



Hall Green School

An Academy

29 June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

You may be aware that we had two evacuations of the school building last week and I can confirm both were false alarms. I would like to take this opportunity to remind our whole school community that tampering with fire safety equipment or maliciously setting off the fire alarm puts lives in danger and is a criminal offence.

The senseless actions of individuals who do set off a fire alarm in school for no good reason have the following negative impact on the school community:

Safety risks

- Disabled staff and pupils cannot all evacuate independently. Several of our pupils have personal evacuation plans involving them waiting at refuge points. Specially trained staff must make their way to these areas, potentially and unknowingly, entering a dangerous area, in order to evacuate the pupil using an evacuation chair. This can be a stressful and traumatic experience.
- Whilst the alarm is ringing, it is not possible to alert the school community of a real fire. During an evacuation there is a period of time when the alarm is disabled to reset.
- People can become complacent if they believe the alarm has been set off maliciously and not take the evacuation seriously.

Learning disruption

- Many pupils were in the middle of assessments during last week's evacuations. Due to tight timelines in school, it is not always possible to provide additional time or reschedule. This can, therefore, affect the end of unit/year assessment result for pupils.
- Lost learning time can never be recovered. Missing just 20 minutes of a lesson could affect a pupil's grade.

Reputation/business disruption

- Meetings taking place on Teams and visitors in school to administer inoculations were affected by last week's false alarms.

The evacuation of 1,000 people, some with disabilities and mobility problems, can be complex and bring a level of risk in itself, particularly during a time when we have COVID safety measures in place. On the whole, the evacuations were carried out safely and I'm pleased to say, within a reasonable timescale, ensuring we are able to exit the building safely in the event of a real risk.

For the reasons outlined above, an alarm set off maliciously is in serious breach of our behaviour policy and may lead to a pupil losing their place at the school.

I would be grateful if you could reinforce the contents of this letter with your child to help ensure the safety and success of our school community.

Yours faithfully



Miss K Slater
Headteacher

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