Fire Drills

Fire drills are really important at school as they are there to keep us safe if there was ever a real fire. The word 'drill' just means doing the same thing until it becomes well-practised. 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 because your teacher will tell you. Other times, it might be a surprise, but at any time there could be a real fire and you would need to make sure you do the drill perfectly to keep everyone safe.







Responding to a Fire Drill

All drills will start with the sound of your fire bell or fire alarm. This might be different in other schools, but it will be quite loud and will not sound the same as the bell you hear at playtime or home time. This is so you know 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.

On hearing the alarm, everyone stops what they are doing, stands up, puts chairs back under tables and walks to the nearest exit. You should never run as that could cause accidents. Children should not talk so that if teachers need to give instructions everyone can hear. If you are not near your classroom or your exit is blocked, then these green emergency exit signs can help you by pointing to the nearest way out. Look out for them in any public building, not just schools.

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. They also stop air and oxygen circulating around the building which could



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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 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 it you find a fire in school.
- Keep an eye out for things that could cause a fire in school.



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Fire Drills **Questions**

1. Why do we need to do fire drills if it isn't a real fire?

2. How will you know that it's the fire alarm and not your normal school bell?

3. Why shouldn't you run when leaving the school building?

4. What does the green sign with an arrow and a running person mean?

5. What would happen if you didn't tuck your chair under the table as you got up?

6. Why should you not talk during a fire drill?

7. Will the fire brigade turn up at your school for a fire drill?

8. In the sixth paragraph, what does the word 'assemble' mean?
   (Hint: think of the word 'assembly')

9. Name two things you can do to help yourself and others in a fire drill.

10. Can you think of a reason that you might be separated from your class when the alarm goes, and what would you do in this situation?

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Fire Drills **Answers**

1. Why do we need to do fire drills if it isn't a real fire?

   We need to do them in order to practise, so we know what to do in a real fire.

2. How will you know that it's the fire alarm and not your normal school bell?

   The fire alarm will sound different and usually it is a lot louder.

3. Why shouldn't you run when leaving the school building?

   You shouldn't run because it could cause an accident (falling over, tripping others up).

4. What does the green sign with an arrow and a running person mean?

   The green sign points to the nearest exit.

5. What would happen if you didn't tuck your chair under the table as you got up?

   If you didn't put the chair under the table, they would get in the way or trip people up when they are trying to leave the room. It would not leave a clear pathway.

6. Why should you not talk during a fire drill?

   You should not talk so that you (and everyone including teachers) can hear information or instructions (or anyone shouting for help).

7. Will the fire brigade turn up at your school for a fire drill?

   No – but they would in a real fire when someone would call 999.

8. In the sixth paragraph, what does the word 'assemble' mean? (Hint: think of the word 'assembly')

   Assemble means gather together in one place – like the word 'assembly'.

9. Name two things you can do to help yourself and others in a fire drill.

   Any three from: go quickly and quietly, go to nearest exit, don't talk, don't run, know what to do in the drill, watch out for dangers, close doors, push chairs under tables, listen.

10. Can you think of a reason that you might be separated from your class when the alarm goes and what would you do in this situation?

    Class discussion: include things like being in the toilet or delivering the register to the office, or collecting something from another class. Talk about the layout of your school, finding the nearest exit and joining up with your class at the assembly point.

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

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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 it you find a fire in school.
- Keep an eye out for things that could cause a fire in school.



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Fire Drills **Questions**

1. Why do we need to do fire drills if it isn't a real fire?

2. How will you know that it's the fire alarm and not your normal school bell?

3. How should you leave the building in a fire drill?

4. If you weren't sure where the nearest exit was, what would you look for?

5. Why do you think you need to put chairs back under tables if you've been sitting on them?

6. Why should you not talk during a fire drill?

7. Will the fire brigade turn up at your school for a fire drill?

8. In the sixth paragraph, what does the word 'assemble' mean?

9. Name three things you can do to help yourself and others in a fire drill.

10. Can you think of a reason that you might be separated from your class when the alarm goes and what would you do in this situation?

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Fire Drills **Answers**

1. Why do we need to do fire drills if it isn't a real fire?

   We need to do them in order to practise, so we know what to do in a real fire.

2. How will you know that it's the fire alarm and not your normal school bell?

   The fire alarm will sound different and usually it is a lot louder.

3. How should you leave the building in a fire drill?

   You should leave quickly and quietly (also: not running or panicking).

4. If you weren't sure where the nearest exit was, what would you look for?

   You would look for the green running person/emergency exit sign.

5. Why do you think you need to put chairs back under tables if you've been sitting on them?

   You need to put the chairs under so they don't get in the way or trip people up when they are trying to leave the room. It leaves a clear pathway.

6. Why should you not talk during a fire drill?

   You should not talk so that you (and everyone including teachers) can hear information or instructions (or anyone shouting for help).

7. Will the fire brigade turn up at your school for a fire drill?

   No – but they would in a real fire when someone would call 999.

8. In the sixth paragraph, what does the word 'assemble' mean?

   Assemble means gather together in one place – like the word 'assembly'.

9. Name three things you can do to help yourself and others in a fire drill.

   Any three from: go quickly and quietly, go to nearest exit, don't talk, don't run, know what to do in the drill, watch out for dangers, close doors, push chairs under tables, listen.

10. Can you think of a reason that you might be separated from your class when the alarm goes and what would you do in this situation?

    Use as a discussion as a class: include things like being in the toilet or delivering the register to the office, or collecting something from another class. Talk about the layout of your school, finding the nearest exit and joining up with your class at the assembly point.

Fire Drills

Fire drills are an essential part of school logistics as they are designed to keep everyone safe in the event of a fire. A drill simply means doing the same thing until it becomes second nature. This is what you do in your school when carrying out a fire drill, so everyone knows what to do should there be a real fire. Sometimes, you will have prior warning about a drill, whereas others times you might not. Nevertheless, at any time there could be a genuine fire and you would need to carry out the drill perfectly to keep everyone safe.







Responding to a Fire Drill

The drill commences with the sound of your fire bell or fire alarm. This will be different from school to school, however, it will be louder and will not sound similar to the bells you are used to. This is to make it crystal clear that it is a fire alarm. In a drill, it will be the premises manager or the headteacher that will usually trigger 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 immediately 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 in close proximity to your usual exit or your exit is blocked, then you should look for the green emergency exit signs which will direct you to the nearest exit. These signs can be found in all public building, not just schools.

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 quickly and limits air and oxygen circulating around the building, which



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would help a fire grow and spread quicker.

Once everyone is out of the building, the whole school (including all staff) will assemble, lined up in classes, so that teachers can check everyone is present 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 it you find a fire in school.
- Keep an eye out for things that could cause a fire in school.



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Fire Drills **Questions**

1. Why are drills essential in fire safety?

2. How will you know that it's the fire alarm and not your normal school bell?

3. Why do you think doing many drills will help in a real fire situation?

4. Why do you think all public building need to have emergency exit signs?

5. Why do you think you need to put chairs back under tables if you've been sitting on them?

6. Why would shouting or panicking not help others or yourself in a fire drill or real fire situation?

7. In a real fire, when in the sequence of events would the fire brigade be called?

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8. In the sixth paragraph, what does the word 'assemble' mean?

9. Name four things you can do to help yourself and others in a fire drill.

10. What reasons might you be separated from your class when the alarm goes and what would you do in this situation?

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Fire Drills **Answers**

1. Why are drills essential in fire safety?

   They are essential to practise, so we know what to do in a real fire.

2. How will you know that it's the fire alarm and not your normal school bell?

   The fire alarm will sound different and usually it is a lot louder.

3. Why do you think doing many drills will help in a real fire situation?

   It will help because people will be used to the process, be calmer, know what to do and not panic.

4. Why do you think all public building need to have emergency exit signs?

   They need to have them because people won't always know the building well if they are just visiting, or they might be in an area of the building that they don't usually go or know well.

5. Why do you think you need to put chairs back under tables if you've been sitting on them?

   You need to put them back so they don't get in the way or trip people up when they are trying to leave the room. It leaves a clear pathway.

6. Why would shouting or panicking not help others or yourself in a fire drill or real fire situation?

   Discussion of reasons to include: Others would panic too, couldn't hear instructions, delay exiting, rushing may cause injury or accident that could block exits.

7. In a real fire, when in the sequence of events would the fire brigade be called?

   The fire brigade would be called as soon as the alarm was sounded/as soon as the fire was found/right at the beginning of this sequence.

8. In the sixth paragraph, what does the word 'assemble' mean?

   'Assemble' means gather together in one place – like the word 'assembly'.

9. Name four things you can do to help yourself and others in a fire drill.

   Any three from: go quickly and quietly, go to nearest exit, don't talk, don't run, know what to do in the drill, watch out for dangers, close doors, push chairs under tables, listen, know where nearest exits are.

10. What reasons might you be separated from your class when the alarm goes and what would you do in this situation?

    Use as a discussion as a class: include things like being in the toilet or delivering the register to the office, or collecting something from another class. Talk about the layout of your school, finding the nearest exit and joining up with your class at the assembly point.