



Position Statement

Great Fire of London – Education

The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) is calling for schools to stop recreating physical scenes from the Great Fire of London and purposely setting the models alight to highlight how the fire spread and grew from a small bakery in Pudding Lane during the great fire of 1666.

NFCC recognises the importance of historical teachings and learning from the Great Fire but would promote this learning through the use of other means such as online footage.

Children and young people can have a fascination with fire and may be tempted to recreate these scenes themselves after watching trusted adults (teachers) doing this in school. This can put young people in a situation that provides a real risk to them and others should any fires get out of control.

- NFCC urges fire and rescue services to reject any requests from schools for appliance attendance to supervise and then extinguish the fire and provide appropriate advice on where to find supportive literature and media footage.
- These active displays not only constitute a fire risk but can also promote fire setting behaviour.
- NFCC urges fire and rescue services to engage with schools in their area to highlight the risks posed with such activities and confirm their position that resources will not be provided in support.
- The provision of appliances at schools for supervision and extinguishing purposes tie up valuable resources which may be needed for real emergencies.
- The offer of an appliance at a school for this purpose cannot be replicated in all schools across the UK which could result in a large number of schools undertaking these activities without appropriate safety measures in place.