

Breadsall Church Health and Safety Policy

Sale of Second-hand Goods

1. Introduction

This policy applies to the sale of any second-hand goods, whether through a one-off sale or through, for example, a jumble sale.

This policy is designed to help to avoid accepting the most hazardous items and to ensure the safety of those who purchase items.

2. Categories

Furniture and soft furnishings

The Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988 (as amended) govern the sale and supply of new and second-hand furniture and furnishings. The regulations apply to upholstered domestic furniture, including settees, chairs, bed bases, mattresses, headboards, stools, dining chairs, sofa beds and garden furniture suitable for indoor use. Nursery items such as prams, pushchairs, playpens, cots and carrycots are also included. Cushions and pillows are controlled as well as loose covers for upholstered furniture. Any furniture manufactured and sold since 1990 should comply with the regulations. Any upholstered furniture made before 1950 is totally exempt, even if it has been re-upholstered. You should be able to tell that furniture complies with the Regulations as a 'permanent' label should be attached to the item. This is normally headed 'CARELESSNESS CAUSES FIRE' and then states that the item complies with the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988. It also explains in detail that the various components comply with the relevant ignitability tests. Beds and mattresses do not have to have the permanent label, but usually have some indications that the regulations have been met, such as a blue BS 7177 label claiming compliance and showing the date of manufacture. As a guide, furniture and furnishings manufactured between 1950 and 1990 should not be accepted for sale.

Glass in furniture, such as coffee tables and cabinets, should meet relevant safety standards, indicated by a British Standards kite mark, to ensure its thickness in terms of the impact it can withstand, and that, if it breaks, it does not shatter into long shards of glass that could cause serious injury.

Electrical appliances

No mains electricity appliances should be sold.

Battery-operated items require the instructions to ensure safe working.

Gas appliances

No gas appliances should be sold.

Toys

New toys must comply with the Toys (Safety) Regulations 2011. Toys that are second-hand need not comply with the same regulations but rather they are covered by the General Product Safety

Regulations 2005. Toys should be labelled with the CE mark and they must be safe. Special warnings and instructions are required for both second-hand and new toys. No toys powered by mains electricity must be sold. Battery-operated toys require the instructions to ensure safe working. Any other toy must be inspected prior to sale. Ideally this would be by a suitably trained and experienced person to ensure it complies with all the relevant regulations.

Where relevant, instructions, including important information such as the age range of the product, particularly whether it is suitable for children under 36 months due to choking hazards, and other safety warnings, should be included.

The structural integrity and inner workings of the toy should be checked. Do the parts still fit together, does it work properly, how strong is it and could sharp pieces fall off and harm a child when they are tempted to stick it in their mouth, eyes or ears?

Second-hand soft toys may be teeming with germs, so should be as clean as possible.

Toy Safety Tips

Young children can choke on small items so avoid toys like marbles or anything with small detachable parts for children under three years old.

Avoid toys with long strings and straps for infants.

Check that a child's fingers won't get caught in any moving parts.

Always check for a CE mark.

To get rid of germs, give any stuffed toy a good wash in hot water before giving it to a child.

For lost instructions, check manufacturers' websites for information.

Further guidance can be obtained from the local Trading Standards Officer.

Children's clothing

In order to prevent injury and possible strangulation in children, the Children's Clothing (Hood Cords) Regulations 1976 prohibit the sale or possession of a child's outer garment with a hood, where a hood cord is fitted. This includes second-hand clothing. The regulations apply to raincoats, overcoats, anoraks and other garments suitable for outerwear, and includes tracksuit tops. To see if the regulations apply, fasten the garment and lay it out as flat as possible. If the chest measures less than 44cm (approx. 17.5 inches) then the garment must not be fitted with a hood cord.

All clothing should be checked to see that it is clean and safe for someone else to wear.

Child car seats, helmets and other protective headgear

These should not be accepted for sale.

3. Occasional sales of goods at fêtes and jumble sales

Try to follow the guidelines given above as far as possible. For toys and other items, use common sense. A responsible person should be appointed to check through the items prior to sale to eliminate any which seem dangerous by virtue of their nature or condition.

4. Summary of items that should not be sold

This list is not exhaustive. Guidance should be sought where there is doubt.

Bunkbeds
Candles, unless new and must have a manufacturer's safety label
Carrycot stands must have a durable label, clearly affixed, stating in legible characters the maximum length and width of the carrycot that that stand is designed to accommodate. There are also requirements regarding the weight-carrying capacity of the stand, the positioning of the guardrails and the maximum height of the bottom of the carrycot above floor level
Children's car seats
Children's clothing - items at risk of causing choking (e.g. buttons coming off) or strangulation (e.g. cords) must not be sold
Computer equipment - unless the appropriate paperwork for the software on the system is provided the processor must have ALL software removed by wiping the hard disk before the computer can be sold; reformatting of the hard disk is not sufficient
Cosmetics/toiletries unless new and still sealed. A list of ingredients should be included and the items should be within the best before date as well as include restrictions and precautions for use and a batch number
Crash helmets, riding hats, cycle helmets
DVDs, videos, CDs and computer games unless they have been given a legal classification by the BBFC. No R18 films can be sold. It is illegal to sell a computer game to someone aged below that specified on the game. No items marked 'Not for resale' can be sold
Electrical items - these should not be sold. Battery-operated items require the instructions to ensure safe working
Fireworks
Foodstuffs
Furniture (including nursery furniture) must comply with the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire Safety) Regulations 1988, unless made before 1950. The upholstery, filling materials and covers of domestic furniture must comply with the relevant ignitability tests, including sofas, cushions, loose and stretch covers, beds, divans, mattresses, pillows, cots, high chairs, playpens, prams, pushchairs, garden furniture suitable for indoor use. The regulations do not apply to the following: sleeping bags, baby equipment such as bouncers, baby carriers or baby changing mats, rucksacks for outdoor use, office furniture. All furniture - without exception - must comply with the regulations and display a

permanent label headed 'CARELESSNESS CAUSES FIRE'. Furniture must also note the batch/identification number of the item and whether it has an inter-liner that meets the safety requirements. Furniture without the correct labels must not be sold
Gas or oil appliances
Hot water bottles
Ivory (it is legal to sell pre-1947 ivory with the relevant documentation but this has ethical issues)
Jewellery, unless hallmarked. Earrings and nose studs cannot be returned after sale
Lighters
Nightwear - for both adults and children. Garments that have been treated with chemicals to be flame retardant may not have been washed at the guide temperatures
Prams, pushchairs and carrycot stands unless they comply with the relevant British standard and feature permanent labels stating that the item complies with standard BS 7409 and headed 'CARELESSNESS CAUSES FIRE'. Pushchairs must have a permanently attached five-point harness
Real fur garments (this is not illegal but has ethical issues)
Spectacles with prescription lenses
Sunglasses without a CE mark or without UV protection labelling
Swimming or buoyancy aids
Toys should be CE marked and checked for obvious defects. Toys must be safe, have a non-flammable, non-toxic filling and be of secure construction
Underwear (unless new)
Weapons (e.g. flick knives, swords, air weapons), including imitation firearms. Note that the sale of cutlery may be acceptable

Health and Safety Committee, September 2017

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