



## Wychwood School

### **Safety temperatures for Air, Water & Heated Surfaces**

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#### **Hot Water**

Schools normally have a need for hot water at two temperatures, a high temperature supply for kitchens/serveries and cleaners' sinks and low temperature supply for hand washing basins and children's use. Usually these supplies are normally provided by a hot water boiler supplying a calorifier or by independent direct gas fired water heaters.

Thermostats should be set no lower than 60°C. All hot water supplies that pupils have access to should have its temperature reduced to a maximum of 43°C by means of a thermostatic mixing valve (T.M.V) at the point of use.

The HSE's Control of Legionella Code of Practice requires that water is stored at a temperature of at least 60°C and distributed at 50°C minimum, to prevent risks from Legionella.

Special care must be taken to prevent scalding injuries to young children and especially persons with mental or physical handicap where either their sensing of dangerous conditions may be inhibited or undeveloped or they may have some other incapacity or inability to avoid such danger.

The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 require that baths and showers shall provide an adequate supply of warm water and a temperature not exceeding 43.5°C but in practice a temperature of 43°C +/- 1° is acceptable.

Where necessary an alcohol type thermometer should be used to determine the temperature of water in baths. On no account should hot water be added to baths by means of kettles, pans etc whilst the bath is occupied.

#### **Heated Surfaces**

Research has indicated that a temperature of 45°C would cause a minor partial thickness burn to the skin after prolonged contact of between one and two hours duration.

Where possible low-level pipe work, should be shielded by suitable arrangement of the room furniture, and where this is not possible or where runs of pipe work are left exposed considerations should be given to providing suitable guards.

## Air Temperature problems in the School

In the event of air temperature problems the following procedure should be adopted:

- a) Temperatures should be taken in the locations within the School, which are causing concern after classes begin. An adequate number of suitable accurate thermometers are maintained by the Bursar / Caretaker.
- b) The following temperatures, as defined in the Education (Schools Premises) Regulations 1999 should have been achieved by the start of directed time under normal winter weather conditions ie -1°C. Consideration must be given to the disabled, particularly the non-ambulant.

c)

Areas	Temperature
Areas where there is a lower than normal level of physical activity because of sickness or physical disability including sick rooms and isolation rooms but not other sleeping accommodation.	21°C
Areas where there is the normal level of physical activity associated with teaching, private study or examinations.	18°C
Areas where there is a higher than normal level of physical activity (for example arising out of physical education) and washrooms, sleeping accommodation and circulation spaces.	15°C

- d) If temperatures are not reaching the above levels by the required time, then the Head / Bursar should attempt to find a temporary solution within the school by adjusting the pattern of use of accommodation.

### Portable Heaters

The school has a small supply of portable electric or oil powered heaters for use where central heating is not provided in an office or classroom. These heaters are administered by the Bursar & Caretaker and can only be supplied upon request. Staff are not permitted to bring their own portable heaters into school.