

St. David's High School

Health & Safety Policy Statement

Reviewed October 2024

Malicious Use of Fire Alarm System and Safety Equipment

Other relevant document; Student Code of Conduct

The malicious activation / tampering of any firefighting equipment and / or the alarm system is a criminal offence. Both the Police and Fire Brigade can prosecute anyone who maliciously activates a Fire Alarm System whether it is activation of a detector or by breaking the glass in an alarm point.

Malicious activations have a significant impact on daily school life. The activation and subsequent evacuation following an alarm causes a greater degree of stress and disruption to the students and staff. On average a false alarm causes a 25 minute disruption to students. However, the disruption caused to the facility management team members is much longer.

Should a malicious activation take place the student will;

- Face an immediate exclusion from school for up to two days
- If this is a repeat offence, the student will be referred to the police
- Cover the costs of returning the school to an 'as normal' situation; including but not limited to the costs of replacing a broken glass panel on a 'break glass point', cost of reinstatement of the alarm system if an engineer is required.
- If any students are found to have encouraged another student to maliciously activate the fire alarm they will also face severe sanctions.

Tampering with firefighting / safety equipment can endanger lives. 'Evac Chairs', Fire Extinguishers and Fire Detector Points must not be tampered with.

If the malicious discharge of an extinguisher takes place the student will;

- Face an immediate exclusion from school for one day
- Cover the costs of refilling and pressurising the extinguisher
- Cover the cost of cleaning up the discharge from the extinguisher

In any case, if any safety equipment is tampered with and damaged, the student is liable for any inspection and repair cost.