

FIRE SAFETY POLICY & PROCEDURES

Introduction

This document has been prepared to outline the fire safety policies and procedures to be followed by members of staff in the event of a fire at Navan Educate Together National School.

Policy Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction to all staff and set out the safety structures and processes, specific to, to:

- · Minimise the risk of fire occurring,
- Prevent the spread of fire,
- To appropriately respond to a fire alarm activation,
- To understand the roles and responsibilities of all staff members, and
- To familiarise oneself with the evacuation procedures.

Policy Scope

This Fire Policy and Procedures document applies to all employees, temporary staff, visiting workforce, e.g., contract cleaners/contractors who work in or visit Navan ETNS. All persons while in the building or on property grounds are required to:

- Take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of all other persons who may be affected by their acts or omissions.
- Cooperate with management and staff in ensuring all statutory fire safety and other requirements related to fire safety are always complied with.
- Observe the provisions of the Fire Safety policy and other policies related to fire and health and safety.
- Adhere to the roles and responsibilities set out in this document and under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005.
- Not intentionally interfere with or misuse equipment or materials provided for fire safety (including fire doors, fire extinguishers and fire detection and alarm systems).

Stakeholder Needs

Children's needs
Children need:

- The adults who are responsible for their safety to be appropriately prepared for dealing with the risk of fire.
- The adults to be clear on all aspects of fire safety, the school's approach to fire safety and their responsibilities for ensuring the children's safety.

Parents'/Families' needs

Parents/guardians need:

To be clear on what the school does to prevent fire, to ensure that any fire would be quickly
detected and to ensure that their child will be prepared for an emergency evacuation and
will be safely evacuated from the building should an alarm sound or a fire occur.

Staff needs

All staff members need:

 To know clearly and precisely what is required of them in relation to their specific responsibilities to help prevent fire occurring, to ensure that any fire will be detected quickly, to prepare the children for emergency evacuation and to ensure that everyone is safely evacuated from the building should an alarm sound or a fire occur.

Management needs

Management needs to ensure that:

- All of the legislative and regulatory requirements relating to fire safety are adequately and appropriately met.
- All staff members are provided with clear and precise information on what their individual responsibilities are in relation to fire prevention.
- Any fire can be detected quickly, to prepare the children for any emergency evacuation and to safely evacuate everyone from the building should an alarm sound or a fire occur.
- A Fire Safety Manager / Team is nominated, appropriately trained and is clear on their role and responsibilities.

Implementation, Revision & Audit

This document should be disseminated appropriately and staff including temporary agency and contract staff will be supported with its implementation.

This document shall be formally reviewed every three years or whenever deemed necessary, e.g., after material alterations or a change of use of any part of the school building. The policy will be reviewed and reflected upon after each fire drill/fire alarm activation.

Statutory Obligations

The Fire Safety Management Plan is set out as follows in order to ensure compliance with all Statutory Legislation and Regulations, including the following;

- Fire Services Act, 1981 & 2003 The primary piece of legislation within Irish jurisdiction that places the onus of responsibility for Fire Safety upon owners of premises, those who manage premises and the occupants of premises.
 - Section 18(2) It shall be the duty of every person having control over premises to which this section applies to take all reasonable measures to guard against the outbreak of fire on such premises, and to ensure as far as is reasonably practicable the safety of persons on the premises in the event of an outbreak of fire.
 - Section 18(3) It shall be the duty of every person, being on premises to which this
 section applies, to conduct himself in such a way as to ensure that as far as is

reasonably practicable any person on the premises is not exposed to danger from fire as a consequence of any act or omission of his.

- Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005 This legislation safeguards the health and safety of employees in the workplace, by placing the onus of responsibility upon employers, managers and employees.
- Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations, 2007 These regulations describe the minimum requirements for health and safety for specific work activities, as set out in the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005. In particular, they make provisions for the following;
 - Fire Safety & Emergency Escape Signage
 - Emergency Exits & Escape Routes
 - Fire-fighting & Fire Detection
- Building Control Act, 1990 2014 (and the Building Regulations, 1997 2014) This suite of legislation regulates the design and construction of new buildings and the material alteration (or change of use) of existing buildings or their proposed extensions.

Fire Safety Management Structure

The following is the structure of the Fire Safety Management system at Navan Educate Together National School.

FIRE SAFETY MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Board of Management

Overall responsibility for Fire Safety Governance

Principal & Fire Safety Manager

Overall responsibility for Fire Safety Management Responsible for implementation of Fire Safety Management Plan

Fire Wardens & Nominated/Assigned Persons

Carry out assigned duties

Teaching Staff

Act as Fire Warden for each class

Pupils

Responsible for embracing positive fire safety culture

School Details

School Name:	Navan Educate Together National School			
School Address:	Commons Road, Navan, Co Meath			
Eircode:	C15 YY3D			
Telephone Number:	046 90 60305			
Principal:	Eleanor Barker	Phone:	0868374992	
Deputy Principal:	Patricia Carolan	Phone:	<i>u</i>	
Fire Safety Manager:	Eleanor Barker	Phone:	ll .	
Number of Pupils:	222			
Number of Staff:	45			
Fire Safety Training:	Fire Warden Training completed 2023-2024 Whole staff training in Fire Safety Awareness scheduled for 2024-2025			

Fire Safety Management Team Duties

The following tables detail the specific fire safety duties that are allocated to staff and will be maintained and updated as appropriate.

Assigned Role:	Principal / Fire Safety Manager/Fire Warden		
Staff Member:	Eleanor Barker		
Post:	Principal		
Staff Member:	 Overall responsibility for fire safety within the school. Appoint and delegate duties to Fire Safety Manager. Ensure all staff are provided with Fire Safety training at the appropriate levels and intervals. Perform tasks allocated to the role of Fire Safety Manager. Organise and manage fire drills. Carry out sweep of upstairs classrooms. Responsible for implementation of Fire Safety Plan. To ensure duties assigned to other persons are conducted in a consistent manner. 		

Assigned Role:	Fire Warden		
Staff Member:	Patricia Carolan		
Post:	Deputy Principal		
Assigned Fire Duties:	 Act as Fire Safety Manager if Eleanor is absent. Responsibility for overseeing Assembly Point 1 (on Basketball Courts) Take roll call of staff at Assembly Point 1 using Sign In/Out sheets. Bring Visitor Sign In/Out book to Assembly Point 1 to ensure all visitors are accounted for. Time the fire drills and report time taken to Fire Safety Manager. Liaise with Eleanor to report that all persons are accounted for, including sweepers. Report back to Fire Safety Manager about the effectiveness of fire drills. 		

Assigned Role:	Fire Warden
Staff Member:	Eilish Delahunt
Post:	Secretary
Assigned Fire Duties:	 Check Fire Alarm Panel for location of fire. Investigate source of alarm. Call Fire Service if fire confirmed.
	 Carry out sweep of downstairs classrooms.

Assigned Role:	Fire Warden		
Staff Member:	Sally Hamill		
Post:	SNA in Rainbow Rooms and PTA Member		
Assigned Fire Duties:	 To be the on-site Fire Warden at PTA events in the school building 		

Assigned Role:	Assigned Person		
Staff Member:	Helen Sparkes		
Post:	AP1		
Assigned Fire Duties:	 Responsibility for overseeing Assembly Point 2 (at front of school building) Take roll call of staff at Assembly Point 2 using Sign In/Out sheets. Report to Patricia when all persons accounted for. 		

Assigned Role:	Assigned Person Class Teachers		
Staff Member:			
Assigned Fire Duties:	Evacuate all pupils quickly and efficiently.		
	Check toilets in classroom before leaving room.		
	 Close external fire doors of classrooms on exiting. 		
	 Bring red and green cards along with laminated class list to assigned assembly point. 		
	 Promptly take roll call at assembly point. 		
	 Hold up green card as soon as all pupils are accounted for. 		

Assigned Role:	Assigned Person			
Staff Member:	SNAs			
Assigned Fire Duties:	 Support teacher to evacuate pupils quickly and efficiently if in classroom. 			
	If in another area of the school with pupil(s), bring pupils directly to designated assembly point on hearing fire alarm.			

Assigned Role:	Assigned Person
Staff Member:	SET Team
Assigned Fire Duties:	 On hearing fire alarm escort the pupils in their care to the nearest
	fire exit and directly to designated assembly point.

Assigned Role:	Assigned Person			
Staff Member:	Tomasz Szereszewicz			
Post:	Caretaker			
Assigned Fire Duties:	Tomasz Szereszewicz			

Fire Prevention/ Fire Safety Measures

All reasonable provision should be made to reduce the possibility of fires occurring due to accidental ignition. Control of combustible materials, achieved by attention to good housekeeping principles, can reduce the likelihood of fire. Combustible materials are not just those generally regarded as highly combustible, but all materials that will readily catch fire.

Housekeeping and Storage

All staff have responsibility to ensure the safety of themselves and their colleagues from the risk of fire. Staff should ensure that rubbish and combustible waste are not allowed to accumulate in the building.

Storage and Use of Dangerous Substances

Certain substances and materials are by their nature, flammable, oxidizing or potentially explosive. All flammable liquids and gases should ideally be locked away, and segregated, if necessary, to reduce the chance of them being involved in a fire or used in deliberate ignition. All staff must be aware of the fire risk of dangerous substances present and the precautions necessary to avoid danger.

The importance of General Fire Safety and good housekeeping:

- > Keep corridors clear.
- > Do not use equipment you may feel is unsafe.
- Do not overload sockets.
- Do not tamper with electrical items.
- Extinguishers are not door stops.
- Fire doors should not be held open unless it is with a magnetic door release system connected to the alarm panel.

Notice Boards

Notice boards can present a means for flame to spread and therefore the overuse of notice boards within escape routes, should be avoided.

Electrical Fire Safety

Electrical equipment should only be used for its intended purpose. All electrical equipment should be installed and maintained in a safe manner. If there is any doubt about the safety of electrical installations, an electrician should be consulted. Staff should exercise adequate care and caution when portable electrical equipment is used, including items brought into the premises by staff and ensure equipment is turned off after use (e.g. Laminators, IWBs, etc.). All electrical equipment that poses a risk of fire shall be left unplugged when unattended. Responsibility for this rests with each teacher in the case of their classroom/room, the secretary in the case of the office, the Principal and Deputy Principal in the case of their offices, the Red Rainbow Room teacher in the case of the Sensory Room and all staff in the case of the staffroom.

Particular Hazards in Escape Routes

If a fire were to occur in an escape route or spread to material in the escape route, this would be a particularly difficult and threatening situation preventing occupants from escaping. Corridors and stairways should be kept clear and hazard free. Items that may be a source of fuel or ignition should not be located on any corridor or stairway that will be used as an escape route.

<u>Arson</u>

The possibility of deliberate fire raising should be considered as a component of the fire safety management policy. Appropriate housekeeping measures including the efficient and prompt removal of rubbish and security against un-authorised entry or access, can do much to alleviate this problem.

Decorations, Lights and Christmas Trees

Christmas lights and decorations can pose a significant risk of fire, often due to their construction and their general lack of maintenance. Electrical decorations must be tested before they are erected. Ensure decorations do not obstruct escape routes or fire doors or pose a risk to pupils or staff should they fall.

Fire Safety Awareness

Be Safe lessons may be taught at each class level as part of the SPHE programme and the local Fire Department may come to talk to the children regarding fire safety when possible.

Maintenance of systems

Navan ETNS is equipped with several essential fire safety systems such as fire detection, emergency escape lighting, and other systems relevant to the school based on building complexity and occupancy. An ongoing servicing and maintenance program is in place for all such systems to ensure they will function as required in the event of an emergency.

The table below details the systems in place in Navan ETNS and the intervals at which servicing, testing and maintenance must be carried out on each system, by a registered contractor, to achieve compliance with the relevant standards and code guidance.

Table 1:

System	Quarterly	6 Monthly	Annually	2 Yearly
Fire Detection & Alarm	\		1	NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY.
Emergency Escape Lighting	✓		✓	
Fire Extinguishers & Fire Blankets			1	
Fire Hydrants		✓	2/2/2/2	
Emergency Voice Communication System		1		
Gas Detection System			✓	WEST TO THE TO THE
Fire Dampers			1	
Fire Doors				1
Localised Fire Suppression		1	1	

Additional weekly and monthly checks will be carried out by the Fire Safety Manager and/or Caretaker where appropriate for specific systems. All checks, servicing, testing, and maintenance inspections are recorded by the Fire Safety Manager/Caretaker in the Navan ETNS Fire Safety Register.

Warning of Fire

Fire Detection & Alarm System

Navan ETNS is provided with a fire detection and alarm system that comprises smoke detection, heat detection and red manual call points. The fire detection and alarm system has been designed and installed by a competent, certified fire alarm contractor and a maintenance and testing regime as per the requirements of I.S 3218 is in place.

Notification of Fire Service

In the event of a fire alarm activation, it is the responsibility of Eilish/Eleanor to notify the Fire Service and request assistance. The assigned person should provide the following information:

- 1. Your Name: State your name and position
- 2. The Nature of Emergency: e.g., Fire in Navan ETNS
- 3. Address and Eircode of the building: Navan ETNS, Commons Road, Navan, Co. Meath, C15 YY3D
- 4. Phone number if requested: 046 90 60305

If asked to stay on the line, do so unless it is deemed unsafe at the time.

What to do in the event of a fire

Evacuation procedure

All children and staff will be talked and walked through the fire evacuation procedures prior to the first fire drill of the school year. This will take place so that all personnel (adults and children) respond in a calm, safe and responsible manner when the fire alarm is activated.

On Discovering a fire

If a fire is discovered within Navan ETNS:

- Raise the alarm using the nearest manual call point (red) by 'breaking the glass'. It is important that all staff are familiar with the location of these call points. These are located next to each Final Exit and at the top of each stairway.
- Assessment of immediate area to ensure no one is injured in the room of fire origin.
- Close doors in the immediate area. This will help to reduce the spread of smoke and fumes throughout the building. Smoke and fumes:
 - Can be toxic and asphyxiating.
 - Can obscure vision, affect breathing, and produce mental and physical reactions.
 - Can cause great harm. Even those who are at some distance from the fire may be at risk. Containment is critical to the safe evacuation of the building.

On Activation of the Fire Alarm

In the event of an activation of the fire detection and alarm system, the following steps are to be taken: A full evacuation of the building commences immediately on the sounding of the alarm. Note: The Fire Alarm Panel (FAP) is located in the foyer beside the main entrance.

- 1. The Assigned Person (Eilish) will check the fire alarm panel to identify the location of fire.
- 2. The Assigned Person (or a person instructed by them) will travel to the location of fire origin as indicated on the fire alarm panel to investigate.
- 3. Eilish/Eleanor will immediately call the emergency services on '999' and provide the information as detailed in the Notification of Fire Service section above.
- 4. Any Staff members should only attempt to tackle a fire if:
 - a) they have received training in the use of firefighting equipment,
 - b) it is considered safe to do so, and
 - c) only after alarm is raised and the order to evacuate the building has been issued.
- 5. Fire Wardens and staff should commence the evacuation procedure.

- 6. Patricia and Helen should take the Walkie-Talkies and Staff Sign In/Out sheets to their designated Assembly Points. Patricia will also take the Visitor Sign In/Out book (located in the school office). In the absence of Patricia or Helen, the next most senior staff members will oversee the Assembly Points.
- 7. Staff, pupils and visitors will evacuate the building via the nearest available emergency exit and from there proceed to the nearest Assembly Point. Staff should familiarise themselves with the locations of all Escape Route Plans, Final Exits and Assembly Points.
- 8. Any staff member who is actively engaged in teaching a class is to take responsibility for escorting the pupils in their care to the nearest final exit.
 - Children will follow teacher/staff instruction to move in an orderly and quiet manner to the designated Assembly Point.
 - Children who are not with their class when the alarm sounds should follow direction from the staff member they are with or, if unaccompanied, proceed immediately in a safe and calm manner to the nearest exit and Assembly Point and report to a member of staff.
 - ✓ Each staff member escorting their class will have a laminated class list for their roll call and a green/red card to signify whether all pupils have been accounted for. This class list should move with the class at all times, e.g. PE in the hall, Library time, JI Buddy time, etc. If a class is split for the day, each class teacher should add the extra children to the end of their laminated list.
 - ✓ Classroom doors should be closed on exiting the classroom.
 - ✓ Teachers/allocated staff members will check bathrooms in classrooms before exiting and prop bathroom doors open with a chair to signify to the sweepers that bathrooms are empty.
 - ✓ At the Assembly Point, children should line up in silence to allow for quick and efficient roll calls to take place. Staff will hold up green or red card to signify that all children are accounted for, or not.

DO NOT

- Stop to collect personal belongings
- Use lifts
- > Return to the building until the all clear is given by the Fire Safety Manager

Should any person in a class require assistance in evacuating, the staff member is to alert a member of the Fire Warden Team.

Note: The locations of the Final Exits and Assembly Points are detailed in the Fire Escape Plan at the end of this document and also located throughout the school Building.

Escape Routes

Ground Floor:

- Squirrel Room Leave room, exit building via Final Exit 9 and assemble at Assembly Point 2.
- Deer Room Leave room, exit building via Final Exit 9 and assemble at Assembly Point 2.
- Fox Room Leave room, exit building via Final Exit 6 and assemble at Assembly Point 1.

- Badger Room Leave room, exit building via Final Exit 6 and assemble at Assembly Point 1.
- Rabbit Room Leave room, exit building via Final Exit 5 and assemble at Assembly Point 1.
- Hedgehog Room Leave room, exit building via Final Exit 5 and assemble at Assembly Point
 1.
- Hare Room Leave room, exit building via Final Exit 3 and assemble at Assembly Point 1.
- Owl Room Leave room, exit building via Final Exit 2 and assemble at Assembly Point 1.
- Rainbow Room Leave room, exit building via Final Exit 4 and assemble at Assembly Point 1.
- SNU Office/HSCL Room Leave room, exit building via Final Exit 3 and assemble at Assembly Point 1.
- Main Office Leave room, exit building via Final Exit 6 and assemble at Assembly Point 1.
- Principal Office Leave room, exit building via Final Exit 6 and assemble at Assembly Point 1.
- Green Room Leave room, exit building via Final Exit 6 and assemble at Assembly Point 1.
- Den 1 Leave room, exit building via Final Exit 5 and assemble at Assembly Point 1.
- Staff Room Leave room, exit building via Final Exit 5 and assemble at Assembly Point 1.
- Hall Exit building via Final Exit 7 or 8 and assemble at Assembly Point 1.
- Kitchen Leave room, exit building via Final Exit 8 and assemble at Assembly Point 1.
- Electrical Switch Leave room, exit building via Final Exit 6 and assemble at Assembly Point
 1.
- Shower Room Leave room, exit building via Final Exit 6 and assemble at Assembly Point 1.
- Store Room Leave room, exit building via Final Exit 3 and assemble at Assembly Point 1.
- Accessible Toilet Leave room, exit building via Final Exit 6 and assemble at Assembly Point
 1.
- Foyer Toilets Leave room, exit building via Final Exit 6 and assemble at Assembly Point 1.

1st Floor:

- Ash Room Leave room, use stairs 1, exit building via Final Exit 10 and assemble at Assembly Point 2.
- Elder Room Leave room, use stairs 1, exit building via Final Exit 10 and assemble at Assembly Point 2.
- Oak Room Leave room, use stairs 2, exit building via Final Exit 12 and assemble at Assembly Point 2.
- Holly Room Leave room, use stairs 2, exit building via Final Exit 12 and assemble at Assembly Point 2.
- Hazel Room Leave room, use stairs 2, exit building via Final Exit 12 and assemble at Assembly Point 2.
- Willow Room Leave room, use stairs 3, exit building via Final Exit 1 and assemble at Assembly Point 1.
- Birch Room Leave room, use stairs 3, exit building via Final Exit 1 and assemble at Assembly Point 1.
- Yew Room Leave room, use stairs 3, exit building via Final Exit 1 and assemble at Assembly Point 1.
- Den 3 Leave room, use stairs 2, exit building via Final Exit 12 and assemble at Assembly
- Den 4 Leave room, use stairs 1, exit building via Final Exit 10 and assemble at Assembly
 Point 2
- Den 5 Leave room, use stairs 2, exit building via Final Exit 12 and assemble at Assembly Point 2.

- Library 1 Leave room, use stairs 3, exit building via Final Exit 1 and assemble at Assembly Point 1.
- Library 2 Leave room, use stairs 2, exit building via Final Exit 12 and assemble at Assembly Point 2.
- Store Leave room, use stairs 2, exit building via Final Exit 12 and assemble at Assembly Point 2.
- Shower Room Leave room, use stairs 2, exit building via Final Exit 12 and assemble at Assembly Point 2.

It is imperative that you remain calm should you find a route impassable and chose an alternative route which leads away from the fire.

Final Exits and Assembly Point Locations

Occupants evacuating from the Navan ETNS building are provided with the following Assembly Point Locations:

Assembly Point 1:

- Location: Basketball Courts
- Serving: Final Exits 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
- Directions: Exit the school building at Final Exits 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and proceed towards the designated assembly point

Assembly Point 2:

- Location: Front of School Building (path/green next to bus area)
- Serving: Storey Exits 9, 10, 11, 12
- Directions: Exit the school building at Final Exits 9, 10, 11, 12 and proceed towards the designated assembly point

The map of all Final Exits and Assembly Point locations can be found in Appendix A.

Fire Escape Plans

Fire Escape Plans are located throughout the school building. These plans provide indication of your current location (marked in green), escape routes, final exits and assembly points (marker with red star). See sample plan in Appendix B.

Refuges/Places of Relative Safety

Safe Refuges are located within the landing of each protected stairway.

The Refuge contains an EVC (Emergency Voice Communication) system where occupants can alert reception of their presence, or that of someone requiring assistance to evacuate, within the stairway.

Evacuation Techniques

Special care will be needed in the evacuation of non-ambulant pupils or staff members and relevant staff will require training to allow them to assist as required in these difficult situations. Specialised equipment, such as evacuation chairs, may be employed to assist with the move. Staff and the Responsible Person must carry out an assessment to determine which equipment/evacuation method is most suitable in any given circumstance.

Note that these evacuation methods may carry some degree of risk both to the person and the handler. The Fire Safety Manager must assess the evacuation needs of pupils and staff who may require assistance in an evacuation, on an ongoing basis to enable the purchase and installation of equipment and the training of staff.

Fire Drills

Navan ETNS will hold at least 1 Fire Drill per term.

Recording of Fire and Evacuation Drills

Evacuation drills should be conducted to familiarise staff in the procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency and to identify potential difficulties and needs whether in terms of procedure, technique, special equipment or escape routes.

Following any fire or evacuation in the building a record should be made in the relevant Fire Safety Register with the purpose of identifying problems or difficulties encountered. All staff are required to participate in fire drills and follow the required procedures and protocols.

Fire Safety Training

Fire Safety Training is an essential component of any successful Fire Safety Management Plan.

To satisfy minimum fire safety obligations the School Principal and Fire Safety Manager must ensure that arrangements are made for all members of staff to attend Fire Safety Training. New staff should be provided with training as soon as possible following their commencement at their place of work. A tour of the work location should be provided, paying particular attention to fire alarm call points, fire exits and assembly points, etc.

Furthermore, the School Principal and Fire Safety Manager have a duty to ensure that all staff receive fire training updates as required to accommodate changes in personnel.

A record of all training carried out will be maintained in the Fire Safety Register.

Ratification

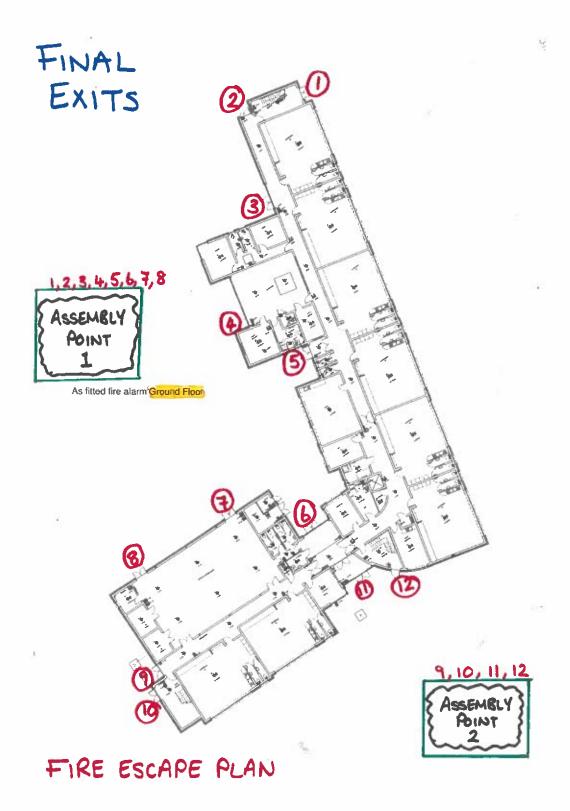
This policy was ratified by the BoM on 16 10 24

n to Board of Management

Secretary to Board of Management

APPENDIX A:

FINAL EXITS AND ASSEMBLY POINT LOCATIONS



APPENDIX B: SAMPLE FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

