

Fire Safety Policy

At Acorn Day Nursery we take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children, staff and others on the nursery premises in the case of a fire or other emergency through our Fire safety policy and emergency evacuation procedures.

The designated fire marshal is Stephen Nicholls.

We ensure the nursery premises are compliant with fire safety regulations, including following any major changes or alterations to the premises. The designated fire marshal ensures all the appropriate fire detection and control equipment (e.g. fire alarms, smoke detectors, fire blankets and/or fire extinguishers) is in working order and seeks advice from the local fire safety officer as necessary.

They also have overall responsibility for the fire drill and emergency evacuation procedures. These are carried out and recorded for each group of children every three months or as and when a large change occurs, e.g. a large intake of children or a new member of staff joins the nursery. These drills are planned to occur at different times of the day and on different days **of the week** to ensure evacuations are possible under different circumstances and all children and staff participate in the rehearsals.

All staff receive fire safety and evacuation training (including as part of induction) to help them understand their roles and responsibilities. This includes the steps they must take to ensure the safety of children, for example keeping fire doors free from obstruction, how to safely evacuate the children and where the evacuation meeting point is situated. Each room has a specific evacuation plan, which includes information such as evacuating non-mobile babies and using alternative exits depending on where the fire may be situated.

The *deputy manager/*deputy fire marshal is appointed to oversee this role when the *manager/*designated fire marshal is absent.

Registration

An accurate record of all staff and children present in the building must be kept at all times with children and staff marked in and out on arrival and departure. An accurate record of visitors is kept in the visitor's book. These records are taken out along with the register and emergency contacts list in the event of a fire.

No smoking/vaping policy

The nursery operates a strict no smoking/vaping policy – please see this separate policy for details.

Fire drill procedure

On discovering a fire:

- Calmly raise the alarm by ***blowing the whistle/*ringing the bell/*breaking the alarm glass**

- Immediately evacuate the building under guidance from the fire marshal (collecting children’s room registers, where applicable)
- Using the nearest accessible exit lead the children out, assemble at either the back of the nursery outside of the gate or at the front across to the units to the right of the building
- Close all doors and windows behind you wherever possible
- The children upstairs will be escorted down the stairs safely outside
- The babies will be carried outside and those able to walk will hold hands with the practitioners
- The little acorns will be escorted outside by the practitioners
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings on evacuating the building
- Do not attempt to go back in and fight the fire
- Do not attempt to go back in if any children or adults are not accounted for
- Wait for emergency services and report any unaccounted persons to the fire service and/or police.

If you are unable to evacuate safely:

- Stay where you are safe
- Keep the children calm and together
- Wherever possible alert the manager of your location and the identity of the children and other adults with you.

The **designated** fire marshal is to:

- Collect the central children’s register, where applicable, staff register, nursery mobile/phone, keys, visitor book and fire bag and/or evacuation pack (containing emergency contacts list, nappies, wipes and blankets, etc.)
- Telephone emergency services: Dial 999 and ask for the fire service
- In the fire assembly point area – back lane or by the units to the right of nursery entrance- **account for all** children against the register
- Account for all adults - staff and visitors
- Advise the fire service of anyone missing and possible locations and respond to any other questions they may have.

Remember

- Do not stop to collect personal belongings on evacuating the building
- Do not attempt to go back in and fight the fire
- Do not attempt to go back in if any children or adults are not accounted for.

This policy is updated at least annually in consultation with staff and/or after a fire evacuation practice and/or fire.

| This policy was adopted on | Signed on behalf of the nursery | Date for review |
|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| <i>November 2024</i> | Katryn Bennett | <i>November 2025</i> |