

Lockdown Procedure for Darite School

On very rare occasions it may be necessary to seal off the school so that it can not 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 are serious security risks for 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.

Notification of Lockdown:

Staff will be notified that lock down procedures are to take place immediately on hearing

- 1) If outside: 5 short rings of the playground bell.
- 2) If inside, a telephone call from the office.

Procedures:

Follow the **CLOSE** procedure:

Close all windows and doors

Lock up

Out of sight and minimise movement

Stay silent and avoid drawing attention

Endure - be aware you may be in lock down for some time

1. The above signal will activate a process of children being ushered into the school building as quickly as possible and the locking of the school's classrooms, offices, connecting doors and all outside doors/ shutters, 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 to be turned off. Mobile phones are to be put on silent mode.
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 lockdown procedure is activated.
4. If practicable, staff should notify the front pastoral/ reception by phone that they have entered lock down and identify those children not accounted for.

NO ONE SHOULD MOVE ABOUT THE SCHOOL

1. Staff to support children in keeping calm and quiet.
2. Staff to remain in lock down positions until informed by key staff e.g. Senior Management Team, Chair of Governors or Office Staff in person that there is an all clear.
3. As soon as possible after the lock down teachers return to their classrooms and conduct a register and notify the reception immediately of any pupils not accounted for.

Staff Roles:

1. School administrator to ensure their office is locked and police called if necessary.
2. Head or site managers lock the school's front doors and entrances.
3. Individual teachers and/or TAs lock/close classroom door(s) and windows. Nearest adult to check exit doors.

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 – text.

Parents will be told

'.....the school is in a full lockdown situation. During this period the switchboard and entrances will be un-manned, external doors locked and nobody allowed in or out.....'

Parents will be asked not to call school as this may tie up emergency lines.

Depending on the type and 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.

If the end of the day is extended due to the 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 on the nearest possible day 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.

Lock Down Practices:

Lock down practices will take place at least once a year to ensure everyone knows exactly what to do in such a situation. Monitoring of practices will take place and staff debriefed for positive reinforcement or to identify required improvements. School to inform parents when practice has happened on newsletter.

Review of procedure:

To be reviewed annually as a part of the Trust's Health and Safety procedures.