

English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School



Lock Down Policy
And Procedures
2024-2025

Lock Down Policy and Procedures

Rationale

As part of our Health and Safety policies and procedures the school has a Lockdown Policy.

On very rare occasions it may be necessary to seal off the school so that it is not able to be entered from the outside. This will ensure that pupils, staff and visitors are safe in situations where there is a hazard in the school grounds or outside the school in the near vicinity.

A lockdown is implemented when there is serious risks of the premises due to, for example, near-by chemical spillage, proximity of dangerous dogs, serious weather conditions or attempted access by unauthorised persons intent in causing harm/damage.

NaCTSO (National Counter Terrorism Security Office) **Guidance**

In January 2016, NaCTSO provided the following advice to leaders of schools and other Educational Establishments for Reviewing Protective Security.

Bomb threats: Procedures for handling bomb threats

Most bomb threats are made over the phone and the overwhelming majority are hoaxes, made with the intent of causing alarm and disruption. Any hoax is a crime, and no matter how ridiculous or unconvincing, must be reported to the police.

Be alert, but not alarmed!

On receipt of a “bomb threat” – Dial 999 and police will respond. You should always consider their advice before a decision is taken to close or evacuate.

Notification of Lockdown

Staff will be notified lock down procedures are to immediately take place on hearing short bursts of air horns from halls and playground. The internal phone system will also be used by office staff who will inform adults by stating ‘ATTENTION LOCK DOWN’

Procedures:

1. These signals will activate a process of children being ushered into the school building if on the playgrounds as quickly as possible and the locking of the school's office, fob connecting doors and all outside doors where it is possible to remain safe.
2. At the given signal the children remain in the room they are in and the staff will ensure the windows and doors are closed/locked and screened where possible and children are positioned away from possible sightlines from external windows/doors. Lights, Smart boards and computer monitors will be turned off.
3. Children or staff not in class for any reason will proceed to the nearest occupied classroom and remain with that class and class teacher e.g. children using toilets when siren goes. If a class is in the opposite hall from where their classroom is they are to go to one of the nearest rooms e.g. music room.
4. If practicable staff should notify the front office by phone that they have entered lock down and those children not accounted for.

NO ONE SHOULD MOVE ABOUT THE SCHOOL

5. Staff to support children in keeping calm and quiet.
6. Staff to remain in lockdown positions until informed by key staff e.g. Senior Management Team, Chair of Governors or School Administrator in person that there is an all clear.
7. As soon as possible after the lockdown teachers return to their base classrooms and conduct a roll call and notify the office immediately of any pupils not accounted for.

Staff Roles:

1. Front office staff ensure that their office(s) are locked and police called if necessary.
2. Head or office staff member locks the school's front doors and entrances.
3. Site Manager to head to Main Office.
4. Individual teachers/TA's/lock/close classroom door(s) and windows. Nearest adult to check exit doors in KS2/KS1/EYFS/Nursery and outdoor classroom doors are lock and down in FS. If training room is occupied the lead adult to lock the door and close the blinds.
5. Catering staff to lock back door to kitchen and turn off lights.

INDIVIDUAL STAFF CANNOT SIGN OUT OR LEAVE THE PREMISES DURING LOCKDOWN WITHOUT PRIOR AGREEMENT OF THE HEADTEACHER BEFORE LEAVING.

Communication with parents

- If necessary parents will be notified as soon as it is practical to do so via the school's established communication network –Schoolcomms texting Service/Telephone
- Depending on the type of severity of the incident, parents may be asked NOT to collect their children from school as it may put them and their child at risk.
- Pupils will not be released to parents during a lock down.
- Parents will be asked not to call school as this may tie up emergency lines.
- If the end of day is extended due to lock down, parents will be notified and will receive information about the time and place pupils can be picked up from office staff or emergency services.
- A letter to parents will be sent home at the nearest possible time following any serious incident to inform parents of context of lockdown and to encourage parents to reinforce with their children the importance of following procedures in these very rare circumstances.

Lockdown drills

Lock down practices will take place a minimum of once a year to ensure everyone knows exactly what to do in such a situation. Monitoring of practice will take place and debriefed to staff so improvements can be made.

Review

This policy and procedures will be reviewed annually as part of Emergency Fire and Evacuation Plan and Health and Safety Policy.

Additional Information

Guidance on receipt of a bomb threat

<http://www.cpni.gov.uk/security-planning/business-continuity-plan/bomb-threats/>

Bomb threat checklist

<http://www.cpni.gov.uk/documents/posters%20and%20checklists/bomb-threat-checklist.pdf?epslanguage=en-gb>