



# MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE

## **Fire Safety Policy**

---

**Summer Term 2024**



# MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE

## Fire Safety Policy

### Contents

1.	Policy Statement .....	3
2.	Introduction.....	3
3.	Roles and Responsibility .....	4
4.	Calling the Fire and Rescue Service .....	8
5.	Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEP).....	8
6.	Fire Safety Training.....	8
7.	Fire Safety Provision .....	9
8.	Fire Safety Management.....	12
9.	Version Control .....	15

## 1. Policy Statement

- 1.1 The College is committed to providing a safe environment for its staff, pupils and visitors. Part of this safety responsibility is in the provision and management of fire safety systems and procedures.
- 1.2 All members of the College, their visitors and contractors, have a statutory responsibility in ensuring compliance with the law and complying with the safety provisions defined within this policy.
- 1.3 Fire is recognised as a major threat to the activities of the College. An outbreak of even a small fire creates risk to both life and property, damage to the environment and may compromise our normal business activities.
- 1.4 The College will ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the risk associated with fire will be managed in compliance with the Fire Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, and any other relevant legislation that may impact upon it such as the recently implemented Fire Safety Act 2021 and The Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022.
- 1.5 The main requirements of the above legislation include:
  - 1.5.1 fire risk assessment and fire precautions to minimise the risk of fire
  - 1.5.2 design of buildings to prevent the spread of fire
  - 1.5.3 means of detection and giving warning in the event of fire
  - 1.5.4 the provision and maintenance of means of escape
  - 1.5.5 emergency evacuation procedures and means of fighting a fire.
  - 1.5.6 the training of staff in fire safety and the management of fire safety
- 1.6 The aim of this policy is, therefore, to provide a robust fire safety framework which will be implemented to secure the safety and wellbeing of everyone within the College community and to protect the College's assets.

## 2. Introduction

- 2.1 Marlborough College has established a Fire Safety Policy and procedures which are designed to protect pupils, staff and visitors and College assets. The effectiveness of this policy depends not only on physical precautions designed to prevent the occurrence and spread of fire, but also on the co-operation of every member of staff, pupil and visitor.
- 2.2 The main objectives of our College Fire Safety Policy are:
  - 2.2.1 to safeguard persons who may be affected by fire at any of the College premises
  - 2.2.2 to safeguard the physical assets of the College, its staff, pupils and visitors
  - 2.2.3 to reduce the incidence of fires
  - 2.2.4 to minimise the potential for fire to disrupt the work of the College
  - 2.2.5 to minimise the incidence of unwanted fire alarm signals and false alarms
  - 2.2.6 to protect the environment

### **3. Roles and Responsibility**

#### **3.1 Council**

3.1.1 The Council, as the employer is nominated as the 'Responsible Person' and has the ultimate responsibility for fire safety management in respect of the activities and premises under College control. It has delegated the day-to-day running of the College, which includes the management of fire safety, to the Master and the Bursar.

#### **3.2 Health & Safety Committee**

3.2.1 Day-to-day responsibility for fire safety precautions within the College rests with the Health & Safety Committee. It shall satisfy the Council that this policy has been adequately implemented.

#### **3.3 Fire Officer**

3.3.1 The Second Master is the College's nominated Fire Officer and is responsible for overseeing fire safety for each building, academic and non-academic, in conjunction with the Heads of Department (HoDs), Housemasters and Housemistresses (HMs) and Heads of Support Departments.

#### **3.4 Heads of Department and Housemasters and Housemistresses**

3.4.1 HoDs and HMs are responsible for the fire precautions and safe management of fire risks in areas occupied by their department/house and anyone else who may be affected by departmental/house activities at risk of injury from fire.

3.4.2 This will include the following:

3.4.2.1 undertake simple local fire safety reviews in respect of their areas of responsibility at least annually or more frequently if the risks require

3.4.2.2 review and implement actions identified by the fire risk assessment process within the recommended times

3.4.2.3 ensure areas under their control and responsibility meet statutory fire safety standards

3.4.2.4 the means of escape from their area of responsibility are maintained in a safe and unobstructed condition

3.4.2.5 that suitable and sufficient risk assessments dealing with hazardous materials and processes are provided and reviewed regularly

3.4.2.6 ensure appropriate training for staff is undertaken

3.4.2.7 there are suitable and sufficient Fire Marshals appointed in their area of responsibility

- 3.4.2.8 ensure that all pupils and visitors are adequately supervised by members of staff
- 3.4.2.9 ensure that arrangements are in place for those with restricted mobility, sensory disabilities or who are temporarily incapacitated to get to a place of safety
- 3.4.2.10 where the department/house shares premises with others, arrangements must be made to co-operate with other occupants

### **3.5 Estates Bursar**

- 3.5.1 The Estates Bursar is responsible for ensuring arrangements are made in respect of the maintenance and management of fire safety provision for all College premises. This will include:
  - 3.5.1.1 fire risk assessments and their recommendations
  - 3.5.1.2 fire warning and detection systems
  - 3.5.1.3 fire fighting equipment
  - 3.5.1.4 means of escape are maintained as required
  - 3.5.1.5 emergency lighting, escape lighting and signage
  - 3.5.1.6 electrical installation tests are undertaken as required
- 3.5.2 The Estates Bursar shall ensure that, during project works, contractors have adequate fire safety management plans and arrangements in place to demonstrate a clear fire strategy during the works.
- 3.5.3 This plan should include the protection of the means of escape, the maintenance of suitable fire compartmentation, storage, housekeeping and raising the alarm internally and externally to the site. Furthermore, as part of any project handover, that the fire alarm is tested to ensure that it works correctly on completion and a fire familiarisation briefing is arranged for the building occupiers.

### **3.6 Chief Fire Marshals**

- 3.6.1 The appointment of a Chief Fire Marshal (CFM) is required for each College building and department.
- 3.6.2 The CFM is the designated responsible person for each building. In carrying out the duties indicated, the CFM will act with the delegated authority and support of the Fire Officer.
- 3.6.3 This will include:
  - 3.6.3.1 liaise with the College's Fire Officer and other appropriate personnel regarding fire protection requirements

- 3.6.3.2 maintain the building Fire Log Book
- 3.6.3.3 ensure daily and weekly inspections in their area of responsibility regarding escape routes, fire alarm indicator panels and alarm tests are being completed
- 3.6.3.4 ensure that new members of staff and pupils are given instruction on Fire Emergency Procedures, that existing staff and pupils receive periodic refresher training and that each area for which they are responsible maintains a team of Fire Marshals, where appropriate
- 3.6.3.5 ensure appropriate fire drills are completed
- 3.6.3.6 In residential accommodation, there will be a minimum of at least one fire drill and evacuation each term and in 'boarding time'. HMs are required to undertake fire drills within the first two weeks of the term commencing. At least one drill per year should be carried out overnight.
- 3.6.3.7 HoDs and HMs will record their fire drill within the Fire Log Book and a copy will be sent to the Health & Safety Manager who will maintain a record of all drills completed and any lessons learnt will be acted upon.
- 3.6.3.8 ensure that all fire incidents and fire alarms are reported
- 3.6.3.9 In collaboration with other staff within the building, ensure that in a situation requiring the attendance of the emergency services, adequate information is available to prevent, so far as is reasonably practicable, their being exposed to risks to their health and safety.
- 3.6.3.10 assist in the development of appropriate arrangements for aiding the evacuation of sensory or mobility impaired occupants
- 3.6.3.11 ensure the posting of appropriate warning fire signs and notices and report deficiencies to the Estates Department

### 3.7 Fire Marshals

- 3.7.1 Fire evacuation can be achieved more easily with the support of staff who are routinely familiar with the building. Fire Marshals who occupy a building can be best utilised to support safe and efficient evacuation procedures. These individuals will provide assistance and support to the CFM, including delegated responsibilities from bullet points above, where appropriate.
- 3.7.2 Fire Marshal duties include:
  - 3.7.2.1 familiarisation with all exit routes from the building in which they normally work
  - 3.7.2.2 full understanding of the evacuation procedures and assembly points
  - 3.7.2.3 take appropriate and effective action if a fire occurs

- 3.7.2.4 carry out visual checks of fire fighting equipment, doors etc. (weekly)
  - 3.7.2.5 ensure escape routes are clear and clearly signed
  - 3.7.2.6 ensure fire doors are labelled
  - 3.7.2.7 ensure good housekeeping practices are carried out
  - 3.7.2.8 how to isolate power supplies to machinery (if applicable)
  - 3.7.2.9 how to report incidents/concerns
- 3.7.3 Chief Fire Marshals and Fire Marshals should undergo refresher training at intervals not to exceed three years.

### **3.8 Staff and Pupils**

- 3.8.1 Staff and pupils are required to comply with this Fire Safety Policy and all measures set in place by the College and its departments to secure their own and the safety of others with respect to fire.
- 3.8.2 They must:
- 3.8.2.1 not interfere with or misuse anything provided by the College in the interest of fire safety
  - 3.8.2.2 take reasonable care of themselves and all others who may be affected by their acts and omissions
  - 3.8.2.3 in the event of a fire alarm sounding, evacuate the building as quickly as possible and only re-enter upon the instructions of the College Fire Officer, Chief Fire Marshal, Security Manager or the Fire Service
  - 3.8.2.4 cooperate fully with local fire safety induction and familiarisation arrangements

### **3.9 Staff**

- 3.9.1 All staff have a 'duty of care' to pupils under their supervision whilst studying or carrying out associated activities, to ensure that they are safe from fire.
- 3.9.1.1 Teaching staff must ensure that:
- 3.9.1.1.1 Pupils' activities do not place others at risk who may be affected by their acts and omissions
  - 3.9.1.1.2 pupils are provided with clear information and instructions in the event of a fire situation, and take all reasonable steps to ensure safe egress of pupils in any teaching space used by them, regardless of the location

### **3.10 Contractors**

- 3.10.1 Where contractors are on site, it will be the duty of the relevant person with the responsibility for the works undertaken by them to ensure the appropriate level of fire safety provision is incorporated within any work schedule, contract agreement or risk assessment.
- 3.10.2 Where such works are likely to impact the existing fire safety provision, notification must be communicated to the Estates Bursar for their consideration.
- 3.10.3 Contractors must be made aware of the fire evacuation plans relevant to the area they are working in or are likely to attend.
- 3.10.4 Where any work required to be undertaken is likely to involve the application of a naked flame or mechanically-induced heat source, a 'Hot Work Permit' must be acquired and agreed prior to the commencement of work.

### **3.11 Visitors**

- 3.11.1 Members of the public or other visitors must be advised of the evacuation plans for any relevant premise they access. To ensure this is accomplished adequately, Fire Action Notices must be displayed at prominent locations.
- 3.11.2 Where possible, all buildings which the public have access to should be managed in such a way as to ensure that staff can account for all visitors within the premises at any given time to ensure safe evacuation.

## **4. Calling the Fire and Rescue Service**

- 4.1 In the event of a confirmed fire, the HoD, HMs, Resident House Tutor (RHT), Dame or Department Manager will call the Fire and Rescue Service and notify Security.
- 4.2 Buildings that have direct fire alarm systems to the Porters Lodge: on activation of the alarm, Security will either make contact with the house/department or attend to determine if there is an emergency situation.

## **5. Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEP)**

- 5.1 Where there is a requirement for assistance by any person to evacuate any relevant part of the premises during an emergency, a PEEP will be required.
- 5.2 Once persons with such needs have been identified by the HoD/HMs, a suitable person (such as the Line Manager) shall be nominated to conduct a PEEP so that any necessary individual arrangements can be put in place in advance.

## **6. Fire Safety Training**

- 6.1 HoDs/HMs shall ensure that all staff within their management control receive regular fire safety training and all new staff undertake fire safety training as soon as is practicable after commencement of employment.



- 6.2 Account must also be taken of circumstances that may impact on fire safety provision such as the introduction of new work equipment, new technology, new or changed risks etc.
- 6.3 Where young persons (under the age of 18) are employed, account must be taken of their lack of awareness, inexperience and immaturity when assessing work-based tasks and the impact this may have on fire safety arrangements.
- 6.4 All training records will be managed and maintained by the HR Department.

## 6.5 **New Staff**

- 6.5.1 All new members of staff must be informed of the fire safety provisions that are relevant to the workplace.
- 6.5.2 The Line Manager is responsible for ensuring that arrangements are made to ensure new staff are advised of the following:
  - 6.5.2.1 fire action arrangements, including the Fire Safety Policy
  - 6.5.2.2 means of escape within the premises
  - 6.5.2.3 location of fire exits
  - 6.5.2.4 location of firefighting equipment
  - 6.5.2.5 details in relation to relevant findings of the fire risk assessments and dangerous substances
  - 6.5.2.6 completion of the eLearning Fire Safety Training module
- 6.5.3 The College's eLearning Fire Safety Training module is to be completed biennially by all staff.

## 6.6 **Fire Marshals**

- 6.6.1 Fire Marshal training will be provided as and when deemed necessary. Notwithstanding the requirement as dictated by demand, the maximum period for refresher training should not exceed three years.
- 6.6.2 Fire Marshal training will include safe evacuation and zone clearance procedures, as well as detailed fire safety guidance.

# 7. **Fire Safety Provision**

## 7.1 **Fire Safety Risk Assessment**

- 7.1.1 The main purpose of the fire safety risk assessment process is to ensure that a methodical and structured approach is applied to assessing the suitability and effectiveness of the fire safety provisions applicable to a relevant premise and the fire hazards within.
- 7.1.2 The Fire Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 places a statutory duty on each employer to carry out an assessment of the workplace for the purpose of identifying any risks to the safety of the employees, pupils, visitors and others in respect of harm caused by fire.

- 7.1.3 To facilitate the risk assessment process, all relevant premises within the College will be categorised based on the risk posed to life and property.
- 7.1.4 The property will be assessed in accordance with the categorisation below. Additionally, risk assessments will be reviewed on a regular basis and whenever any material changes are likely to impact on the fire safety provision.

<b>Risk Category</b>	<b>Building Type</b>	<b>Target Review Frequency</b>
A	All Sleeping Risks Buildings with high usage of dangerous substances	2 Years
B	All other buildings not falling within Category A or C	3 Years
C	Storage Premises Unoccupied Buildings Buildings with fewer than 5 employees	4 Years

- 7.1.5 Fire risk assessments will be completed for all relevant premises and reviewed at appropriate intervals in accordance with their building type and risk.
- 7.1.6 A web-based Fire Management System has been implemented to assist the College in managing its fire risk. This provides appropriate software to capture relevant, accurate information and tools to progress corrective action.
- 7.1.7 Fire risk assessments and reviews will be the responsibility of the Estates Bursar. Where necessary, a report will be produced with specific recommendations for the improvement of fire safety provision within the relevant premises concerned.
- 7.1.8 These will include actions required to be taken by the HoDs/HMs for the building (e.g. improving housekeeping) as well as actions which will possibly require structural modifications to the building which will be the responsibility of the Estates Bursar.
- 7.1.9 These recommendations will be prioritised in terms of urgency of action.
- 7.1.10 Notification of the risk assessment findings will be forwarded to the Health & Safety Committee. All fire risk assessments will be accessible under the Fire Management section in the Health & Safety section of Firefly.

## 7.2 Dangerous Substances

- 7.2.1 The impact of dangerous substances when exposed to fire can create a hostile and unpredictable environment.
- 7.2.2 Where such substances are stored and used within the College, particular attention should be given to the safe use and storage guidance supplied with the substance's Manufacturer Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).

- 7.2.3 Pupils and staff should only be exposed to dangerous substances in an appropriately controlled and supervised environment.

### **7.3 Dangerous Conditions (Fire Safety)**

- 7.3.1 Where, in the opinion of any member of staff, a dangerous condition exists that is likely or has the potential to compromise the safety of any person in the event of fire, the condition should be brought to the attention of the relevant HoD/HMs.
- 7.3.2 In the first instance, the CFM should investigate the concerns and, where necessary, implement the appropriate means to negate the risk, or contact the Health & Safety Manager to seek assistance.
- 7.3.3 Where the CFM cannot resolve the concern, they must bring the matter to the attention of the Health & Safety Manager as soon as is reasonably practicable.

### **7.4 Alarm Activations and Incident Reports**

- 7.4.1 In the event of a fire or an alarm activation due to fire within a premise, the Accident Incident Investigation Report Form must be completed.
- 7.4.2 This process enables the Health & Safety Manager to be aware of all incidents where the local authority Fire and Rescue Service has been summoned to the College but, more importantly, allows for investigations to be carried out where necessary.
- 7.4.3 Where a small fire has occurred and was subsequently extinguished without activating the fire warning system, an incident report must still be completed and forwarded to the Health & Safety Manager.

### **7.5 False Alarms (Unwanted Fire Alarm Signal UFAS)**

- 7.5.1 Unwanted fire alarm signals are activations of the fire warning system that are activated by any effect other than fire.
- 7.5.2 These signals ultimately have a negative effect on the College's core business and also encourage complacency, as well as eroding user confidence.
- 7.5.3 It is the intent of the College to strive towards zero tolerance of UFAS, whilst recognising the importance of fire detection systems in protecting staff, pupils, visitors and the building environment from the effects of fire.

### **7.6 Fire Action Plans**

- 7.6.1 Fire Action Notices are located at various points within all relevant premises detailing the relevant information from the fire action plans.
- 7.6.2 All staff are required to be familiar with these notices as well as the detail within the fire action plans.
- 7.6.3 Each notice will clearly indicate the following:
  - 7.6.3.1 the type of audible sounder within the relevant premise
  - 7.6.3.2 the location of the assembly point

- 7.6.3.3 simple guidance on actions to be taken
- 7.6.4 Fire action plans are required to be adapted to accommodate all known hazards or risks that are likely to impact on evacuation. These will include details of isolation procedures for processes and equipment, as well as information sharing with the Fire and Rescue Service when in attendance.
- 7.6.5 The fire action plan will also detail the relevant evacuation procedures that are to be adopted for persons with impairments.

## **8. Fire Safety Management**

- 8.1 All of the College's premises have a number of fire safety provisions incorporated within them. These provisions are often referred to as either an active provision, examples of which can be fire safety systems and smoke extraction, or a passive provision, examples of which can be fire doors or intumescent treatments etc.
- 8.2 Irrespective of the provision, it is necessary to recognise the importance of such features and ensure that their function is not compromised, as to do so will ultimately have an impact on the operational capability of the provision and affect the safety of occupiers and the integrity of the building itself.

### **8.3 Fire Doors**

- 8.3.1 Fire doors are doors that are designed to restrict the spread of fire and the products of combustion within a predicted time period and will normally feature self-closing devices.
- 8.3.2 All fire doors are marked as a fire door and should be kept closed at all times. The use of wedges and other items as hold open devices is not permitted within any of the College's premises and must be positively discouraged.
- 8.3.3 The use of electromagnetic hold open devices on fire doors may be considered in some instances. Where such devices are to be considered, it may impact on the fire safety provision. Therefore, full consultation with the Estates Bursar will be required.

### **8.4 Emergency Procedures and Drills**

- 8.4.1 HoDs and HMs will ensure that fire evacuation drills are carried out according to the College Buildings Fire Drill Frequency schedule.
- 8.4.2 It is accepted that drills should be avoided during times such as exams and conferences; however, consideration should be given to ensuring advantage is taken of peak occupancy times and ensure that all fire exits are utilised.
- 8.4.3 In residential accommodation, there will be a minimum of at least one fire drill and evacuation each term and in 'boarding time'. HMs are required to undertake fire drills within the first two weeks of the term commencing. At least one drill per year should be carried out overnight.

- 8.4.4 HMs will record their fire drill within the Fire Log Book and a copy will be sent to the Health & Safety Manager who will maintain a record of all drills completed and any lessons learnt will be acted upon.

## **8.5 Exit Routes and Emergency Lighting**

- 8.5.1 All exit routes are indicated by signage. To ensure exit routes are not compromised, no equipment or materials may be accommodated or stored within any protected exit route or protected stair enclosure.
- 8.5.2 All exits must be maintained clear and free from any obstruction. All final exit doors are required to be easily and immediately openable from the direction of travel. Additionally, the surface finish to wall linings within stair enclosures and protected routes should be maintained free from any form of combustible wall decorations. Notice boards will be accepted in such areas as long as they are enclosed and/or effectively managed.
- 8.5.3 Corridors and stairways that form part of escape routes should be kept clear and hazard free at all times. Items that may be a source of fuel or ignition should not be located within escape routes.
- 8.5.4 The Estates Bursar will ensure that the routine testing and ongoing maintenance of the emergency lighting systems is carried out in all College premises.

## **8.6 Fire Warning Systems**

- 8.6.1 A fire warning system is a system designed to provide an audible alarm and may include activation by means of detecting the elements of combustion.
- 8.6.2 In all cases the alarm can be activated by means of a manual alarm call point. Manual alarm call points are normally situated in exit routes and at final exits.
- 8.6.3 Where fire is known or suspected, the alarm should be raised immediately utilising a manual alarm call point (break glass point).
- 8.6.4 On hearing an alarm, all occupants of the premises must evacuate the building by the nearest available exit and assemble at the prescribed assembly point, with the exception of authorised persons for specific tasks, such as alarm investigation or PEEPs implementation.

## **8.7 Fire Fighting Equipment**

- 8.7.1 Fire fighting equipment is provided within fire exit routes and may be placed adjacent to some specific risks, such as computer servers, electrical transformers etc.
- 8.7.2 The extinguishers are provided for use by trained, competent persons but should only be used when it is safe to do so and the escape route from the seat of fire is not compromised.
- 8.7.3 Under no circumstances should a fire be confronted without first raising the alarm. All staff are required to familiarise themselves with the extinguishers provided within the relevant premises and the fire classification that may influence their limitations of use.

- 8.7.4 Where any firefighting equipment has been used or is deemed unsatisfactory, the Estates Department should be advised to facilitate replacement or investigation as necessary.

## **8.8 Structural Alterations**

- 8.8.1 Where any structural or material alterations are carried out within premises that are likely to impact on the fire safety provision, it will be the duty of the HoD/HMs to ensure that a copy of the proposal is made available to the Estates Bursar for their attention.
- 8.8.2 Thereafter, it will be incumbent on the Estates Bursar to ensure that a review, if deemed necessary, of the Fire Safety Risk Assessment is carried out.
- 8.8.3 It is also prudent to ensure the Estates Bursar is included at an early stage of correspondence in regard to any proposed material changes/alterations to any of the College's relevant premises.
- 8.8.4 HoDs/HMs should note that no work may be carried out on the relevant premises fabric or structure without authorisation from the Estates Bursar.

## **8.9 External Waste Containers, Refuse Bins and Arson**

- 8.9.1 External waste containers, refuse bins and industrial skips are a potential fire hazard to all buildings.
- 8.9.2 Fires often occur in such receptacles and where they are placed in close proximity to a building, the potential for firespread through radiated and convected heat currents is a realistic possibility.
- 8.9.3 To ensure this risk is eliminated, all such receptacles must be placed a minimum of six metres from any building.
- 8.9.4 In all cases, no receptacles should be placed directly adjacent to or below any window, door or other opening of a building.
- 8.9.5 Where, due to operational reasons, a waste skip has to be placed within six metres of a building, it must be of the enclosed type and sited with the access doors facing away from the building.
- 8.9.6 An arson attack, although rare, may be attempted on the College premises and can occur as an attempt at hiding the details of another crime, such as a break in.
- 8.9.7 It is accepted that arsonists are generally reliant on finding and utilising flammable materials including scrap paper, etc. in the College to start the fire.
- 8.9.7.1 The College procedure on arson prevention is therefore:
- 8.9.7.1.1 as far as is practicable inflammable materials are locked away
  - 8.9.7.1.2 all waste bins are emptied daily
  - 8.9.7.1.3 regular housekeeping inspections are undertaken by HoDs/HMs of departments/houses to ensure that this policy is being adhered to

## 9. Version Control

Author:	Health & Safety Manager
Approved by:	The Master
Date:	Summer 2024
Review Date:	Summer 2025
Circulation:	College Website, A-Z Policies, Firefly