

Brannoxtown CNS

Fire Safety Policy

Brannoxtown Community National School (CNS) is a primary school under the Patronage of the Kildare and Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB). Brannoxtown CNS opened in September 2018 with a new Principal, Dr. Sarah FitzPatrick. Brannoxtown CNS operates within the regulations laid down by the Department of Education and Skills (DES) and follows the Primary School Curriculum (DES, 1999) which may be amended from time to time, in accordance with Sections 9 and 30 of the Education Act (1998). The Principal and the Board of Management fully subscribe to the principles of partnership, accountability, inclusion, respect for diversity, parental choice and equality, in developing and implementing all school policies.

1. Introduction

Fire safety refers to the set of practices intended to reduce the destruction caused by fire. Fire safety measures include actions which are (i) intended to prevent ignition of an uncontrolled fire, and (ii) that are used to limit the development and effects of a fire after it starts. The Fire Safety Policy for Brannoxtown CNS was developed following a collaborative consultation process with staff, engagement with members of the school's Board of Management, and a thorough review of the national fire safety legislation, guidelines and protocols including:

- Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Acts (2005, 2010)
- Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations (2007)
- Guidelines on Managing Safety, Health and Welfare in Primary Schools (HSA and DES, 2013)

This policy was prepared in accordance with the school's key Child Protection Policies:

- Brannoxtown CNS Child Safeguarding Statement and
- Brannoxtown CNS Child Safeguarding Assessment of Risk of Harm to the Child.

2. Aims

This policy aims to

- Enable the school to provide for the immediate needs of students, staff and visitors in the event of a fire.
- Identify and implement appropriate safety procedures which comply with the Health, Safety and Welfare at Work Acts (2005, 2010)
- Ensure a safe school environment for all.

3. School Ethos

Brannoxtown CNS is committed to the care of the whole school community and the provision of a safe and secure environment for learning. This policy is in keeping with these ideals.

4. Objectives

The objectives of this Fire Safety Policy for Brannoxtown CNS are:

- To identify and utilise outside agencies (local fire station, fire officer) for training and staff development to enhance safety procedures at the school.
- To develop a tried and trusted Fire Safety Framework which will ensure the safety of all school personnel in the event of a fire.

5. Internal Procedures: Monitoring and Review

Fire Safety Monitoring

Fire safety measures and equipment at Brannoxtown CNS will be kept in effective working order. This includes all fixtures and fittings such as fire doors, staircases, corridors, fire detection and alarm systems, fire-fighting equipment, notices and emergency lighting. Regular checks, periodic servicing and maintenance will be carried out. Any defects will be put right as quickly as possible.

Brannoxtown CNS will ensure the reliability and safe operation of fire-fighting equipment and installed systems such as fire alarms and emergency lighting. A competent person will carry out periodic servicing and any necessary repairs. A record of the work carried out on such equipment and systems will help to demonstrate the school's compliance with the law. The following **Emergency Escape and Fire Fighting Checklist** will be used for routine checks and reporting on Fire Safety:

1. Are the extinguishers suitable for the purpose and of sufficient capacity?
2. Are there sufficient extinguishers sited throughout the workplace?
3. Are the right types of extinguishers located close to the fire hazards and can users gain access to them without exposing themselves to risk?
4. Are signboards or a safety colour (or both) used to mark permanently the location and identification of fire-fighting equipment?
5. Have the people likely to use the fire extinguishers been given adequate instruction and training?
6. Is the use of fire-fighting equipment included in the emergency plan?
7. Are all fire doors and escape routes and associated lighting and signs regularly checked?
8. Is all fire-fighting equipment regularly checked?
9. Is all other equipment provided to help means of escape arrangements in the building regularly checked?
10. Are there instructions for relevant employees about testing of equipment?
11. Are those who test and maintain the equipment properly trained to do so?

Fire Drill and Evacuation

In the event of a fire at Brannoxtown CNS, the following steps will be followed:

1. The fire alarm activates. The Principal calls the Fire Brigade using the school mobile.
2. In all (class)rooms, children, adults and any visitors to the school stand up, push their chairs back under their tables and calmly walk to the door in single file. Children and adults do not pause to take bags or books with them.
3. Each teacher takes their class list of his/her own individual class with them.
4. Each teacher closes the classroom door and windows when leaving the room.
5. All teachers check the class toilets before vacating the room.

6. The fire assembly point is located next to the school fence opposite the main school door. Each class has an allocated station denoted by their classroom number (1, 2, 3, and 4).
7. Each class lines up in an orderly manner. Children remain quiet.
8. Pupils who are attending the SET teacher at the time of a fire drill are accompanied by the SET teacher to the assembly area and join their class.
9. Each teacher calls the roll for his/her own class on reaching the fire assembly point.
10. The principal monitors the evacuation for (i) adherence to this set of procedures (ii) evidence of efficiency and safety for all actions outlined (iii) total time taken to evacuate the building.
11. Pupils return to the school premises when the all-clear has been given by the Principal.
12. The Fire Drill is carried out at least twice a year and ideally once a term.

Roles and Responsibilities

All teachers are responsible for the safety and well-being of the pupils in their care. The Principal, Dr. Sarah FitzPatrick and ***Health and Safety Officer***, Ms. Dawn Heffernan, APII, together have overall responsibility for ensuring proper Fire Safety procedures are in place, as part of the school's ***Safety Committee***.

The Health and Safety Officer at Brannoxtown CNS, Ms. Dawn Heffernan, APII, is responsible for ensuring fire safety checks and routine maintenance work are completed at Brannoxtown CNS. Fire drill schedules are also part of the post of responsibility of the Health and Safety Officer. Taken together, the duties of the Health and Safety Officer include termly review and report on fire safety checks including equipment as well as implementation of all Fire Safety procedures including protocols for Fire Drill and Evacuation.

The Board of Management will consult with staff to put in place and maintain measures to promote Fire Safety at the school and monitor the effectiveness of those measures. For example, any defects in the alarm system arising from a routine check will be prioritised by the Board of Management for repair or replacement in line with Guidelines on Managing Safety, Health and Welfare in Primary Schools (HSA and DES, 2013, p. 20 and p. 31).

6. BCNS Fire Safety Policy: Monitoring and Reviewing

a. Success Criteria

Practical indicators of the success of this policy will be evident in termly reports on Fire Safety at Brannoxtown CNS by the school's Health and Safety Officer which show full compliance with this Fire Safety Policy to ensure the safety of all adults and children at Brannoxtown CNS. For example, the termly reports will note that fire drill procedures achieved a coordinated and orderly evacuation in the shortest time possible.

b. Implementation and Timetable for Review

Following approval by the Board of Management, this policy will apply with immediate effect at Brannoxtown CNS. This policy and related policies will be reviewed annually (or in line with a change in Department legislation) and amended if/as necessary.



c. Ratification and Communication

Following feedback from members of the Brannoxtown CNS Board of Management, this Fire Safety Policy was finalised and posted on the school's website. Hardcopies of the policy are available to parents on request.

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management of Brannoxtown CNS on 9th December, 2019.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Ms. Deirdre O' Donovan
Chairperson

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Dr. Sarah FitzPatrick
Principal