



Advice for parents and carers

- Make sure matches and lighters are stored out of sight and out of reach of young people and use childproof lighters. Never leave children alone in the house, even for short periods of time. Search for lighters and/or matches in bedrooms and school bags.
- Keep outbuildings, garden sheds and garages locked to prevent access to flammable items.
- Explain to the child or young person that fire is a tool, not a toy.
- Explain to children that fires can hurt and kill.
- Make a home fire safety plan with your family and practice it.
- Ensure you have working smoke alarms on each level of your home and test them weekly.

Fire Safety Intervention Scheme

If you would like any further information about this service or to make a referral, please visit:



www.hwfire.org.uk/advice/firesetters-scheme/

Alternatively, contact the Prevention Team to discuss any concerns:

 08000321155

 firesetters@hwfire.org.uk

Home Fire Safety Visit:

If you would like to complete an online Home Fire Safety Assessment, please scan the QR code or visit The website below:

www.hwfire.org.uk/advice/book-a-home-fire-safety-visit/



HEREFORD & WORCESTER
HWFR
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



Fire Safety Intervention Scheme

What is Firesetting?

Most children show a natural interest and curiosity in fire. Even if they do not display any firesetting behaviour, many children may be fascinated by fire and it is not uncommon for children as young as two to show an interest.

Unfortunately for some children this interest develops into something more dangerous. Firesetting behaviour can become increasingly serious and lead to injury, damage to property and death.

There are also many criminal aspects that have long term consequences.

What is the Fire Safety Intervention Scheme?

This is a fire education scheme for children and young people under 18 who have displayed firesetting behaviour or have played with fire.

It aims to:

- Raise awareness of the dangers of fire.
- Illustrate the consequences of firesetting behaviour.
- Teach them how to control the trigger factors that lead to firesetting.
- Provides education on how to keep safe from fire in the home and what to do in the event of fire.

The scheme offers fire safety education for the young person, usually in the home environment by Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service Prevention Engagement Officers.

What to expect

After a child has been referred and the parents/guardians have given consent, we will make contact to arrange a convenient time and place to visit the child or young person.

The help and support we provide is tailored to the child or young person's behaviour, interests and understanding.

We can provide up to two sessions with the child or young person. Alongside this, we will also offer support to families by way of a free Home Fire Safety Visit. The visit includes a home safety check to help reduce the risk of fire in the home, including the checking and fitting of smoke alarms when required. Following our visit, we will make a follow-up contact to find out if any more firesetting behaviour has occurred and offer any further advice or support if we can. This may also involve signposting families to other agencies who can provide more specialist help or support.

Who can refer?

- Parents/carers
- Schools
- Police
- Children's Services
- Youth Offending teams
- Other professionals

Seven signs of firesetting behaviour

1. Small burn holes in carpets or clothes.
2. Charred paper/crisp packets in sinks or wastebaskets.
3. Matches and lighters hidden in child's cupboard, drawers and under bed.
4. An unusual fascination with fires.
5. Unexpected burnt objects in the home or garden.
6. Signs of burns on the windowsills.
7. The smell of smoke on the child's clothes or in the home.

These behaviours should never be ignored. Talking to a young person early on is vital to stop firesetting habit as soon as possible; early intervention and education can greatly reduce the chances of happening again.

For additional fire safety education information and resources: www.hwfire.org.uk/advice/staywise/

