



Thames View Infants

Lockdown Policy

Rationale

As part of our Health and Safety policies and procedures, Thames View Infants has a Lockdown Policy.

On very rare occasions, it may be necessary to seal off the school so that it cannot 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 security 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.

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.



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Notification of Lockdown

Lockdown procedures will commence upon hearing five short bursts of the fire bell being rung.

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 offices, 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 to be switched 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.

NO ONE SHOULD MOVE ABOUT THE SCHOOL

4. Staff to support children in keeping calm and quiet.
5. Staff to remain in lockdown positions until informed by key staff e.g. Headteacher, Senior Management Team and office staff in person that there is an all clear.
6. 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. Office Staff/SLT raise the alarm (five short bursts of fire bell), close the office shutters, call Chestnuts and the Nursery to instigate the 'Chestnut Nursery Lockdown Policy) and turn on the door mag locks.
2. Headteacher, Assistant Head and/or front office staff ensure that the school's front doors and entrances including their office(s) are locked and police called if necessary.
3. Site Manager to lock all gates, if not already locked.
4. Teachers and/or support staff to lock/close classroom door(s) and windows. Nearest adult to check exit doors within the school.
5. Staff in staffroom to lock down in this area.



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6. Catering Staff to lock side 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.

Parents/Carers 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/Carers 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 parent 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 practices will take place and debriefed to staff so improvements can be made.

Additional information

Guidance on procedures for handling a bomb threat

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bomb-threats-guidance/procedures-for-handling-bomb-threats>