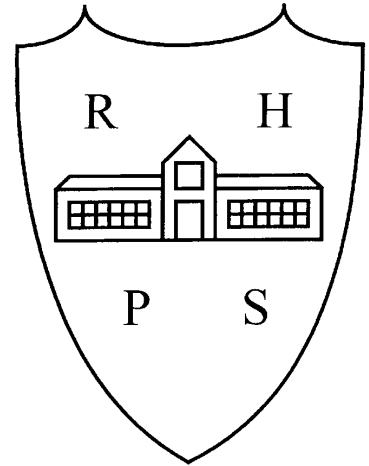


RACKHOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lockdown Policy



A school of excellence which nurtures and inspires all, where success is our achievement.

Introduction

Lockdown procedures should be seen as a sensible and proportionate response to any external or internal incident which has the potential to pose a threat to the safety of staff and pupils in the school. Procedures should aim to minimise disruption to the learning environment whilst ensuring the safety of all pupils and staff.

Lockdown procedures may be activated in response to any number of situations, but some of the more typical might be:

- A reported incident / civil disturbance in the local community (with the potential to pose a risk to staff and pupils in the school)
- An intruder on the school site (with the potential to pose a risk to staff and pupils)
- A warning being received regarding a risk locally of air pollution (smoke plume, gas cloud etc)
- A major fire in the vicinity of the school
- The close proximity of a dangerous dog roaming loose

The school's lockdown plan is as follows:

- Staff will be alerted to the activation of the plan via the class change bell ringing 3 times then ringing 3 times once again and/or verbally by an authorised staff member.
- Pupils who are outside of the school buildings will be brought inside as quickly as possible, unless this endangers them and others.
- Those inside the school should remain in their classrooms
- All external doors and, as necessary, windows will be locked. Depending on the circumstances, internal classroom doors may also need to be locked/blocked
- Once in lockdown mode, staff must notify the office immediately of any pupils not accounted for, and via classroom telephones an immediate search for anyone missing must be undertaken

- Staff will encourage the pupils to keep calm
- As appropriate, the school office will establish communication with the Emergency Services
- Parents will be notified as soon as it is practicable to do so via text messaging
- Pupils will not be released to parents during a lockdown
- If it is necessary to evacuate the building, the fire alarm will be sounded and a verbal message to evacuate will be sent via the classroom telephones

It is of vital importance that the school's lockdown procedures are familiar to all members of the school staff. To achieve this, a lockdown drill will be undertaken at least once a year. Depending on their age, pupils should also be aware of the plan. (Regular practices will increase their familiarity).

Within the school's Lockdown plan there are 3 Levels

Level 3

Lockdown

Alert to staff:

Staff will be alerted via the class change bell ringing 3 times then ringing 3 times once again and or verbally by an authorised staff member.

- Level 3 lockdown is to make all staff aware of a possibility of a situation and to be ready to escalate to Level 2 or Level 1 Lockdown.

Level 2 Lockdown

Alert to staff: Partial lockdown'

Staff will be alerted via the class change bell ringing 3 times and or verbally by an authorised staff member.

This may be as a result of a reported incident / civil disturbance in the local community with the potential to pose a risk to staff and pupils in the school. It may also be as a result of a warning being received regarding the risk of air pollution, etc.

Immediate action:

- School should carry on as normal as possible apart from any pupils or staff on the field must make their way to the main playground and lock the gate to the field.
- Movement may be permitted but dependent upon circumstances may need to be supervised by a member of staff
- Be ready to escalate to Level 1 Lockdown.

All situations are different, once all staff and pupils are safely inside the playground fence, senior staff will conduct an on-going and dynamic risk assessment based on advice from the Emergency Services. This can then be communicated to staff and pupils.

'Partial lockdown' is a precautionary measure but puts the school in a state of

readiness (whilst retaining a degree of normality) should the situation escalate.

In the event of an air pollution issue, air vents will be closed (where possible) as an additional precaution. Emergency Services will advise as to the best course of action in respect of the prevailing threat.

Level 1 Lockdown

Alert to staff: 'Full lockdown'

Staff will be alerted via the class change bell ringing 6 times and or verbally by an authorised staff member.

This signifies an immediate threat to the school.

Immediate action:

- All outside activity to cease immediately, pupils and staff return to building.
- All staff and pupils remain in building, and external doors and windows locked
- All pupils return to classroom
- External doors locked. Classroom doors blocked/locked
- Windows locked, blinds drawn, pupils sit quietly
- Register taken/head count: The office will contact each class in turn for an 'accounted for' report via the classroom telephones
- Staff and pupils remain in lock down until it has been lifted by an authorised staff member/emergency services.
- At any point during the lockdown, the fire alarm may sound, and a verbal message via classroom telephone or authorised staff member to evacuate the building.
- During the lockdown, staff must keep agreed lines of communication open, via classroom telephones, but must not make unnecessary calls to the central office as this could delay/prevent more important communication.

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Communication between parents and the school

School lockdown procedures, especially arrangements for communicating with parents, will be routinely shared with parents either by newsletter or via the school website.

In the event of an actual lockdown, any incident or development will be communicated to parents as soon as is practicable.

Parents should be given enough information about what will happen so that they:

- Are reassured that the school understands their concern for their child's welfare, and that it is doing everything possible to ensure his/her safety
- Do not need to contact the school. Calling the school could tie up telephone lines that are needed for contacting emergency providers
- Do not come to the school. They could interfere with emergency provider's access to the school and may even put themselves and others in danger
- If it required for children to go home, wait for the school to contact them when it is safe for them to come get their children, and where this will be from

Parents will be told

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

Emergency Services

It is important to keep lines of communication open with Emergency Services as they are best placed to offer advice as a situation unfolds. The school site may or may not be cordoned off by Emergency Services depending on the severity of the incident that has triggered the Lockdown.

Emergency Services will support the decision of the Headteacher with regarding the timing of communication to parents.

In the event of a prolonged lockdown or more severe scenario, Manchester City Council has the capacity to provide humanitarian assistance by establishing a Reception Centre for friends and family outside of the cordoned area.