

NORTH NEWTON COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

PREVENTION OF ARSON ON SCHOOL PREMISES POLICY

We are committed to safeguarding and ensuring the health, safety and well-being of all pupils in accordance with safeguarding procedures and guidance for staff outlined in the school's Health and Safety, Child Protection, Security and Safeguarding policies.

Arson is the leading cause of damaging fire in England and is a threat to buildings with such public visibility as a school. In the interest of safeguarding pupils and staff from the dangers of arson, this policy will give clear instruction for procedures designed to minimise the threat of arson on the school site.

Premises Vulnerability

The school's vulnerability to arson will likely come as a result of poor housekeeping and the ease of public access to the site. Therefore, it is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that these vulnerabilities are kept to a minimum through vigilant execution of procedures. The school site should be regularly assessed, for possible weaknesses and incidents of poor arson prevention, by the Caretaker and / or Head teacher.

Staff Responsibilities

All staff are required to adhere to this policy, the Headteacher is required to ensure all staff are aware of and follow procedures related to arson prevention. The Premises Manager and Headteacher should also ensure staff understand the cause and effect of arson, encouraging good practices to combat the threat.

Direct procedure for staff is in four key areas:

- Reduction of opportunity for an offender to start fires.
- Reduction of scope for possible fire damage
- Determent of unauthorised access to school site.
- Prevention of unauthorised entry to the school buildings (when occupied and unoccupied).

Staff should be trained in the removal and storage of potentially combustible materials and in challenging suspicious intruders on the site. The site should also be secured at the end of each school day and appropriate fire warning systems regularly assessed for effectiveness.

Fire Risk Assessments will include areas at risk of possible arson, and actions to be taken in order to eliminate the risk. Fire Safety Training will include arson awareness and prevention training.

Any incidents of attempted arson or any such behaviour will be recorded internally and reported to the appropriate authorities. Should arson result in the outbreak of fire, staff will investigate the incident and, if necessary, contact the Police or Fire services. All related evidence of the incident must be preserved as best as possible, for investigation from the appropriate service.

Review

The Arson Prevention Policy should be reviewed biannually to ensure practises and procedures stated are being carried out and are an effective form of arson prevention.

Signed (Chair of Governors)

Date