



The Levels Academy Trust

Raising Aspirations, Realising Potential TOGETHER

Arson Policy

Date adopted: _____

Signature: _____

Review date: _____

The Levels Academy comprises four schools, namely:

Hambridge Primary School (including Little Levels Pre-School)

Huish Episcopi Primary School

Middlezoy Primary School

Othery Village School (including Hatchlings Pre-School)

This policy has been reviewed to cover each of the above schools.

Introduction:

How serious is the problem?

Arson accounts for 21% of fires in premises nationally. The incidence of arson in all types of premises is increasing and is recognised as a major cause of fire. This policy is addressed primarily at the person who has overall responsibility for premises. It aims to alert those responsible and working in the premises to the possible dangers of arson attacks and suggests means by which such a potential can be reduced.

Premises Vulnerability:

Premises may be vulnerable to arson attacks due to:

- The ease of access to sites
- Vandalism
- Poor housekeeping

Reduction in the incidence of arson will benefit everyone by:

- Providing a safer environment for staff and visitors
- Ensuring that buildings and facilities are not lost due to the effects of fire
- The damage done by fire can be very costly, taking financial resources away from the provision of other needs

Not all arson is preventable but where possible its effects will be minimized

Responsibilities of all staff

Staff are obliged to adhere to this policy. The Head Teacher is responsible for ensuring that the staff for which they are responsible are aware of and adhere to this Policy.

The Head Teacher is also responsible for ensuring that staff are updated in regard to any changes in this Policy.

The Head Teacher will recognise the cause and effects of arson and will encourage measures recommended to combat arson and will promote good practice.

Staff are aware of the possibility of arson and will politely challenge strangers and report anyone of whom they have suspicions.

Combustible materials will be stored securely and waste not allowed to accumulate.

The Head Teacher will ensure that this Policy is accessible and up-to-date.

Staff will ensure that a high level of security is maintained to prevent unauthorised access and that legitimate visitors can be identified and access controlled.

Procedures to prevent the possibility of arson are to be implemented and regularly reviewed. (See Appendix 1 Arson Prevention Checklist)

Staff are to investigate any outbreak of fire and if there is any suspicion that arson could be the cause, any material evidence should be safeguarded for the attention of the Police/Fire Service.

Fire Safety Advisor will make recommendations to the staff regarding arson prevention measures. Fire risk assessment of premises will take into account the risk from arson and the measures to minimise the risk. Fire safety training will include arson awareness and prevention.

REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed bi-annually.

