



Derbyshire
Fire & Rescue Service
Making Derbyshire Safer

Fire Safety Information for Schools

As you start the phased reopening you should be aware that measures that you introduce to comply with Covid 19 procedures may have an impact on your Fire Safety provisions. At the very least you should review your Fire Safety Risk Assessment to ensure that it is current and reflects the way your school now operates. It is essential that assessments are undertaken and reviewed where there are significant changes in ways of working, processes or building layout. This may include the holding open of fire doors with unsuitable devices; this, ideally, should be with hold open devices linked to a fire alarm system or properly managed and reflected in your Fire Risk Assessment and staff training. Where staff and pupil numbers have changed you should give appropriate training to staff and conduct a fire drill to test your emergency measures.

We have produced an aide memoire to help

- R** – Review your Fire Risk Assessment
- E** – Exit Routes. Make sure all exit routes are clear
- D** – Drills. It may be necessary to carry out more regular Fire Drills
- U** – Understand the fire safety needs of staff, especially if some are lone working at this time
- C** – Checks. Daily, weekly and monthly checks - Emergency Exit doors, Fire Alarm, Emergency Lighting
- E** – Ensure fire doors are not held open with unsuitable devices

- T** – Training. Review staff training on fire safety. Especially if some staff are yet to return (Fire wardens)
- H** – Have you reviewed your Emergency Evacuation Plan in light of any changes?
- E** – Ensure staff are aware of any changes to the escape routes and have received appropriate training

- R** – Repositioned desks. Are exit routes still usable? Are fire exits being blocked?
- I** – Installation of Hand Sanitiser. If alcohol gel dispensers are being used, keep away from ignition sources
- S** – Storage. Extra cleaning products being stored? Will items in the store room obstruct smoke detectors?
- K** – Keep smiling! We'll get through this!

Further information to assist with reviewing your risk assessment is available in the attached document and detailed guidance can be found in the Fire Safety Risk Assessment Guide for Educational Establishments which can be downloaded for free <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-safety-risk-assessment-educational-premises> or feel free to contact the Protection Department at Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service where we will be happy to assist with any queries.

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