



Friday 30th June 2026

Lockdown Drill

Dear Parent or Carer,

At Longbenton High School, the safety and wellbeing of our students is always our first priority. We work hard every day to make sure our school remains a calm, safe and welcoming place to learn. Part of that responsibility means making sure we are prepared for a range of situations, including those which are very unlikely to happen.

I am writing to let you know that we will be carrying out a lockdown drill with students on Wednesday 1st July 2026.

A lockdown is a standard safety procedure, similar to a fire drill. It would be used if there was ever a situation where it was safer for students, staff and visitors to remain inside the school building rather than leave the site. This could include a potentially dangerous person or animal on or near the school site, a disturbance in the local community, a nearby chemical incident or air pollution risk, or a serious incident linked to terrorism.

Schools are also expected to have appropriate emergency procedures in place. This includes the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, also known as Martyn's Law, which requires many public premises, including schools, to be prepared for serious incidents. This does not mean that there is any specific threat to Longbenton High School. It simply means that, like fire drills and other safety routines, we must make sure students and staff know what to do if this procedure was ever needed.

During a lockdown, students would be guided by staff and moved quickly and calmly to a safe indoor space. This may be their classroom, or the nearest suitable room, depending on where they are at the time. Staff would account for students, secure the area where appropriate and follow the school's agreed procedures. If needed, the school would contact the emergency services and follow their advice.

We do not share every operational detail publicly, because the purpose of the procedure is to keep students and staff safe. However, please be reassured that staff are trained in what to do and students will be spoken to in an age appropriate and reassuring way before the drill takes place.

In the unlikely event of a real lockdown, parents and carers would be informed by the school as soon as it was safe and practical to do so. This would usually be through MCAS, as well as our school website and social media channels.

Before the drill takes place, staff will explain the procedure to students. They will make clear that this is only a drill and that practising procedures like this helps us keep everyone safe.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Elliott

Acting Headteacher

Longbenton High School