

## Reading comprehension – Fire Drills

# Fire Drills

Fire drills are a really important part of your school organisation as they are designed to keep us safe. A drill just means doing the same thing until it becomes well-practised and this is what you do in your school so everyone knows what to do in a real fire. Sometimes, you will know there is a drill going to happen, others times you might not, but at any time there could be a real fire and you would need to carry out the drill perfectly to keep everyone safe.



### **Responding to a Fire Drill**

The drill will start with the sound of your fire bell or fire alarm. This will be different in different schools, but it will be quite loud and will not sound the same as the bells you are used to. This is so you are clear it is a fire alarm. In a drill it will be the person in charge of the building or the headteacher that will usually switch on the alarm; someone will also start a timer to see how long it takes everyone to get out of the building to safety.

On hearing the alarm, everyone stops what they are doing, stands up, puts chairs back under tables and walks to the nearest exit. Children should not talk so that if teachers need to give instructions, everyone can hear. If you are not near your usual exit or your exit is blocked, then that's what these green emergency exit signs are for - they let people know in any public building, where the nearest exit is.

As everyone leaves the building, all the doors will be shut behind them – this is because closed doors stop fires spreading from one room to the next and stop air and oxygen circulating around the building which will help fire grow and spread quicker.



Once everyone is out of the building, the whole school will assemble together, lined up in classes so that teachers can check that everyone is there and out of the building. Again, it is really important to keep silent so that any messages or instructions can get through. The teachers will tell the headteacher, or the person in charge of the drill, if their class are all there. If anyone was missing in a real fire, then the fire brigade would need to know that someone was still in the building, so they could be rescued.

### **Remember!**

Fire drills are nothing to be too concerned about; think about them as being prepared. Listening and remembering what to do, however, will help to keep everyone safe!

### **Things you can do to help yourself and the school:**

- If you hear the fire alarm, just go quickly and quietly (but don't run) to the nearest exit and out to the assembly point.
- If you've been sitting on a chair, push it back under the table.
- Listen to what all the adults are saying.
- Know what to do if you find a fire in school.
- Keep an eye out for things that could cause a fire in school.

