

**Review of Stage 1 Fire Risk Assessment**

Review carried out by Rob Gueterbock, the named Responsible Person

16th February 2013

To comply with the **Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005**, The Montessori Place must ensure that a suitable and sufficient fire risk assessment is carried out, identifying the risks to which relevant persons are exposed and for the purpose of identifying the general fire precautions that are needed to ensure the safety of all staff, service users, contractors and visitors whilst on premises.

The Montessori Place has adopted a two-tier system of fire risk assessments: **Stage 1**: A fully comprehensive fire risk assessment for the premises and **Stage 2**: A termly Fire Inspection / risk assessment for the premises to supplement the comprehensive fire risk assessment, as above and ensure day-to-day management of fire safety.

The Montessori Place Fire Safety Policy states in Paragraph 4.3 that the Stage 1 Fire Risk Assessment be reviewed in the event of:

“Any structural changes (alterations to the layout of the premises, erection of partitions, refurbishment etc) – this may affect the spread of fire.”

“Any change to the numbers of people using the premises – to ensure the escape routes can accommodate the numbers safely.”

This document is a review of the Stage 1 Fire Risk Assessment (May 2011), due to the following proposed alternations to the premises:

Proposed alterations:

1. Removal of three partition walls on the first floor to create an open plan classroom
2. Closure of three of the four doors into the classroom from the lobby.
3. Addition of glass brick window (1 m2) on the new south wall of the lobby.
4. Increase in numbers of children using the first floor from 15 to 30.

Spread of fire

The proposed open plan arrangement increases the ease at which a fire could spread across the first floor. All new plasterboard, including that used in the closed doorways doors will be 60 minute fire-rated. The Glass bricks used in the new internal window will be 60 minute fire-rated.

Escape routes

Whilst the closure of some doors slightly increases the travel distance to the secondary escape route (by a maximum of 5 metres), the travel distances are still well within those recommended in Approved Document B. The removal of the walls will make the route to the primary fire escape route (the external fire escape) more direct.

A maximum of 30 children (6 – 12 years) and 3 adults will use the external fire escape as their primary escape route from the first floor. The external fire escape is used regularly and works smoothly with 15 people. 30 children and 3 adults would be well within the capacity of the external fire escape.

The Fire Service inspection report (25th January 2012) stated that any windows within 1.8 m horizontally and 9 m vertically should be upgraded to provide 30 minute fire resistance at the time when we bring the second floor into use by children. We have no plans at present for children to use the second floor so it is not necessary to carry out this work at this time.

Other issues

The contractor will need to be advised of, and given a copy of, the contractor policy and fire safety procedures. They may need to be issued with a permit for hot work.