

Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment

Providers must take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children, staff and others on the premises in the case of fire or any other emergency, and must have an emergency evacuation procedure.



8.5 Fire safety and emergency evacuation

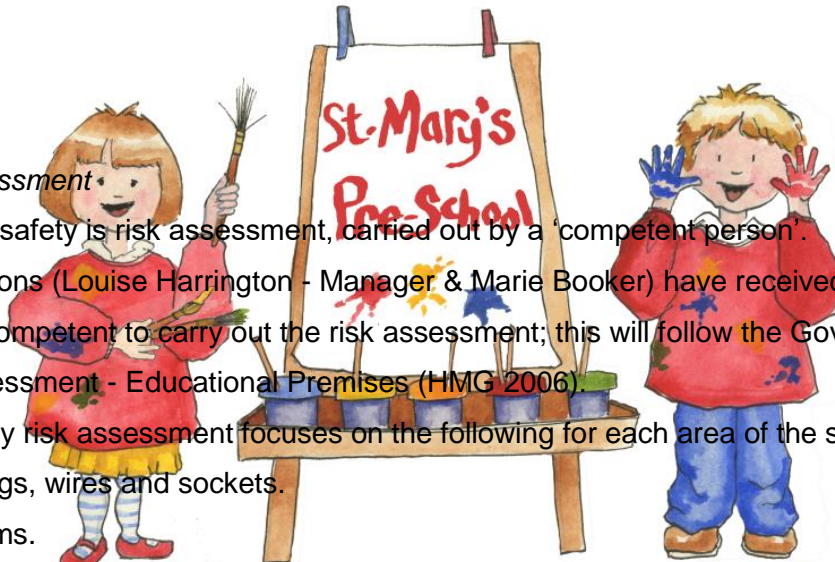
Policy statement

We ensure the highest possible standard of fire precautions are in place. Managers and our staff are familiar with the current legal requirements. Where necessary we seek the advice of a competent person, such as our locally based Fire Officer. A Fire Safety Log is used to record the findings of risk assessment, any actions taken or incidents that have occurred and our fire drills. We ensure our policy is in line with the procedures specific to our building, making reasonable adjustments as required.

Procedures

Fire safety risk assessment

- The basis of fire safety is risk assessment, carried out by a 'competent person'.
- Designated persons (Louise Harrington - Manager & Marie Booker) have received training in fire safety sufficient to be competent to carry out the risk assessment; this will follow the Government guidance Fire Safety Risk Assessment - Educational Premises (HMG 2006).
 - Our fire safety risk assessment focuses on the following for each area of the setting:
 - Electrical plugs, wires and sockets.
 - Electrical items.
 - Oil fuelled boiler.
 - Cookers.
 - Matches.
 - Flammable materials – including furniture, furnishings, paper etc.
 - Flammable chemicals.
 - Means of escape.
 - Anything else identified.
- Where we rent premises, we will ensure that we have a copy of the fire safety risk assessment that applies to the building.



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Fire safety precautions taken

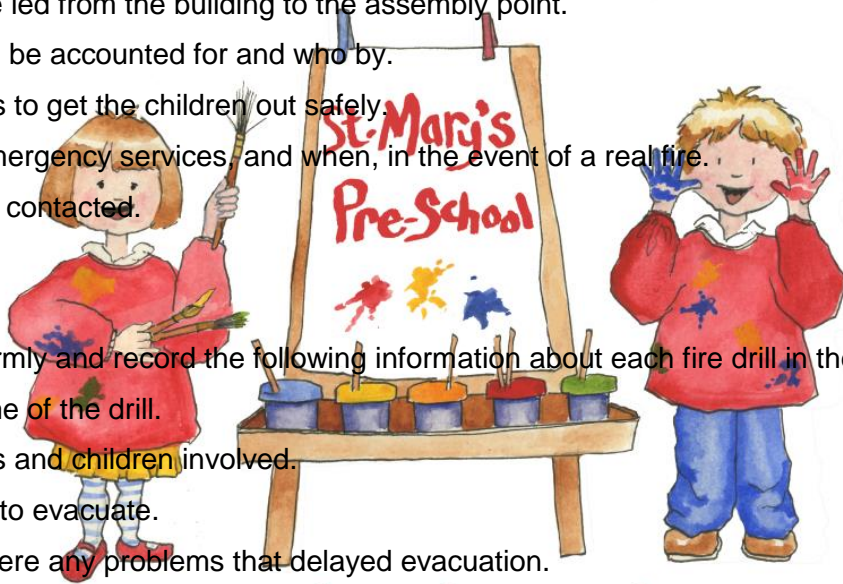
- We ensure that fire doors are clearly marked, never obstructed and easily opened from the inside.
- We ensure that smoke detectors/alarms and fire fighting appliances conform to BS EN standards, are fitted in appropriate high risk areas of the building and are checked as specified by the manufacturer.

- We have all electrical equipment checked annually by a qualified electrician. Any faulty electrical equipment is taken out of use and either repaired or replaced.
- Our emergency evacuation procedures are approved by Designated Persons and are:
 - clearly displayed in the premises;
 - explained to new members of staff, volunteers and parents; and
 - practised regularly, at least once every term.
- Records are kept of fire drills and of the servicing of fire safety equipment.

Emergency evacuation procedure

Our procedure for practice drills include:

- How children are familiar with the sound of the fire whistle.
- How the children, staff and parents know where the fire exits are.
- How children are led from the building to the assembly point.
- How children will be accounted for and who by.
- How long it takes to get the children out safely.
- Who calls the emergency services, and when, in the event of a real fire.
- How parents are contacted.



Fire drills

We hold fire drills termly and record the following information about each fire drill in the Fire Safety Log:

- The date and time of the drill.
- Number of adults and children involved.
- How long it took to evacuate.
- Whether there were any problems that delayed evacuation.
- Any further action taken to improve the drill procedure.

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Legal framework

- Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

Further guidance

- Fire Safety Risk Assessment - Educational Premises (HMG 2006)

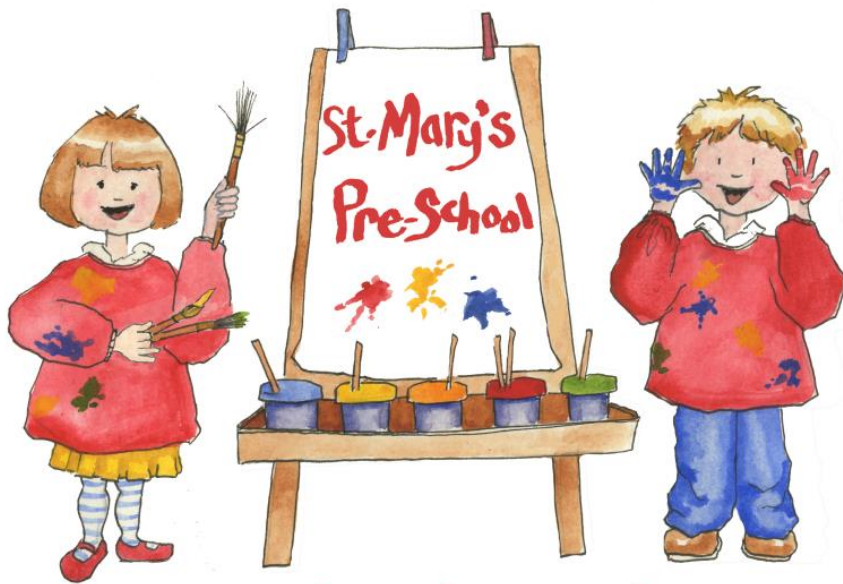
This policy was adopted by	The St Mary's Pre-school	<i>(name of provider)</i>
On	_____	<i>(date)</i>
Date to be reviewed	_____	<i>(date)</i>
Signed on behalf of the provider	_____	

Name of signatory

Role of signatory (e.g. chair, director or owner)

Other useful Pre-school Learning Alliance publications

- Fire Safety Record (2015)



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