head - Pastoral/the Chief Operating Officer/Estates Manager] to ensure that this information is passed to the Fire and Emergency service as soon as they arrive.

9.7 SUMMONING THE FIRE BRIGADE: The School Fire Alarm system automatically alerts the Fire Brigade via a Call Centre from 5.30pm to 8.30am overnight, and 24/7 at weekends and during school holidays. However, with this system there may be a delay, and if a fire is suspected a back-up '999' call should always be made.

- On the recommendation of the Fire Service we are operating the following system during weekdays in term-time: from 8.30am to 5.30pm, while the Chief Operating Officer is manned, the automatic alert system will be off-line, and a '999' call will be made if a fire is suspected. This is in order to reduce day-time false alarms.
- All alarm activations are treated as a real fire situation for the purposes of evacuation.

9.8 Fire drills will be held every term at the School. Regular planned day-time fire drill evacuations are carried out each term, organised by the Estates Manager. Corresponding Boarding House drills are co-ordinated by the Head of Boarding.

9.9 Written records of fire activations and evacuation drills will be maintained in the fire log books which are kept by each fire panel.

## 10 Fire Training

10.1 Staff will be informed in relation to:-

- action to take if they discover a fire, including how to activate the fire alarm;
- action to take on hearing the alarm, including location and use of exits and escape routes;

10.2 Pupils will be informed of exits and escape routes.

10.3 Fire Wardens will be trained in:-

- emergency evacuation procedures;
- use of fire extinguishers; emergency procedures; and
- how to spot fire hazards.

10.4 Visitors and contractors:-

- on arrival at the School will receive details on fire procedures and assembly points in the event of an evacuation.
- For events with large numbers of attendees, such as open days and concerts an announcement will be made at the beginning of the event regarding evacuation arrangements.

## 11 Fire Prevention

The School takes all reasonable precautions to prevent a fire from breaking out and recognises that for a fire to take place oxygen, flammable materials and a source of ignition must all be present. The processes of prevention are aimed at preventing one or more of these elements being together. To ensure the processes are being implemented the Chief Operating Officer, Estates Manager and Heads of Department will:-

11.1 Comply at all times with relevant regulations on the storage, transportation, handling and disposal of flammable materials (including weapons and ammunition, hazardous substances etc);

11.2 Regularly inspect all the areas where there are potential sources of ignition and ensure that no flammable materials are stored close by;

11.3 Maintain awareness through training and refresher training of the preventative steps that need to be taken;

11.4 Consult regularly with the Fire Wardens;

11.5 Include fire prevention and evacuation procedures during the induction process with all new starters, in conjunction with the HR Manager; and

11.6 Pay close attention to the activities of contractors as appropriate.

## 12 Fire Records

Records are kept of training, inspections, evacuations and maintenance of systems and equipment.

### Legal Requirement & Education Standards References:

A: Handbook for the Inspection of Independent Schools: Part 3: The Regulatory Requirements of Independent Schools, March 2009 version. ([www.isi.net](http://www.isi.net)).

B: Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014.

C. Fire Precautions Act 1975 and Fire Precautions (Amendment) Act 1992.

D. "Fire Risk Assessment," Ecclesiastical Risk Services Ltd guidance note ([www.ecclesiastical.com](http://www.ecclesiastical.com))

E. "[Fire Safety" Chapter O of the Chief Operating Officers' Guide](#) by Owen David Risk Management Ltd

F. "Fire Safety: Managing School Facilities" DCSF Guidance, ([www.gov.uk/dfe](http://www.gov.uk/dfe))

G. "Fire Safety Risk Assessment for Educational Premises" and "Fire Safety Risk Assessment: Sleeping Accommodation," DCLG publications ([www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk))

Recommended review period: **Annual**

Review by: **Chief Operating Officer**

Date reviewed: **January 2023**