



**Oxford Sixth Form College**

A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

# **FIRE RISK PREVENTION POLICY**

**Revised: June 2024**

**Review: July 2025**

## **1. Introduction**

The guiding principle will always be to maintain the health and safety of all stakeholders. This policy sets out the approach Oxford Sixth Form College adopts in securing fire safety and is based on the following legislation and guidance:

- The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (as amended by Fire Safety Bill 2021)
- The additional duties for Responsible Persons under the Fire Safety Order brought in by The Fire Safety (England) Regulations Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022 and section 156 of the Building Safety Act
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (as amended)
- Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1999 (as amended)
- Department for Communities and Local Government “Fire Safety Risk Assessment-Educational Premises.”

Oxford Sixth Form College’s priority is to minimise risk to life and to ensure that there are adequate fire prevention methods in place and clear organisational arrangements in case of fire.

Oxford Sixth Form College produces Fire Risk Assessments for each building, which are formally recorded using Sphera software and regularly reviewed to keep them up to date.

Independent Schools Standards Regulations, and the above legislation and guidance, place on the Governing body additional duties to:

- Develop a fire risk (prevention) policy which includes the elimination, substitution or reduction of risks from dangerous substances
- Ensure the safety of staff, pupils and visitors
- Develop fire procedures and provide staff with training
- Carry out fire drills and contact emergency services when necessary
- Appoint competent persons (with sufficient training, experience and knowledge) to assist in taking preventive and protective measures (including firefighting and evacuation)
- Have a suitable system for the maintenance of clear emergency routes and exits (with doors opening in the direction of escape), signs, notices, emergency lighting where required, fire detectors, alarms and extinguishers
- Provide staff and any others working on the school site with fire safety information

## **2. Responsibilities**

The College’s Director of Estates & Facilities is the College’s Health and Safety Officer (HSO) and is the designated “responsible person” for fire safety as outlined in legislation i.e. is the College’s Fire Officer (FO). Responsibilities throughout the school for fire safety are outlined below. The overall management falls to the Board of Governors, who:

- Consider and agree financial resources for any fire precautionary measures outlined in legislation and British Standards
- Approve the fire risk prevention policy and any reviews
- Ensure Fire Risk Assessments are undertaken and are regularly reviewed

- Provide an update to the principal on a regular basis regarding the fire risk assessment of the school and annually review the fire risk (prevention) policy
- Ensure that fire prevention and fire precautions are implemented
- Ensure that all staff receive adequate training and instruction in fire safety and retain training records
- Ensure that fire risk assessments are reviewed when there are any material changes to the school
- Arrange for regular fire practice drills to be undertaken and document the findings of the drills

### **Houseparents**

- Induct new boarding staff and pupils in the fire procedures
- Arrange for a termly fire drill to be undertaken during boarding time and document and action any findings of the drill. These include occasional drills during the time when (most) boarders are asleep
- Inspect fire appliances, fire doors and fire call point system

### **All Staff**

- Attend fire training sessions as required by the school
- Ensure that the means of escape within their classroom/office/workshops are kept clear of any obstructions
- Report any issue which may affect the fire safety of the building to the Maintenance department via [maintenance@oxfordsixthformcollege.com](mailto:maintenance@oxfordsixthformcollege.com) and inform the Fire Officer
- Ensure they have received a Fire Safety brief regarding their place of work

### **During an evacuation:**

A cascade system of building evacuation will be employed to facilitate orderly and swift evacuation. A decision will be made by the Fire Officer/Fire Warden as whether to evacuate any other buildings in close proximity. This process should take into account the use of the building, what is stored within the building and its location with regard to the fire.

### **Fire Officer**

- In liaison with relevant staff e.g. Fire Wardens, Teachers and Senior Tutors, accounts for the location of all students and staff who have evacuated a building(s)
- Takes overall control of an evacuation with support from Fire Wardens
- Liaises with the Fire Brigade with the support of the Fire Wardens in the event of an evacuation and arranges for all information regarding missing persons to be relayed to them
- Provides all clear to staff upon consultation with the Fire Brigade
- Controls the perimeter around the building with fire wardens
- Ensures that regular testing of the call points is undertaken and recorded
- Ensures that regular inspection of fire doors and fire appliances are undertaken and carried out

### **Directors of Studies, Senior Tutors, Heads of House**

- Co-operate with Fire Officer to assist in fire prevention

- Highlight any areas of concern to the Fire Officer

#### **Director of Estates & Facilities**

- Ensures that regular testing of the emergency lights is undertaken and recorded
- Ensures that all recommendations arising from fire risk assessments regarding the fabrication of the building are implemented
- Organises the maintenance and testing of the fire alarm system and emergency lights by a competent person and maintain the certificates for the installation and maintenance of fire-fighting systems and equipment

#### **Fire Wardens**

- Oxford Sixth Form College has appointed and trained several Fire Wardens. These competent persons assist in taking preventive and protective measures (including firefighting and evacuation)

Where feasible fire wardens will:

- Check their building/floor to ensure everyone has left and close doors where necessary
- Assist other staff in evacuating the premises by ensuring that they use the best available fire exit.
- Use fire-fighting equipment where it is safe to do so.

### **3. Management Arrangements for Fire Safety**

Fire Risk Assessment at Oxford Sixth Form College ensures that suitable and sufficient fire risk assessments are undertaken by an independent fire risk assessor on the college premises and that the findings of the assessments are implemented. The risk assessments are reviewed if there are any structural or process changes to the premises.

### **4. Fire Precautions**

#### **Prevention of Arson**

Oxford Sixth Form College takes all reasonable precautions to minimise the likelihood of arson.

This includes:

- Supervision of students
- Security lighting on all entrances; footpaths and building facades
- Close down procedures for the school site
- Ensuring that internal waste bins are emptied on a daily basis
- Maintaining the Security door

#### **Electrical Safety**

Oxford Sixth Form College utilises qualified electricians to maintain electrical services. Portable electrical equipment is subject to an annual portable appliance test. Visual inspection of portable electrical appliances is carried out annually in boarding house by the maintenance.

## **Gas Safety**

All gas equipment is subjected to an annual inspection by Gas Safe registered engineer. All boilers are inspected by external contractors.

## **Hazardous substances**

All flammable substances such as science chemicals, fuel and maintenance products are stored in 30-minute fire resistant cabinets or lockable cages.

All departments with hazardous substances must try to eliminate, substitute or reduce their chemicals that they hold within their areas, wherever possible.

## **5. Means of Escape**

All buildings are provided with a secondary means of escape.

Oxford Sixth Form College aims to ensure that all staircases and doors opening onto protected routes are designed so that they prevent the spread of fire for 30 minutes. This includes the provision of door closers, automatic door guards and intumescent seals where necessary.

Oxford Sixth Form College aims to ensure that all fire escape routes are provided with adequate emergency lighting as identified by the fire risk assessments.

## **6. Fire Fighting Equipment**

Oxford Sixth Form College provides a suitable number of fire extinguishers and fire blankets as determined by the fire risk assessments. All fire extinguishers are checked by a specialist contractor on an annual basis. Fire extinguishers are checked monthly by the building maintenance to ensure they are operational.

## **7. Fire Detection**

Oxford Sixth Form College recognises that early detection of fire enhances the time available for evacuation and reduces the damage caused to buildings. Oxford Sixth Form College is committed to continuing to review and upgrade its fire detection systems in relation to recognised standards. There is currently a programme in place to upgrade all current fire alarms to addressable systems.

There is at present a combination of addressable and zone systems within the boarding houses. Smoke detectors are linked to addressable fire panels, which are located in the front receptions and in main office where those systems are present. Call points, smoke detectors, combined heat detectors and sounders are located within the majority of buildings.

The category of college alarm systems is dependent on the type and function of the building, and this is assessed on a case-by-case basis.

## **8. Arrangements for action to be taken in the event of fire**

These fire procedures and action plans are tested regularly (typically termly) in the form of a fire drill. The drills are organised by the Fire Officer in liaison with relevant staff e.g. Fire Wardens.

The outcomes of all fire drills are logged by the Fire Officer who will also follow up any action as appropriate.

See Health & Safety policy for details of the evacuation procedure.

## **9. Maintenance and Testing**

Oxford Sixth Form College makes arrangements for the fire alarm systems to be maintained and tested every six months in line with the current British standard, by a specialist contractor. The service schedule includes the following:

- Service of fire alarm system
- Emergency lighting is inspected 4 x a year and comprises of the following: a. 2 x 1 hour discharge test b. 2 x functional test
- Records of maintenance and testing are retained by the Electrical Supervisor.
- In addition, Oxford Sixth Form College undertakes regular weekly testing of call points, and sounders as per the fire policy.

## **10. Training**

Information on fire procedures is provided to all staff. Information is reviewed to ensure that it is suitable and sufficient by means of feedback from fire drills and via the relevant line manager.

All staff are provided with fire awareness training at induction and during employment.

At the start of the academic year all boarders are shown the fire routes from their rooms, the importance of ensuring their route is kept clear, how to activate a call point and how to operate the fire exit doors.

All Fire Wardens are trained in the operation of fire panels and the use of fire extinguishers.

## **11. Safety of staff/anyone else on the school premises, including others working on the school site**

All visitors or contractors, other than parents/guardians collecting pupils, arriving at Oxford Sixth Form College in term time are requested to sign the visitor's e-book. They are given information outlining the procedures to follow in the event of the alarm being raised and the location of the relevant assembly points.

Anyone sub-letting the premises is given fire prevention training, advised of the emergency procedures that need to be followed and how and who to report an incident to.

## **12. Use of School Premises outside school hours/ letting of premises**

Oxford Sixth Form College lets facilities out to external organisations to run holiday courses for children, some of which are residential. Please refer to the Lettings Policy for further information.