

Methodology of the Fire Risk Assessment for Kensington Aldridge Academy

What is a Fire Risk Assessment and why is one carried out?

- All schools must comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 which requires a Fire Risk Assessment to be undertaken by a competent person. Schools should keep their assessment under review to make sure it is up to date and that the precautions are still working effectively. Fire and Rescue Services are responsible for enforcement, in the case of KAA this is the London Fire Brigade.
- Fire Risk Assessments identify the general fire precautions needed to safeguard occupants in case of fire, including their safe means of escape. This includes ensuring procedures are in place to reduce the likelihood and spread of fire, maintaining fire detection and alarm systems, and familiarising staff and pupils with emergency evacuation procedures.
- Fire Risk Assessments must be updated if any significant changes to the premises or their use take place, where there is reason to suspect the risk assessment is no longer valid; and, when any significant works necessary to address any shortcomings identified have been completed.
- This Fire Risk Assessment was undertaken in April 2018 another Fire Risk Assessment will be undertaken in the summer before the school reoccupies to review any building work which has taken place since then and to ensure the building remains a safe place to occupy.
- This Fire Risk Assessment has been discussed in full with the London Fire Brigade and they are in agreement that all necessary safeguards are in place to make this a safe building to occupy.

Who undertook the Fire Risk Assessment?

An independent company called SFE Ltd (<http://www.sfenv.co.uk>) was appointed by the Department for Education on behalf of KAA. SFE is an accredited member of the Institute of Fire Safety Managers (IFSM).

When was the Fire Risk Assessment undertaken?

It was carried out in late April 2018 before summer works commenced to remodel certain areas of the school. It was carried out at this point to ensure there was sufficient time to carry out any recommended remedial works before the start of the autumn term 2018.

What does the Fire Risk Assessment say?

There are four priority categories of actions ranging from immediate to long term. All will be cleared before the school is occupied, or where more relevant, continue as part of a quality management plan of the building e.g. keeping the cooker flue cleaned regularly to avoid a build-up of fat.

Who are the parties referred to in this Fire Risk Assessment report?

There are three organisations referred to here, with actions assigned to them to take forward the recommendations of SFE Ltd.

1. BYUK – Bouygues UK, the contractor who built the school in 2014; Exova is referred to and they are the fire risk consultants used by Bouygues to develop the original fire risk strategy and helped shape the design of the building;

2. KAA - Kensington Aldridge Academy will pick up actions as part of their daily routine and site management; and
3. LFB – London Fire Brigade. The whole report has been shared with and discussed at length with the LFB. They have reviewed all the recommended actions and consider KAA a safe building to occupy.

What is being done about the recommended actions?

Each one has been discussed, assessed and assigned to the one of the parties referenced above. Where no action has been taken, an explanation has been given as to why. All necessary actions will be completed before the school is reoccupied.

When will the next Fire Risk Assessment be undertaken?

Whenever building works are undertaken in a school you should repeat the fire risk assessment. Given some work has been undertaken since April 2018 certain sections of this report will no longer be valid and another Fire Risk Assessment will be undertaken before the start of the autumn term in 2018 to ensure the building remains safe. This Fire Risk Assessment will also be shared with the London Fire Brigade and they will visit the school again to ensure it is safe.

Prepared by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, Department for Education

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