

Business Continuity Plan

Date last reviewed:	July 2025		_
			_
Signed by:			
L Edwards	Headteacher	Date:	July 2025
I Birnbaum	Chair of governors	Date:	July 2025



Contents:

Aim of this plan

- 1. School policies and procedures
- 2. Contact details
- 3. Roles and responsibilities
- 4. Critical school activities
- 5. Contractors
- 6. Risk ratings
- 7. Plan activation
- 8. Potential disruptions
- 9. <u>Initial response</u>
- 10. Business continuity
- II. Recovery

Appendices

- A. Activity Log
- B. Financial Expenditure Log



Aim of this plan

Maharishi School is committed to protecting the welfare of our entire school community and, as such, understands that clear and effective procedures need to be in place to outline the school's response in a variety of situations.

Whilst most incidents within school can be dealt with following day-to-day school procedures, there are more serious incidents which will require an established emergency response – these are as follows:

- An inability to carry out daily and/or critical activities
- Loss of life or serious injury to staff, pupils or members of the school community/public
- Serious damage to, or loss of, a part of/full building or access to a building
- Adverse publicity and/or reputational impacts
- Loss or breach of ICT systems and/or data
- Loss or shortage of staff
- Loss of critical supplier or service

This Business Continuity Plan has been developed to ensure the school is prepared for, and is able to recover from, unexpected disruptions that are critical to the school.



School policies and procedures

This plan has been developed in accordance with, and will be implemented alongside, the following school policies and procedures:

- Emergency Plan
- Cyber-security Policy
- Adverse Weather Policy
- Fire Safety Policy
- Invacuation, Lockdown and Evacuation Policy
- Infection Control Policy

In line with the school's Cyber-security Policy, the school ensures that only relevant individuals have access to this Business Continuity Plan, with particular reference to the tables providing an overview of data held by the school within this plan, to uphold data security.

2. Contact details

Senior incident response team:

Role	Name	Telephone number 1	Telephone number 2
Chair of Governors	Ian Birnbaum		
Headteacher	Lisa Edwards		
School Business Manager	Paul Magee		

Coordinating incident response team:

Role	Name	Telephone number 1	Telephone number 2
Headteacher	Lisa Edwards		
Deputy Headteacher - secondary phase	Lisa Walters		



Deputy Headteacher – primary phase	Laura Gaskell	
Head of Consciousness-base d Education	Mareanna Ingram	

Operational incident response team:

Role	Name	Telephone number 1	Telephone number 2
Assistant Business Manager	Fiona Casey		
Finance Officer	Marie Armstrong		
Business Support and Communications Officer	Tanya Rawstorne		
Business Support and Examinations Officer	Helen Melling		
Caretaker			
Family Support Worker	Jane Hayles		

School staff and governors:

Role	Name	Telephone number 1	Telephone number 2
Headteacher	Lisa Edwards		
Chair of Governors	lan Birnbaum		



Vice-Chair Governors	Richard Buswell	
School Business Manager	Paul Magee	

External contacts:

Organisation/company	Type of service	Name of contact	Telephone number 1	Telephone number 2
United Utilities	Water			
Valda Energy	Electricity			
Tota	Gas			
Vitalize It	Managed Service Provider -IT			
Computer2Cloud	Managed Service Provider -IT			
Skelmersdale Police				
Southern Communications	Telephony and internet			
Lancashire County Council	Local Authority			
West Lancashire Borough Council	Local Council			
Maharishi Foundation	School Sponsor			



3. Roles and responsibilities

The headteacher is responsible for:

- The overall implementation of this plan and ensuring that staff members are aware of their responsibilities.
- Ensuring the school has the capacity to respond to unforeseen circumstances.
- Determining the school's overall response and recovery strategy.
- Acting as part of the senior incident response team to coordinate a response to an incident.
- Taking lead responsibility for any decisions made during an incident.
- Maintaining the welfare of all staff and pupils.

The business continuity coordinator is responsible for:

- The development of the Business Continuity Plan.
- Acting as a key member of the coordinating incident response team and reporting directly to the headteacher.
- Developing continuity arrangements and strategies, e.g. alternative relocation sites and use of temporary staff.
- Ensuring staff, pupils, governors, and any other relevant individuals, are involved in the development of the plan.
- Actioning practice run throughs of the plan for different emergency situations.
- Conducting debriefs following an incident or practice run through to identify ways in which the plan can be improved.
- Maintaining a log of all key decisions and actions taken in relation to an incident.
- Ensuring relevant staff members are trained to undertake their responsibilities in relation to the plan.
- Maintaining the welfare of all staff and pupils.
- Ensuring this plan is routinely reviewed and updated where necessary.

The senior incident response team is responsible for:

- Announcing when an incident is taking place and activating the response as appropriate.
- Leading the school's initial and ongoing response to an incident.



- Nominating a media and communications coordinator, as part of the coordinating incident response team, to lead on the school's communication response with key stakeholders and liaison with the media.
- Nominating a recovery coordinator, as part of the coordinating incident response team, to lead and report on the school's recovery process, identify next steps to take following an incident, and work with the business continuity coordinator to ensure next steps are incorporated into the plan.
- Notifying relevant stakeholders of the incident, plan activation and ongoing response.
- Providing direction and leadership to the whole school community.
- Managing the deployment of resources.
- Prioritising the recovery of key activities disrupted by the incident.
- Liaising with the coordinating incident response team.
- Maintaining the welfare of all staff and pupils.

The coordinating incident response team is responsible for:

- The general management and coordination of the incident response.
- Liaising with emergency services and children's services.
- Recommending the response of the operational incident response team.
- Maintaining a detailed log of the incident.
- Presenting possible options of response to the senior incident response team.
- Maintaining the welfare of all staff and pupils.

The operational incident response team is responsible for:

- Assisting with the recovery of the school.
- Communicating to and from the senior incident response team and coordinating incident response team.
- Maintaining the welfare of all staff and pupils.

The Business Manager/Caretaker is responsible for:

- Maintaining the security of the school premises during an incident.
- Communicating with the incident response teams during an incident with regards to any building or site issues.

The DPO is responsible for:



- Working alongside the ICT technician to ensure the resilience of the school's ICT equipment and security of the school's data.
- Working with the business continuity coordinator to develop proportionate responses to a compromise of ICT equipment or loss of data.
- Leading the school's response to a breach of the school's ICT equipment and potential loss data, in accordance with the Cyber-security Policy.



4. Critical school activities

The school has identified critical activities which take priority for recovery in an incident, on the basis that if these were not recovered, it would have the greatest impact on the school community such that the school would be unable to deliver the service, or there would be significant harm or risk caused to individuals. These are detailed below.

Critical activity	Resources required	Need for resour ces (time)	Comm ents
Teachin		See	See
	Schemes of work, lesson plans and objectives	1	cybor
9	Seating plans	cyber	cyber
	Teaching resources, such as worksheets	respon	respon
	Learning platform / online homework platform	se	se plan
	Curriculum learning apps and online resources	plan	
	CPD / staff training records Pupil reports and parental communications	1 1	
	1 upil reports and parental communications		
Safeguar			
ding	Access to systems which report and record safeguarding concerns		
allig	Attendance registers		
	Class groups / teaching groups, and staff timetables		
	Referral information / outside agency / TAFs		
	Child protection records		
	Looked After Children (LAC) records / PEPs	_	
	Pupil Premium pupils and funding allocations Pastoral records and welfare information		
	Pastoral records and wellare information		
Catering	Access to third-party contractor		
ICT			
systems	Photocopying / printing provision	_	
',''	Telecoms - school phones and access to answerphone messages	_	
	Email - access to school email systems School website and any website chat functions / contact forms	-	
	Social media accounts (Facebook / Twitter)	+	
	Management Information System (MIS)	-	
	School text messaging system	1	
	School payments system (for parents)	1	
	Financial Management System - access for orders / purchases		



Examinat ions	Exam entries and controlled assessments Targets, assessment and tracking data Baseline and prior attainment records Exam timetables and cover provision Exam results	

5. Contractors

In line with the <u>Critical school activities</u> section of this policy, the following contractors are responsible for carrying out the critical activities identified:

Critical activity	Name of contractor	Name of contact	Telephone number 1	Telephone number 2
Gas	MX Plumbing and Heating Ltd			
Electricity	Joe Gregson Gregson Electrical Services			
Water (Drains)	Colin McCall Drain Magic			
Telephony	Southern Communications			
Internet	Southern Communications			



6. Risk ratings

The school has defined a risk-rating system to determine the likelihood of an incident occurring and the possible impact of such an incident.

Likelihood		Impact		
1	Low	1	Minor	
2	Medium	2	Significant	
3	High	3	Major	

Risk-rating impacts are further defined below:

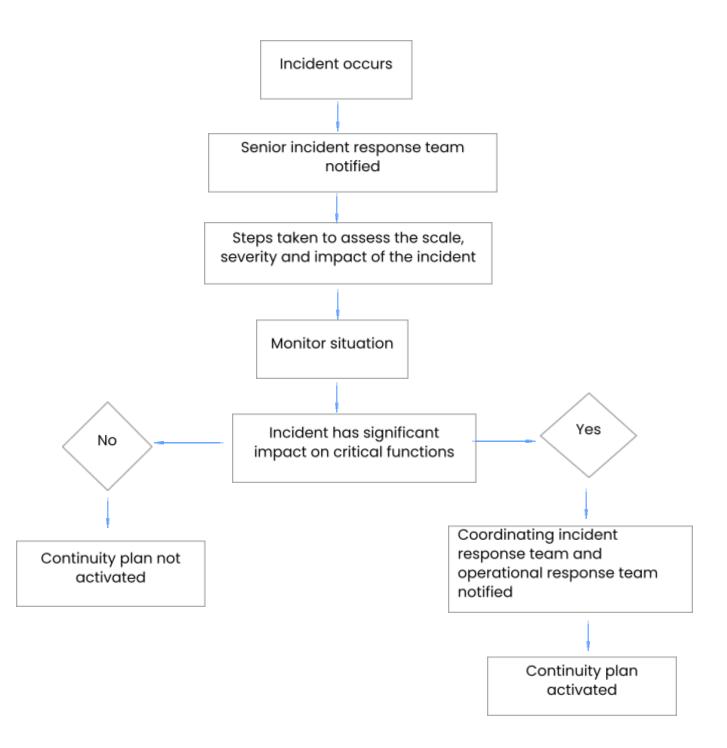
Risk-rating	Description
	Disruption affects a single class, year group or other function and can be managed through normal operational activities
14	 Disruption is not serious or widespread and is unlikely to affect school operations to a significant degree
Minor	No significant impact on staff or pupil safety
	The senior incident response team needs to be notified and the incident needs to be monitored
	Possible partial or full activation of the Business Continuity Plan
	Disruption affects more than one year group, class or other function and remains self-contained
	 The affected area has the capacity to manage the disruption – with or without support
	May require activation of specific resources, e.g. ICT
Significant	Significant impact on staff or pupils' safety
	 Senior incident response team needs to be notified to discuss whether to activate the Business Continuity Plan
	Escalation of the incident needs to be monitored
	Likely partial or full activation of the Business Continuity Plan



Disruption affects the whole school and possibly the local community Major impact on pupil or staff safety Affected area does not have the capacity to manage the disruption Requires the activation of specific resources, e.g. ICT Senior incident response team needs to be notified to discuss whether to activate the Business Continuity Plan Escalation of the incident needs to be monitored Activation of the Business Continuity Plan, where necessary



7. Plan activation





8. Potential disruptions

The school has identified four key disruptions that would be critical to the school's ability to provide a service in the event of an incident, these are:

- Loss of premises.
- Loss of staff.
- Failure of ICT systems.
- Loss of services, e.g. electricity, gas, water or food.

The incident response, continuity and recovery procedures outlined in the Initial response, Business continuity and Recovery sections of this plan are applicable to all incidents; however, the school has identified specific provisions in addition to these procedures for each potential disruption.

Loss of premises

Loss of premises may be caused as a result of fire, flood, loss of essential utilities or another incident. The school has a duty to provide a safe, suitable and secure site for staff and pupils. The provisions outlined below are implemented in accordance with the following school policies:

- Fire Safety Policy
- Bomb Threat Policy
- Adverse Weather Policy
- Invacuation, Lockdown and Evacuation Policy

Diagraption	Risk rating		Incident recognics
Disruption	Likelihood	Impact	Incident response
Complete loss of site	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	 Alternative sites: 1. 2. 3. Agreements with local schools where there is



			capacity to accommodate additional pupils Off-site activities, e.g. physical activities, school trips
Partial loss of site	1	<u>2</u>	 Use of alternative on-site buildings Use of temporary accommodation Use of off-site facility if available Off-site activities, e.g. physical activities, school trips
Temporary loss of premises (e.g. utility failure)	<u>3</u>	1	 Virtual learning Off-site activities, e.g. physical activities, school trips

Loss of staff

Loss of staff is most likely to occur during adverse weather, strike action or an outbreak of disease. It is a critical function of the school to provide a suitable number of teaching staff to deliver pupils' education. The provisions outlined below are implemented in accordance with the following school policies:

- Adverse Weather Policy
- Strike Action Policy
- Infection Control Policy



Diamontian	Risk rating		lucidont vocano
Disruption	Likelihood	Impact	Incident response
Adverse weather	2	<u>3</u>	 Alternative teaching arrangements Alternative transport arrangements School closure Use of temporary staff Cross-skilling staff members Use of pre-prepared teaching materials Suspending non-critical activities Larger class sizes, where possible Mutual support agreements with other schools
Strike action	1	<u>3</u>	 Alternative teaching arrangements Alternative transport arrangements School closure Use of temporary staff Cross-skilling staff members Use of pre-prepared teaching materials



			 Suspending non-critical activities Larger class sizes, where possible Mutual support agreements with other schools
Outbreak of disease	<u>3</u>	3	 Alternative teaching arrangements Alternative transport arrangements School closure Use of temporary staff Cross-skilling staff members Use of pre-prepared teaching materials Suspending non-critical activities Larger class sizes, where possible Mutual support agreements with other schools Hygiene precautions

Failure of ICT systems

Failure of ICT systems may occur as a result of a fire or flood disaster or may be caused by a data security breach. The school has a responsibility to uphold the security of all data it holds. The provisions outlined below are implemented in accordance with the following school documents:



• Cyber-security Policy

Diamontia.	Risk rating		
Disruption	Likelihood	Impact	Incident response
Failure of ICT system	2	<u>3</u>	 Back-up paper system Back-up server Disaster recovery contacts Off-site back-up arrangements 'Cloud' arrangements - secure external network Virtual learning Report data loss to ICO where necessary Notify data subjects where necessary
Loss of data	1	<u>3</u>	 Back-up paper system Back-up server Disaster recovery contacts Off-site back-up arrangements Cloud arrangements - secure external network Report data loss to ICO where necessary Notify data subjects where necessary



It is essential to maintain effective ICT back-up arrangements in order to prepare for, and recover from, any failure of an ICT system or loss of data. The ICT technician is responsible for conducting regular ICT back-ups in accordance with the Cyber-security Policy.

The school adopts the following back-up procedures for electronic data:

[Outline your school's back-up procedures, including how information is backed up, what information is included, how often it is saved, where it is stored and how information would be restored.]

The school records some information using paper-based records, for example, coursework or examination papers. The ICT technician is responsible for maintaining paper records.

In line with the Paper-based records section of this policy, the school adopts the following back-up procedures for paper-based records:

[Outline your school's back-up procedures for paper-based records and the procedures in place to ensure information is stored as securely as possible.]

Loss of services

Loss of services may occur, for example, where a service provider suffers a critical incident and they are no longer able to provide the service to the school. The school has a responsibility to ensure that pupils and staff are provided with a safe environment at all times. The following provisions outline the school's response in the event of a loss of a service:

Disruption	Risk rating		Incident response
Distuption	Likelihood	Impact	incluent response
Electricity/gas loss	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	 Additional portable heaters Pre-identified alternative suppliers Insurance cover Mutual support agreements with other schools
Water loss	1	<u>3</u>	• Pre-identified alternative suppliers



	• Insurance cover
	• Mutual support
	agreements with other
	<u>schools</u>

9. **Initial response**

Requirement	Other action to take	Responsible person	Completed?
	Initial response		
	Incident		
Assess the severity of the incident	 Determine: The situation. The impact on pupils and staff. The scale/severity, duration and impact. Disseminate information to others. Call emergency services if necessary. Evacuate/invacuate/lockdown the school building if necessary. 		
Nominate individuals to carry out the following roles: Business continuity Communications Log-keeping	 Information on responsibilities found in the Roles and responsibilities section of the Business Continuity Plan. Remember to: Allocate LSAsks amongst the senior incident response team. 		



Media managementResourcesWelfare	 Ensure staff are clear about their responsibilities. Establish the location and frequency of meetings. 	
Inform all other staff of the incident	 Contact the coordinating incident response team Contact the operational incident response team Inform all other staff and governors as appropriate 	
Consider how the incident affects extended services	Liaise with extended services as necessary	
Maintain a log of any injuries sustained to pupils, staff or visitors	Ensure the log is provided to emergency services	
Work closely with other services, e.g. emergency services, as required	 Provide information to those arriving on the premises. Ascertain the whereabouts of all pupils, staff and visitors and ensure emergency services are aware of anyone who is unaccounted for 	
Contact relatives of those involved in the incident if appropriate	Decide the most appropriate method – if the incident is very serious, liaise with the police about informing next of kin	
Where the incident involves failure of ICT systems or a loss of data, take steps to	 Liaise with ICT technician and DPO to maintain security of the school's network and data Refer to the Cyber-security Policy 	



maintain security of systems as appropriate	 Attempt to recover important documentation Contact organisations which can assist with document recovery if necessary Notify the ICO of personal data breach within 72 hours, if necessary 	
	Notify data subjects of personal data breach, if necessary	
	Resources	
Secure school premises	Consider disabling utility supplies	
Maintain access to school entrance	 Ensure emergency services can access the school premises as required Prevent parking in restricted zones 	
Work with school staff and the emergency services to control access to the school	 Advise staff to check the identity of others when arriving at the school premises Provide authorised visitors with ID badges and ensure they sign in and out Ensure media access is controlled Advise emergency services of any property related issues or hazards, e.g. asbestos, and provide with a site map if appropriate 	
	Welfare	



Identify pupils who may require additional support: Those with SEND Those with other medicaneeds Those with personeeds Those with personements emergency evacuation plans Any individual who particularly vulnerable badly affected, e.g. witness to the incident Identify any staff member volunteers, parents or others witnessed by the incident Those with SEND Those with personements emergency evacuation plans Any individual who particularly vulnerable badly affected, e.g. witness to the incident				
	Log-keeping	,		
Attend meetings held by the senior incident response team				
Ensure that each member of staff keeps an incident log	Incident logs should be regularly communicated to the appropriate incident response team, who should then communicate to other response teams			
	Communications			
Dedicate telephone lines for incoming and outgoing calls	Arrange extra support at reception if necessary			



Record a new message on the school answerphone if appropriate	Consider setting the phone to 'answer only' mode
Inform those involved in the response of any communication difficulties, e.g. poor signal	Help staff with any communication needs
	Media management
Organise appropriate responses to media requests	Seek support from other organisations as appropriate, e.g. emergency services or the LA
Control media access to the premises, staff and pupils	 Avoid allowing access to the site, pupils or staff unless there is a reasonable reason to do so and consent has been sought Liaise with the police if necessary Designate a specific area for the media, away from the school entrance
Develop a brief media statement	Information must be limited until facts are clear and all parents have been notified

10. Business continuity

Requirement	Other action to take	Responsible person	Completed? (✔)
Ongoing response			



	Incident	
Nominate a main contact for the coordination of the response	Continue to liaise with emergency services as required	
Continue to allocate LSAsks for each incident response team	 Work closely with the senior incident response team to coordinate actions and resolve any complications or difficulties If the response is likely to last for a significant amount of time, e.g. longer than two hours, consider staff rotation 	
Plan to maintain critical activities	 Consider how the following activities are maintained: Immediate and ongoing priorities Communication strategies Resource availability Deployment of resources Roles and responsibilities Finance 	



	 Monitoring and reporting on the situation Stakeholder engagement Welfare issues Planning the recovery of non-critical activities 	
Minimise disruption to education	 Ensure arrangements are in place to keep the school open and maintain normal routines wherever possible Ensure parents are informed of any changes to the school routine 	
Ensure regular briefings are given	 Give briefings to: Staff Pupils Parents Governors Services –	
Work closely with the individual responsible for media	Seek support from other organisations if necessary	



management to provide regular briefings to the media			
Ascertain whether all necessary individuals have been informed of the incident	 In the event of a serious injury or fatality, ensure the HSE has been informed in line with RIDDOR 		
Seek advice on legal and insurance issues if appropriate	If the incident is a crime scene, seek advice from the police and other emergency services		
	Resource	s	
Liaise with utility suppliers as required			
Establish safe and secure areas to assist with the response	 Areas may include: Media briefing room Briefing area for parents Senior incident response team briefing room 		
Liaise with staff and other organisations to provide access to facilities and resources as required	 If necessary, open or close parts of the school premises Liaise with the business continuity coordinator to establish temporary 		



	accommodation, if required	
Ensure the school premises is secure	 Provide temporary fencing around damaged areas and arrange for broken windows to be boarded, for example 	
	Welfare	
Assess the welfare of those involved	 Continue to monitor and provide support for those that have been affected by the incident Ensure staff take regular rest periods 	
Determine arrangements for returning pupils to their parents	 Ensure members of staff are available to meet families 	
Inform pupils of the incident	 Seek support from educational psychologists about the best way to inform pupils, if necessary Ensure pupils are spoken to before they leave the school premises to determine if any extra support is needed Ensure religious and cultural factors are 	



	considered wherever necessary		
	Log-keepir	ng	
Keep accurate records of any individual admitted to hospital or treated by the emergency services	Ensure records are communicated to the senior incident response team		
Keep accurate records of all items lost by pupils, staff or visitors	Ensure records are communicated to the senior incident response team		
Keep accurate records of all expenditure incurred	Record all costs incurred as a result of the incident response		
	Communicat	ions	
Consider the most effective arrangements for contacting pupils' parents	Ensure a record of all calls made to parents is maintained		
Liaise with the individual responsible for media management about contacting local radio stations			



Liaise with the business continuity coordinator to communicate to parents	Consider letters home that include information on: The details of the incident. How their child was involved. The actions taken to support those involved. Who to contact if they have any concerns or queries.		
	Media manage	ment	
Devise an ongoing strategy for handling media requests	 Work closely with the media to establish what information is required and any deadlines Gather information from the senior incident response team and other organisations as appropriate 		
Provide regular statements to the media	 Ensure messages are accurate Ensure the protection of identities is considered All press releases need to be checked and agreed by emergency services 		



Advise staff on where to direct media enquiries	 Ask staff, pupils and parents to avoid speculation when talking to the media Avoid the spread of misinformation by ensuring individuals are clear on where to direct enquiries Ensure there is a plan in place to manage any distress that could be 	
	, ,	

II. Recovery

Requirement	Other action to take	Responsible person	Completed? (🗸)
	Recovery	,	
	Incident		
Nominate an individual to act as the main point of contact for the recovery process			
Ensure that post-incident support is available to anyone who requires it	Ensure access is given to educational psychologists		



	 Allow staged returns to school where necessary Staff member will visit the pupil at home or hospital, if applicable, to determine necessary support 	
Minimise disruption to education	 Put arrangements in place for remote learning where possible Work with school staff to restore the usual school routine as much as possible 	
Work closely with senior incident response team in organising remedial work	 Organise remedial work to the school premises Liaise with insurance companies and other organisations as appropriate In the event of a public health incident, consider ordering infection control supplies and increasing the cleaning regime 	
Complete any necessary forms or paperwork	 Ensure an inventory is held of any equipment that has been damaged or lost Arrange for important items/documentation 	



	to be recovered, replaced or destroyed	
Arrange debriefs	 Debriefs should be arranged for all staff, pupils, parents and visitors Represent the school at other debriefs which may take place 	
Initiate a review of the Business Continuity Plan	Review should be held in conjunction with the different incident response teams to discuss effectiveness and any changes required	
Consider contacting nearby schools	Inform them of any important issues relating to the incident	
Resources		
Procure temporary classrooms if required		
Arrange a site visit with relevant personnel involved in the recovery phase, e.g. the LA and emergency services		
Welfare		



Introduce a strategy to monitor and support pupils and staff particularly affected by the incident	 Ensure all staff are aware of this strategy Offer pupils and staff the opportunity for psychological support and counselling Ensure pupils and staff know how to access the above services Arrange any support required and ensure this is in place for as long as necessary Ensure pupils have access to areas where they can take a timeout if necessary 			
Consider which pupils need to be briefed, how and who by	 Provide opportunities for pupils to discuss their experiences Ensure all new pupils are made aware of the incident and how the school and/or community were affected 			
Log-keeping				
Collate all incident logs and make copies if necessary				
Ensure records are archived securely	• Ensure these are available to necessary			



	staff members for future reference					
Communications						
Provide ongoing updates to all pupils and parents	Organise an event for parents to discuss any issues or concerns					
Assist the business continuity coordinator with providing remote learning, if necessary						
Check that information in the public domain is accurate and up-to-date						
Media management						
Keep the media informed of developments in the recovery process	 Ensure a positive image is maintained Be aware of the media's interest in memorials or anniversaries of the event 					



12. Activity log

Completed by:		Sheet number:	
Incident:			
Time	Log details	Further action required	Signed by



13. Financial expenditure log

Completed by:		Date:		
Incident:				
Time	Details	Cost (£)	Transaction method	Authorised by

