

## **GDST Fire Safety/Fire Risk Management Policy**

**This policy applies to all GDST schools and all phases: senior, junior and EYFS.**

It is the policy of the GDST to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, the protection of people, GDST property and the environment from the effects of fire. The GDST is also committed to complying with the requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and the guidance contained within HM Government's series of Fire Risk Assessment Guides notably 'Educational Premises' and 'Sleeping Accommodation'.

The GDST recognises its duties to users of and visitors to its premises under the requirements of the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and will, in accordance with the Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations (amended) 1999, and the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, ensure suitable and sufficient fire risk assessments of all its premises are undertaken and reviewed regularly in the light of any changes, or fire related incidents, that occur in the school.

Through risk assessment and construction design, suitable fire precautions will be built-in to GDST premises following a fire engineering approach. In undertaking any new construction or significant alterations to premises the GDST will ensure that fire precautions and arrangements for fire service access are designed, constructed and installed in accordance with current Building Regulations.

In order to minimise the risk of fire starting, spreading and disrupting normal school activities, and to safeguard staff, pupils, visitors and contractors from injury or death in the event of fire, each school and Trust Office will maintain high standards of fire safety by:

- Regularly maintaining, inspecting, testing, checking all passive and active fire precautions, e.g. fire compartmentation, escape routes, alarm systems, emergency lighting, emergency fire-fighting equipment and where necessary, making repairs and replacements;
- Appointing Competent Persons and Key Duty Holders and providing staff, pupils, visitors and contractors with appropriate fire safety information, instruction, training and practice emergency evacuations;
- Acting promptly on any fire safety recommendations made by the Fire and Rescue Service, external Fire Risk Assessors or H&S Auditors and GDST Advisers and Surveyors.

Each school and Trust Office should document and implement its own 'Fire Safety/Fire Risk Management Policy and Procedures' which reflects the GDST policy and guidance, and their own local circumstances.