

# LOCKDOWN POLICY AND PROCEDURES

## Bentham Community Primary School

### General Statement

Lockdown is the term given to protecting children and staff by keeping them indoors, in their classrooms or other safe locations. An example of when a lockdown may be appropriate would be in the event of a direct physical threat to staff and children by an armed person in or around the site premises.

In most cases this would be a precaution, on notification by the Police, of a threat in the community (Melsonby, 2010/Cumbria 2010). Very occasionally, a threat is present inside the site (Dunblane Primary Site, 1996).

Two levels of lockdown are provided in this document.

### Partial Lockdown – three blasts of whistle

- This may be as a result of a reported incident to the site or an occurrence that is happening within the site premises.
- Civil disturbance in the local community with the potential to pose a risk to staff and children in the site.
- It may also be as a result of a warning being received from a recognised emergency service regarding the risk of air pollution, etc.

**Alert to staff:** ‘Partial Lockdown’, an agreed code word that all members of staff recognise and understand to begin the procedure. (A means of communicating the alert to duty staff at break times is required without fail – three blasts of whistle through walkie talkies and then repeated by any senior staff and school administrator).

### Immediate action:

- All outside activity to cease with immediate effect, children and staff to return to the building in a swift and safe manner. Children and staff should return, and stay, in their classrooms.
- The Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead will assemble in the main entrance area of the school.
- All staff and children remain inside the building and **all** external doors and windows are to be locked until further notice. Nominated members of staff that are not directly supervising children are required to perform the task if appropriate to ensure the ongoing safeguarding of the children.
- Children / staff and visitor register will be taken – the most senior member of staff will contact each area in turn for an attendance report using walkie talkie. All teachers must take their class walkie talkie with them.
- At the discretion of the responsible person, free movement within the building may be permitted dependent upon the known information or continued reporting of the incident / circumstances.
- Any staff who hear the lockdown whistle sounding when approaching the building e.g. returning from lunch/arriving during the school day, should remain outside the school boundary and await instruction from the emergency services.
- Headteacher/DSL/Office staff contact NYCC 01609 532234. Out of hours 01609 777398/01609 534375 (under no circumstances should these numbers be disclosed to parents or members of the public).

Each situation is unique and presents differing on-going challenges. Once the children / staff and volunteers etc. are accounted for the responsible person will conduct an on-going dynamic risk assessment basing their decision making primarily on advice received from the Emergency Services. All staff will be updated when applicable, and a written evidence log will be maintained throughout should it be required at a later stage. ‘Partial Lockdown’ is a precautionary measure and should be recognised that it places the site in a state of readiness (whilst retaining a HandSPR18 – V1

degree of normality), should the situation be further reported to have escalated.

During the Partial Lockdown procedure, staff will maintain agreed open lines of communication and must not make unnecessary calls until further notice as this may delay the information sharing process to and from the responsible person.

In the event of an Air Pollution Incident being reported, all air vents should be closed / covered (where possible within the premises. If this is not possible, the children / staff should be relocated from the room initially and a further decision is to be made by the responsible person regarding the appropriate room to relocate to and remain.)

The responsible person will remain in contact with the appropriate Emergency Services team(s) and will make future dynamic risk assessment decisions with the assistance and advice of professional bodies regarding the prevailing threat. An evidence log should be completed, should it be required at a later stage.

### **Full Lockdown – three blasts of whistle followed by ‘LOCKDOWN NOW’ through walkie talkie system**

This signifies an immediate threat to the site and may be an escalation of a partial lockdown or a spontaneous incident / event or occurrence in or near to the premises.

**Alert to staff:** ‘Full Lockdown’, an agreed code word that all staff recognise and understand to begin the procedure. (A means of communicating the alert to duty staff at break times is required without fail – three blasts of whistle through walkie talkie followed by ‘LOCKDOWN NOW’ being said verbally by member of staff. This is repeated by all senior staff and school administrator).

#### **Immediate action:**

- All children / staff, volunteer’s etc. are to rendezvous immediately to a pre-agreed area of the premises – (see below)
- All external doors and windows are to be locked immediately. Nominated members of staff that are not directly supervising children are required to perform the task if appropriate to ensure the ongoing safeguarding of the children.
- All windows are to be locked, and blinds drawn, (if applicable). Children encouraged to remain quiet and remain out of public glare, (e.g. under a desk or around a corner) until further notice.
- Children / staff and visitor register will be taken – the most senior member of staff will contact each area in turn for an attendance report. Teachers must take class walkie talkie and mobile phone with them.

Each situation is unique and presents differing on-going challenges. Once the children / staff and volunteers etc. are accounted for the responsible person will conduct an on-going dynamic risk assessment basing their decision making primarily on advice received from the Emergency Services. All staff will be updated when applicable, and a written evidence log will be maintained throughout should it be required at a later stage.

The lock down procedure will remain in force until it has been established from a member of the Emergency Services that the incident has been successfully resolved and no further risk is posed to the welfare and safety of the children / staff etc. At any time during the lockdown, if the fire alarm sounds an evacuation of the building is required.

During the lockdown procedure, staff will maintain agreed open lines of communication (walkie talkie – if these fail, then WhatsApp on mobile phone) and must not make unnecessary calls until further notice as this may delay the information sharing process to and from the responsible person.

Examples of using discreet communication methods should they be necessary to update the emergency services:

- Staff have to have access to inform and await further instructions via mobile phone.
- ‘Scholarpack,’ staff may be put into a defined user group. This could then lead to communicating instructions via text message in an emergency.
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## Communication between parents and the site

Site Lockdown procedures, especially the arrangements for communicating to parents, should be routinely shared with parents / guardians either by newsletter or via the school's website.

Should a Lockdown occur, it is advised that developments are communicated to parents / guardians as soon as is practicable and in some cases in agreement with the emergency services and the most senior member of staff overseeing the incident. Parents will naturally be concerned, anxious and all accurate information releases will assist to alleviate undue anxiety.

Parents / guardians should be given enough information to enable them to understand the potential outcome and when possible time frames so that they:

- Are reassured that the site / emergency services understands their concern for their child's welfare, and that everything possible is being completed to ensure their safety.
- Parents / guardians must be made aware to refrain from directly calling the site's office. Calling the site will tie up telephone lines that will be required to be used by the responsible person and the emergency services.
- Parents / guardians must refrain from initially attending the site. This may interfere with the emergency provider's access / investigation and may put themselves and others in danger.
- Parent / guardians must wait patiently until a safe and satisfactory outcome has been achieved and agreed by all parties, where a designated safe area will be identified for the safe handing over of the children to their parents / guardians.

During the initial "breaking news" of the incident it is vital that all parents are reassured regarding the welfare and safety to their children is paramount and that the matter is being dealt with by the emergency services and NYCC jointly to resolve the matter as soon as possible with little impact to the children and the wider community.

However it must also be stressed that at this time **"the site is in a full lockdown procedure. During this period the switchboard and entrances will be un-manned, external doors will be locked and no person is allowed in or out of the premises until further notice."**

### Emergency Services

It is vital that the communication lines remain open to the Emergency Services at all times, they are best placed to offer advice / assistance as a situation develops. A decision may be taken to cordon off the premises partially or as a whole by the Emergency Services. This will be dependent on the severity of the incident that has led to a Lockdown procedure taking effect.

The emergency services will support the responsible person and NYCC in the decision making processes and the timing of communication to parents, the press etc.

Should a prolonged lockdown incident occur, North Yorkshire County Council and its partners have the capacity to provide humanitarian assistance by establishing a Reception Centre for friends and family outside of the cordoned area and other pre-determined facilities.

**Critical Incident Support contact (NYCC): 01609 532234**

### Post Lockdown

Further assistance will be provided by North Yorkshire County Council and its partners in dealing with the effects of the incident to all persons involved.

### Other information:

#### Firearms and Weapons Attack

In the event of a firearms and weapons attack it is important that staff are able to act quickly and effectively using the 'Stay Safe' principles.

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## **RUN, HIDE, TELL**

as advised by the NaCTSo National Counter Terrorism Security Office – November 2015

### **Run**

- Escape if you can.
- Consider the safest options.
- Is there a safe route? **RUN** if not **HIDE**.
- Can you get there without exposing yourself to greater danger?
- Insist others leave with you.
- Leave belongings behind.

### **Hide**

- If you cannot **RUN, HIDE**.
- Find cover from gunfire.
- If you can see the attacker, they may be able to see you?
- Cover from view does not mean you are safe – bullets go through glass, brick, wood and metal.
- Find cover from gunfire, e.g. substantial brickwork/heavy reinforced walls.
- Be aware of your exits.
- Try not to get trapped.
- Be quiet – silence your phone.
- Lock/barricade yourself in.
- Move away from the door.

### **Tell**

#### **Call 999 – What do the Police need to know?**

- Location - Where are the suspects?
- Direction – Where did you last see the suspects?
- Descriptions – Describe the attacker, numbers, features, clothing, weapons etc.
- Further Information – Casualties, type of injury, building information, entrances, exits, hostages etc.
- Stop other people entering the building if it is not safe to do so.

#### **Armed Police Response**

- Follow Officers' instructions.
- Remain calm.
- Can you move to a safer area?
- Avoid sudden movements that may be considered a threat.
- Keep your hands in view.

#### **Armed Officers MAY**

- Point guns at you.
- Treat you firmly.
- Question you.
- Be unable to distinguish you from the attacker.
- Officers will evacuate you when it is safe to do so.

<b>Signed:</b>	Ella Besharati & Alison McGregor
<b>Date:</b>	February 2023
<b>Review Date:</b>	February 2024

Plan	
<b>Staff responsibilities</b>	
<b>Headteacher</b>	<i>Make contact with emergency services</i>
<b>Designated Safeguarding Lead</b>	<i>Make contact with Local Authority</i>
<b>Office Staff</b>	<i>Communicate with parents</i> <i>Communicate with staff via internal communications system (walkie talkie)</i>
<b>Other staff members</b>	<i>Teachers and support staff: stay with pupils</i>
<b>Signals</b>	
<b>Lockdown signal(s)</b>	<i>Partial Lockdown – three blasts of whistle through walkie talkie system followed by three blasts of whistle by senior member of staff and administrator</i> <i>Full Lockdown – three blasts of whistle and ‘lockdown now’ said verbally through walkie talkie system followed by three blasts of whistle and ‘lockdown now’ said by senior member of staff and administrator continuous sounding of school bell</i> <i>Evacuation – Fire Alarm</i>
<b>All clear signal</b>	<i>Internal message system – walkie talkie/ if these fail, WhatsApp via mobile phones as limited reception</i> <i>Scholarpack Texting Service (if above not available)</i>
<b>Evacuation signal</b>	<i>Fire Alarm</i>
<b>Lockdown</b>	
<b>Assembly points</b>	<i>Partial lockdown</i> <i>Internal – classrooms with blinds pulled down and doors and windows locked</i> <i>External – Netball Court as per Fire Evacuation Procedure</i> <i>Full lockdown</i> <i>Internal –</i> <i>Nursery – Classroom</i> <i>Reception – Classroom</i> <i>Y1/2/3 – Provision room (between Hedgehog &amp; Butterfly class)</i> <i>Y4/5/6 – School hall</i>
<b>Entrance and exit points</b>	<i>Class teachers – classroom windows and external door</i>

	<p><i>Teaching Assistants – toilet and office windows</i></p> <p><i>Office Staff – automatic entrance doors (x3) and Hall external doors (x2)</i></p> <p><i>HT and DSL - External gates (x2) if safe to do so</i></p>
<b>Bringing pupils inside</b>	<p><i>As for partial or full lockdown – three whistles and ‘lockdown now’</i></p> <p><i>Class Teachers take register once inside as per fire evacuation procedure, reporting any missing children to HT/DSL</i></p>
<b>Steps to increase protection from danger</b>	<p><i>Dependent on whether it is a full or partial lockdown (<b>full – in BOLD</b>)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Lock and screen doors using blinds</i></li> <li>• <i><b>Position children away from sightlines from external doors and windows, for example under a desk</b></i></li> <li>• <i><b>Turn off lights and monitors</b></i></li> <li>• <i>Ensure mobiles phones and electronic devices are on silent, or turned off</i></li> </ul>
<b>Internal communication</b>	<p><i>Scholarpack Texting – Group Staff Texting</i></p>
<b>Communication with parents</b>	<p><i>A combination of text and email.</i></p> <p><i>Instruct parents not to call the school, as this will tie up lines that would be used to contact emergency services, and not to come to the school.</i></p>
<b>Additional notes</b>	<p><i>PEEP as required</i></p> <p><i>Evacuation communicated using Fire Alarm</i></p>

## Checklist

Step	Check	Time	Signed
Use signal to initiate lockdown			
Ensure pupils are inside			
Secure entrance points			
Contact emergency services			
Ensure staff take action to increase protection from danger (see above)			
Make sure pupils and staff are aware of exit points			
If safe, check for missing pupils or staff			
Remain inside until all clear has been given by HT and/or DSL or told to evacuate (fire alarm sounding)			